

General Assembly of North Carolina

Environmental Review Commission State Legislative Building Raleigh, North Carolina

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6 December 2007

TO: Interested Parties – Water Allocation Study

FROM: George F. Givens, Commission Counsel
Jessica K. Bennett, Commission Clerk

RE: **Notice of Public Meetings on the Water Allocation Study**

PUBLIC MEETING:

The Commission Counsel of the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) will hold public meetings from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the dates and at the locations listed in the schedule below. The purpose of these meetings is to receive public comment on behalf of the ERC on the study of the allocation of water resources in the State. Additional information about these meetings is set out in other sections of this notice.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

Below is the schedule of public meetings on the Water Allocation Study. This schedule may be modified in the event that it becomes necessary to cancel a scheduled meeting due to hazardous weather conditions.

Public Meeting

Thursday 20 December 2007
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Location

Room 280*, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center
600 East 4th Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

** Meeting will move to Room 267 after 5:00 p.m. if additional space is required*

Friday 4 January 2008
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Room 153, Fulford Building
Pitt County Community College
1986 Pitt Tech Road
Winterville, North Carolina 28590

Wednesday 9 January 2008
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Lecture Room, Simpson Administration Building
Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College
340 Victoria Road
Asheville, North Carolina 28801

Wednesday 23 January 2008
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Room 544, Legislative Office Building
North Carolina General Assembly
300 North Salisbury Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

Thursday 24 January 2008
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

New Hanover County Public Library
201 Chestnut Street
Wilmington, North Carolina 28401

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Environmental Review Commission (ERC) is an entity of the General Assembly of North Carolina. The ERC is established by G.S. 120.70-41 et seq. to serve as the principal legislative entity responsible for legislative oversight and study of matters related to protection of the environment and conservation of natural resources. (Note that the ERC is a separate entity from the Environmental Management Commission (EMC), which is an executive branch agency within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) responsible for implementation of various environmental laws.)

Section 1.(a) of S.L. 2007-518 (H.B. 820), which was enacted by the 2007 Regular Session of the General Assembly directs the ERC, with the assistance of DENR, to study the allocation of water resources and their availability and maintenance in the State. The ERC intends to enter into a contract with the School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for significant portions of the study. In its work on the study, the School of Government may subcontract with other academic institutions. Other portions of the study will be conducted by DENR or directly by the ERC. Overall responsibility for the study will remain with the ERC.

The ERC is holding this series of initial meetings to receive comment on the scope, direction, and conduct of the study. These meetings will also provide an opportunity for professional staff of the School of Government to receive information from interested parties on the subject matter of the study. The ERC intends to provide additional opportunity for public comment on the draft findings and recommendations of the study as it progresses.

MEETING PROCEDURES:

All persons interested in the Water Allocation Study are invited to attend any of the public meetings. The conduct of these public meetings will be determined by the Commission Counsel based on the attendance at each meeting and other factors. To the extent possible, the meetings will be informal so as to promote dialogue among attendees. The Commission Counsel may however determine that attendees who wish to be heard must make oral statements within a specified period of time and in a specified order. Any person who desires to comment is requested, but is not required, to submit a written statement for inclusion in the record of the public meetings. Written statements should be on standard size (8½" x 11") paper with sufficient margins for binding. The record of proceedings will remain open until 1 February 2008. To be included in the record, a written statement must be received by the ERC by 1 February 2008.

Written statements should be sent to:

Jessica K. Bennett, Commission Clerk or email to: erc@ncleg.net
334 Legislative Office Building
300 North Salisbury Street

Raleigh, North Carolina 27603

ATTACHMENTS (2):

Authorizing legislation for the Water Allocation Study – Section 1.(a). of S.L. 2007-518 (H.B. 820)
Potential issues for consideration during the Water Allocation Study

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Persons who have questions about the public meetings, the Water Allocation Study, or other matters related to the ERC, may contact the Commission Counsel or other Commission staff at (919) 733-2578 or by email at erc@ncleg.net.