



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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Environmental Panel Grants Interbasin Water Transfer

RALEIGH – A state environmental panel granted Concord and Kannapolis a certificate to withdraw a maximum of 10 million gallons of water a day from the Catawba River basin and a maximum of 10 million gallons a day from the Yadkin River basin with certain protective conditions on the water transfer.

In making the decision on Wednesday, the Environmental Management Commission accepted the recommendations made in December by three members of the environmental panel who acted as hearing officers for the interbasin transfer request.

The EMC's decision calls for the two cities to be allowed to withdraw significantly less water than the cities had requested from the Catawba River basin. Concord and Kannapolis had requested a certificate to transfer up to 26 million gallons of water per day from the Catawba and up to 10 million gallons of water per day from the Yadkin for a combined maximum withdrawal of 36 million gallons a day.

As part of the decision, the EMC also directed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to report back when the new federal licenses for power plants on the Catawba and the Yadkin river have been issued. The certificate issued by the EMC is based on water use conditions proposed for the new power plant licenses to be issued in 2008 and can be revised if the federal license conditions change.

The EMC also placed a condition on the certificate to make it clear that Concord and Kannapolis have to follow all the water-use restrictions placed on communities in the two source river basins during periods of drought.

Concord and Kannapolis requested an interbasin transfer from the Catawba and Yadkin River basins to meet their projected water supply shortfall during the next 30 years.

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