A Brief History of River Basin Planning in the United States
with primary reference to the Yadkin-Pee Dee and Santee Basins of North Carolina and South Carolina

Following Federal Power Act of 1920:
Estimate of Cost of Examinations, etc., of Streams where Power Development Appears Feasible
Submitted in accordance with requirements of Section 3 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1925 which directed Corps to estimate the cost of preparing plans for all navigable streams of the U.S. for which power development appears feasible and practicable and recommending efficient development to include flood control and irrigation. Studies were authorized in Rivers and Harbors Act of 1927.
U. S. House of Representatives 69th Congress, 1st Session House Document No. 308, 1926

Santee River, N.C. and S.C. ("308" Report)
referred to Committee on Rivers and Harbors, March 3, 1933
U. S. House of Representatives 73rd Congress, 1st Session House Document No. 96, 1933

Catawba River Hydroelectric Facilities Year of Initial Operation
Recommended Projects

- Dual purpose power and flood control
  - Wilkesboro (built by Corps 1958)
- Power developments
  - Styers
  - Tuckertown (built by private)
  - Morven
  - Greater Blewett Falls
  - Junction
  - Crump’s Ford
  - Upper Donnaha

Water Resources Planning Act of 1965

- Creation of the Water Resources Council
- Development of Principles and Standards (P&S)
- Establishment of river basin commissions
- Grants to states for water resources planning
- 1981 - Water Resources Council zeroed out of budget
- 1983 - P&S changed to Principles and Guidelines
Principles and Guidelines

- Six-step planning process
- Identification of what benefits and what costs should be included
- Accounts for plan evaluation
  - National economic development
  - Environmental Quality
  - Social well-being
- Procedures for estimating benefits and costs

River Basin Commissions authorized 1967-1972 under authority of Water Resources Planning Act of 1965
1. Pacific Northwest River Basins Commission
2. Great Lakes Basin Commission
3. Souris-Red-Rainy Basins Commission became part of Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission
4. New England River Basins Commission
5. Ohio River Basin Commission
6. Missouri River Basin Commission

Responsibilities of RBC's

- coordinate Federal, State, interstate, local and nongovernmental plans for the development of water and related land resources in its area
- prepare and keep up to date ... a comprehensive, coordinated, joint plan for Federal, State, interstate, local and nongovernmental development of water and related resources
- recommend long-range schedules of priorities for the collection and analysis of basic data and for investigation, planning, and construction of projects
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- Understanding our water resource
- Living with the resource
  - Floods and droughts
- Protecting and using the resource
  - Planning and developing water supplies
  - Protection
  - Financing
  - Water quality
- Natural and beneficial use of floodplains and wetlands
- Hydropower
- Recreation

River Basins of Five Southeastern States

FERC and Corps are dominant planning agencies either by choice or by default, especially for interstate streams.
Handbook for Hydroelectric Project Licensing and 5 MW Exemptions From Licensing

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC
April 2004

Project must be adapted to a comprehensive plan for the waterway, accounting for:
- benefits to interstate or foreign commerce;
- utilization of the site's hydroelectric potential;
- adequate protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife; and
- other beneficial public uses, including energy conservation, irrigation, flood control, water supply, recreational opportunities, and other aspects of environmental quality.

FERC criteria for comprehensive plan
- be prepared by a federal or state agency authorized to conduct such planning;
- be a comprehensive study of one or more of the beneficial uses of a waterway or waterways;
- include a description of the standards, data, and methodologies used

Options for NC-SC
1. Continue to let FERC relicensing control process using state and bi-state input
2. Cooperative basinwide planning with state-federal implementation under other authorities, using bi-state plan as one input
3. Formation of Interstate Compact
4. Options 2 and 3 still subject to FERC