

Interbasin Transfer Certificate for Union County

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission, or EMC, will hold three public hearings to receive comments on its draft determination to grant an interbasin transfer (IBT) certificate to Union County. As part of its role in making rules to protect the environment, the EMC carries out the IBT law.

The EMC will receive comments on the draft determination at three upcoming hearings to be held on,

- Aug. 23 at the Town of Norwood Community Building, 247 West Turner Street, Norwood, NC 28128;
- Aug. 24 at the Anson County Hampton B. Allen Library, 120 South Greene Street, Wadesboro, NC 28170; and
- Sept. 1 at the Union County Government Center, Room 118, 500 North Main St., Monroe, NC 28112

All hearings will begin at 6 p.m.

The Union County Public Works Water System (Union County) is a provider of drinking water to citizens of Union County, excluding the City of Monroe, serving customers in both the Catawba River IBT basin and the Rocky River IBT basin. Union County is requesting a 23.0 million gallons per day (mgd) transfer from the Yadkin River IBT basin to the Rocky River IBT basin, calculated on an average day of the maximum month basis, per current statutory regulation. The requested transfer amount is based upon 2050 water demand projections to meet anticipated growth in Union County's Rocky River IBT basin.

Currently, most of the water supplied by Union County is sourced from the Catawba River through the Catawba River Water Treatment Plant in Lancaster County, South Carolina. To support the Rocky River IBT basin service area, Union County transfers a maximum of 5.0 mgd, as allowed by an existing grandfathered authorization, from the Catawba River IBT basin to the Rocky River IBT basin. The proposed request will avoid the need for an increase in the amount transferred from the Catawba River IBT basin. The proposed transfer would require the construction of a new water intake on Lake Tillery in the Yadkin River IBT basin, near the location of the existing intake for the Town of Norwood.

The draft IBT certificate will be available for review at: http://ncdenr.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/Water%20Resources/files/ibt/Union/Draft-UnionCo-Certificate_06-15-16.pdf, as well as through the North Carolina Department of Administration State Environmental Review Clearinghouse. The EMC will consider all public comments received and responses to comments prepared by N.C. Division of Water Resources staff when the commission makes its final determination on whether to issue a certificate for the water transfer. A final determination from the EMC is expected in early 2017.

The purpose of this announcement is to encourage interested parties to attend and/or provide relevant written and verbal comments. Division of Water Resources staff requests that parties submit written copies of oral comments. Based on the number of people who wish to speak at the hearing, the length of oral presentations may be limited.

If you are unable to attend, you may mail written comments to Kim Nimmer, Division of Water Resources, 1611 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1611. Comments may also be submitted electronically to dwr.ibt@ncdenr.gov. Mailed and emailed comments will be given equal weight. All comments must be postmarked or emailed by October 3, 2016.