

Catawba/Wateree River Basin Advisory Commission
Considerations for Evaluation of Proposed Water Projects

Proposed Water Projects: Catawba/Wateree River Basin Advisory Commission Considerations

Proposed projects with the potential to substantially affect water quantity and quality in the Catawba-Wateree River will likely require state and federal permits and approvals. State environmental permitting agencies (the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), are authorized to issue water quality certifications (CWA § 401), grant surface water withdrawal permits, and approve interbasin transfers, as applicable, for proposed projects. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the federal agency with jurisdictional authority to evaluate dredge and fill (CWA § 404) permit applications. These agencies will review the project permit application(s) and approve or disapprove the application(s). If approved, the agencies will issue permits and/or certifications with conditions (if any) imposed on the project.

The Catawba/Wateree River Basin Advisory Commission (Commission) is an advisory group. The Commission will not vote to approve or disapprove a proposed water project; however, the Commission will discuss significant proposed water projects and will identify any concerns, information, or issues that the Commission as a whole may choose to submit to the applicable jurisdictional agencies for consideration as these agencies evaluate the technical merits of a proposed water project. Any correspondence between the Commission and regulatory agencies will be prepared by the Commission chair and/or vice-chair, or their designee, and circulated to Commission members for review before being submitted. Individual Commission members are always free to provide comments as individuals and not as representing views of the Commission.

The following criteria are proposed as guidance for the Commission when reviewing proposed water projects within the C-W Basin:

1. Does the proposed project present potential water quality impacts of concern or are there any water quality certification conditions the Commission would like the applicable state's water quality certifying agency to consider during its evaluation of the proposed project?
2. Does the project proposal align with the applicable requirements of the North Carolina or South Carolina surface water withdrawal regulations?
3. Does the project proposal create a new or expanded IBT?
4. Does the project proposal align with the Catawba-Wateree Comprehensive Relicensing Agreement (CRA)?
5. Does the project proposal align with the requirements and implementation of the Catawba-Wateree Low Inflow Protocol (LIP)?
6. Does the project proposal incorporate water efficiency and water conservation measures and are there any other water efficiency and/or water conservation measures the Commission would like the applicable regulatory agencies to consider when evaluating the proposed project?
7. Does the project proposal align with the Catawba-Wateree Water Management Group's Master Plan?
8. Does the project proposal address environmental impacts and alternatives and are there any other environmental considerations the Commission would like the applicable regulatory agencies to consider when evaluating the proposed project?
9. Is the project proposal consistent with the SC v NC Supreme Court Settlement Agreement (December 3, 2010)?

NCDENR and SCDHEC staff to the Commission should notify Commission members, in writing, of Catawba-Wateree IBT certification/permit applications as well as any other proposed C-W water projects that the staff believes would be of interest to the Commission.

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