AN ACT TO IMPROVE SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLANNING.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 130A-320 reads as rewritten:

"§ 130A-320. Sanitation of watersheds; rules; inspections; local source protection planning.

(a) The Commission shall adopt rules governing the sanitation of watersheds from which public drinking water supplies are obtained. In adopting these rules the Commission is authorized to consider the different classes of watersheds, taking into account general topography, nature of watershed development, density of population and need for frequency of sampling of raw water. The rules shall govern the keeping of livestock, operation of recreational areas, maintenance of residences and places of business, disposal of sewage, establishment of cemeteries or burying grounds, and any other factors which would endanger the public water supply.

(b) Any supplier of water operating a public water system and furnishing water from unfiltered surface supplies shall inspect the watershed area at least quarterly, and more often when the Department determines that more frequent inspections are necessary.

(c) Every supplier of water operating a public water system treating and furnishing water from surface supplies shall create and implement a source water protection plan (SWPP). The Commission shall adopt rules that provide all of the following:

(1) A standardized format for use by suppliers of water in creating their SWPP. The Commission may create different formats and required plan elements for public water systems based on the system type, source type, watershed classification, population served, source susceptibility to contamination, proximity of potential contamination sources to the intake, lack of water supply alternatives, or other characteristics the Commission finds to be relevant.

(2) Schedules for creating a SWPP, implementing mandatory provisions of the SWPP, and for review and update of the SWPP by suppliers of water.

(3) Reporting requirements sufficient for the Department to monitor the creation, implementation, and revision by suppliers of water. The Commission may provide different reporting requirements based on the public water system characteristics set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection."

SECTION 2. The Commission shall provide an interim report to the Environmental Review Commission no later than April 1, 2015, regarding its progress in implementing the requirements of this act and a final report within six months of adopting final rules implementing the requirements of this act.