NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources (DWR) Basin Planning Branch

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Water Resource Basin Plans

- Primary vehicle for consolidating data collected and issues identified by all water related resource agencies
- Provide a single location to present the water quality and water quantity related evaluations developed by state agencies
- Provide a platform for resource agencies to highlight water related issues that are important to each agency's mission
- Watershed-based approach to river basin water resource management
- Considers the cumulative impacts to all activities across a river basin (point and nonpoint sources of pollution)



10 Year Cycle

Basinwide Sampling

BiologicalAmbient

• Lake

Data Gathering

- ESS Reports/Studies
- Statistical Trend Analysis

• Gathering other data and watershed reports

Sampling Design

Plan changes from current sampling plan
Special Studies

Permitting

- CAFOs
- NPDES WW & SW
- Non-Dischargers
- Trout Farms
- Etc.

2 Years

303(d) Listing

1 Year

Grants/ ERC Report

8, 10, & 12-Digit Narratives / GIS

- Non-Statistical Trends
- Restoration Status
- Watershed Issues
- Collaboration with other interested parties
 Basin/Watershed Maps

Recommendations/ Action Plans

- ID WQ needs at different scales
- •Coordinate action plans internally and externally

Finalize Plans

- Internal Review
- Public Review
- WQC Draft
- EMC Approval
- Post each version on web
- NSW follow-up

Fish Consumption Advisories (DHHS)

Biological Monitoring (Benthic and Fish)

Ambient Monitoring (Physical and Chemical Parameter)

Swimming Advisories & Shellfish Closures (DMF) Lakes Monitoring

Data Collected by Outside Agencies (Coalitions, Watershed Groups, etc.)

Public Water Supply

NPDES Permits & Violations, Return Flows

Instream Flow Requirements

Groundwater

Projections (Supply & Demand)

Local Water Supply Plans (LWSPs)

Water Withdrawal & Transfer Registration (WWATR)

Inflow Data (USGS)

Interbasin Transfer (IBT) Certifications

Surface Water Quality Assessment

• Waters are assessed based on parameters of interest and determined to be:

 Supporting (meeting standards/criteria)
 Impaired (exceeding standards/criteria)
 Data Inconclusive (data does not allow for an assessment to be made)

□No Data

 Data that is collected is used to generate the Integrated Report (303(d)/305(b))

http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/planning/classification-standards/surface-water-standards#WQSTables



Water Resources River Basin Management



Water Quantity







Water Quantity Using Hydrologic Modeling

- Models need to answer 3 questions:
 - Locations and time when yield may be inadequate to meet all essential uses.
 - Locations and times when yield may be inadequate to meet all needs.
 - Locations and times ecological flow may be adversely impacted.
- Models are not rule-making and will not change any existing regulations nor will they add new regulations.

"All models are wrong, but some are useful" Andrew Gelman, Professor of Statistics, Columbia University



Water Quantity Using Hydrologic Modeling

- Models can also answer water resource planning issues as the relate to:
 - □ Identifying alternative sources for water supply
 - Developing and implementing water shortage response plans (are triggers adequate or can they be improved)
 - Impacts related to generating hydroelectric power
 - Impacts to recreational areas (rivers, lakes, boat launches)



Basin Planning Branch



http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/planning/basinplanning



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KEY ISSUES THAT SHAPE CURRENT NC WATER PLANNING

Drought of 1998-2002

Towns desperate for water



Interbasin Transfer South Carolina vs. North Carolina - Key Facts

- Case originates in the Supreme Court. South Carolina seeks an equitable amount of the Catawba River which starts in North Carolina and flows into South Carolina.
- October, 2007 Granted
- D October, 2009 Argued
- December, 2010 Dismissed

2007-08 Drought Fontana Lake (Sept 9-10, 2007)



2008 Report of the Water Allocation Study of the NC Environmental Review Commission

New (July 2011) and Watauga (draft 2017) River Basins

- □ High volumes and velocity of stormwater
- □ Increased water temperatures and sedimentation
- □ Aging and/or failing septic tanks
- Livestock access to streams
- □ Lack of riparian buffers





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