



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Water Quality

Beverly Eaves Perdue
Governor

Charles Wakild, P.E.
Director

Dee Freeman
Secretary

November 28, 2012

TO: DENR-DWQ-Wetlands-Public Listserv

FROM: Karen Higgins, Wetlands, Buffers, Stormwater – Compliance and Permitting Unit
Lori Montgomery, P.E., Program Development Unit
Amy Chapman, Transportation Permitting Unit

RE: Water Quality Certification Application for Yadkin Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2197
Alcoa Power Generating, Inc. (APGI); Proposed BPDP in the Lower Falls Watershed;
Proposed BPDP in the Upper Falls Watershed

The purpose of this Public Notice is outlined below. This notice is available electronically at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ws/401/publicnotices>.

I. Public Notice; Water Quality Certification for Yadkin Hydroelectric Project FERC No. 2197; Alcoa Power Generating, Inc. (APGI); DWQ # 2012-0900; Davie, Davidson, Rowan, Montgomery and Stanly Counties

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that Alcoa Power Generating, Inc. (293 Hwy. 740, Badin, NC 28009) has applied to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality for a 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act and Title 15A North Carolina Administrative Code 02H .0500. The activity for this certification is sought to relicense the hydroelectric dams at High Rock, Tuckertown, Narrows and Falls Reservoirs on the Yadkin River in Davie, Davidson, Rowan, Montgomery and Stanly counties. The Division of Water Quality must take final action on the application prior to September 27, 2013.

The public is invited to comment in writing to the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) on the application described above. Comments should be mailed to the NC Division of Water Quality, Attn: Karen Higgins, 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1650, faxed to 919-807-6494, or emailed to karen.higgins@ncdenr.gov. Comments must be received by DWQ no later than close of business on January 18, 2012.

A copy of the application is available online at <http://its.enr.state.nc.us/laserfiche8/Login.aspx?db=NCDWQ> (User Name: public) (Password: password). Contact Beverly Strickland at 919-807-6350 if you need assistance with the website. A copy of the application is also on file at the DWQ Central Office. The

application may be inspected with an appointment during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) at 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27604. To schedule an appointment, please contact Karen Higgins at karen.higgins@ncdenr.gov or 919-807-6360. File materials may not be removed from any DWQ office; copy machines are available for use. Copies of less than 25 pages are free; copies of greater than 25 pages are 2.5 cents per page.

II. Proposed BPDP in the Lower Falls Watershed

An Umbrella Mitigation Banking Instrument (UMBI) for Environmental Banc and Exchange, LLC (EBX) was approved on February 10, 2012.

EBX has submitted a proposed BPDP for the Ezell Riparian Buffer and Nutrient Offset Mitigation Site bank parcel, which is located in the Neuse River Basin inside of the Lower Falls Lake Watershed (8-digit USGS HUC 03020201) approximately 0.7 miles north of the intersection of NC Hwy 96 and Pine Ridge Road in Granville County. Stormwater runoff from this site drains into unnamed tributaries of Smith Creek.

This proposed bank parcel will generate approximately 25 acres of Neuse buffer and/or nutrient offset mitigation. Restoration of riparian areas will provide approximately 39,436.90 lbs of nitrogen and 2,540.04 lbs of phosphorous for nutrient offset credits. Restoration of Neuse riparian buffers will provide approximately 7.54 acres (328,337 ft²) of Neuse riparian buffer credits. Nutrient offset credits generated at this proposed site can be used to satisfy nutrient offset requirements for development projects located within the Lower Falls Watersheds. Neuse riparian buffer credits generated at this proposed bank site can be used to satisfy mitigation requirements for impacts pursuant to 15A NCAC 02B .0242. DWQ has no further comments on the proposed BPDP.

The proposed Ezell Riparian Buffer and Nutrient Offset and Mitigation Site BPDP can be found online at:

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ws/401/certsandpermits/mitigation/memos>.

Persons wishing to comment are invited to submit their comments in writing to Katie Merritt (katie.merritt@ncdenr.gov or 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1650).

All comments **received by DWQ by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on December 28, 2012** will be considered during preparation and approval of the final BPDP. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Merritt at 919-807-6371.

III. Proposed BPDP in the Upper Falls Watershed

An Umbrella Mitigation Banking Instrument (UMBI) for Environmental Banc and Exchange, LLC (EBX) was approved on February 10, 2012.

EBX has submitted a proposed BPDP for the Hatley Riparian Buffer and Nutrient Offset Mitigation Site bank parcel, which is located in the Neuse River Basin inside of the Upper Falls Lake Watershed (8-digit USGS HUC 03020201) at the southwest corner of the intersection of John Rogers Road and Terry Road in Hurdle Mills, North Carolina. Stormwater runoff from this site drains into South Flat River and into two of its unnamed tributaries.

This proposed bank parcel will generate approximately 18.3 acres of Neuse buffer and/or nutrient offset mitigation. Restoration of riparian areas will provide approximately 22,230.14 lbs of nitrogen and 1,431.79 lbs of phosphorous for nutrient offset credits. Restoration and enhancement of Neuse riparian buffers will provide approximately 8.52 acres (371,601 ft²) of Neuse riparian buffer credits. Nutrient offset credits generated at this proposed site can be used to satisfy mitigation requirements for projects located within both the Upper and Lower Falls Watersheds. Neuse riparian buffer credits generated at this proposed bank site can be used to satisfy mitigation requirements for impacts pursuant to 15A NCAC 02B .0242. DWQ has no further comments on the proposed BPDP.

The proposed Hatley Riparian Buffer and Nutrient Offset and Mitigation Site BPDP can be found online at:

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/swp/ws/401/certsandpermits/mitigation/memos>.

Persons wishing to comment are invited to submit their comments in writing to Katie Merritt (katie.merritt@ncdenr.gov or 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1650).

All comments **received by DWQ by close of business (5:00 p.m.) on December 28, 2012** will be considered during preparation and approval of the final BPDP. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Merritt at 919-807-6371.

cc: DWQ Wetland Regional Contacts
Cyndi Karoly
Matt Matthews
Susan Massengale