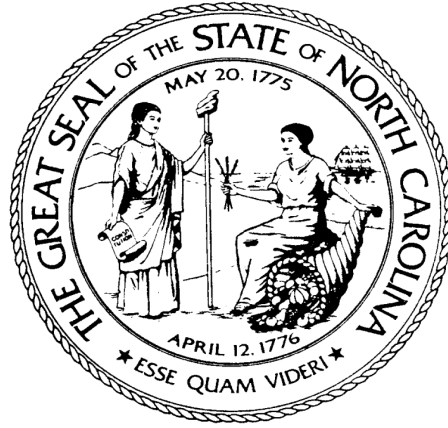


**Report to the North Carolina General Assembly's
Environmental Review Commission**



***Environmental Management Commission
Annual Report***

January 1, 2025

**Submitted by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
On behalf of the Environmental Management Commission**

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-282(b)

2024 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION

Covering the period from January 1, 2024 to November 14, 2024

Per the requirements of General Statute (G.S.) 143B-282(b), the Environmental Management Commission (Commission or EMC) submits this annual report on the EMC's operation, activities, programs, and progress for the period from January 1, 2024 to November 14, 2024. This report is drawn from agendas and actions published by the Commission. For more information, visit the [NC Environmental Management Commission webpage](#) or consult the meeting minutes, which are available online via the links in Section II for each EMC meeting.

I. Overview

The Environmental Management Commission continued work on several issues of importance to the state. These are six of the top issues that received the most public interest in 2024.

PFAS – The EMC approved the rules for three PFAS chemicals in groundwater to go to public comment. Public comment was scheduled for December 2024.

The EMC approved a two-pronged approach for PFAS rules in surface water. The immediate approach addresses contamination of surface water through EPA-endorsed Source Minimization Plans. The longer-term approach includes meeting with USFDA to verify and align data for quantitative water quality standards.

1,4 Dioxane – The EMC dropped the lawsuit against the RRC as new, more stringent 1,4 dioxane narrative water quality standards were proposed in the 2024 Triennial Review. A combination of factors delayed the Triennial Review that persist. DEQ presented options for the management of 1,4 dioxane to the EMC's Water Quality Committee. Several committee members express support of implementing a Source Minimization Plan approach like PFAS as an appropriate next step.

Nutrients –Nutrients continue to be an issue in North Carolina; however, the EMC acted on new Tar-Pamlico rules in 2024. DEQ continued data collection, modeling, and stakeholder engagement throughout 2024. Major assessments and new rules are anticipated before the EMC in 2025 for Falls Lake and High Rock Lake.

Wetlands – A wetlands provision in the North Carolina Farm Act of 2023 (S.L. 2023-63) required the EMC to modify the definition of a wetland to meet Federal standards. The EMC began the rulemaking process per the statute; however, the rulemaking remained in committee due to differences between the EMC and DEQ over the regulatory impact analysis. It is noted that the statute made the changes in law and they are in effect until the new rule is approved.

Water Interbasin Transfer—Interbasin transfer Fuquay-Varina continued through the required processes in 2024. The EMC expects the Environmental Impact Analysis to be submitted in early 2025. Charlotte Water and Mooresville filed notices of intent for IBTs in 2024, and the public involvement processes are currently underway.

Rule Review and Readoption – The new cycle started in 2024 and will continue throughout 2025.

II. EMC Actions

January 11, 2024 Meeting

Approved Appointments of the Chairman to the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission

[Agenda Item 24-01]

The EMC approved the appointment of Mark Brantley as a member of the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission.

Approved Proceeding to Public Notice and Hearing with Proposed Revisions to Laboratory Certification Rule 15ANCAC 02H .0804 and Regulatory Impact Analysis

[Agenda Item 24-02]

The EMC approved proceeding to public notice and hearing with proposed revisions to the Laboratory Certification Rule 15A NCAC 02H .0804 and the associated regulatory impact analysis.

Approved Sending the Periodic Review of Rules Report for 15A NCAC Subchapter 2K – Dam Safety to Public Notice in Accordance with S.L. 2013-413 (HB 74)

[Agenda Item 24-03]

The EMC approved sending the Periodic Review of Rules Report for 15A NCAC Subchapter 2K – Dam Safety to public notice in accordance with S.L. 2013-413 (HB 74).

Adopted a Resolution Regarding the Merger of Western Bay River Metropolitan Sewerage District (WBRMSD) into the Bay River Metropolitan Sewerage District (BRMSD)

[Agenda Item 24-04]

Pursuant to a request by the state legislature, the EMC adopted a resolution approving the dissolution of the Western Bay River Metropolitan Sewerage District (WBRMSD) into the Bay River Metropolitan Sewerage District (BRMSD). The resolution states as follows:

Let it be resolved that assets liability and other obligations of WBRMSD are hereby transferred to BRMSD and the WBRMSD be and the same as hereby dissolved and that the boundaries of BRMSD be and the same hereby expanded to include all of the WBRMSD.

Discussion of EMC vs. RRC (23CV032096-910) - 1,4 Dioxane Rulemaking

[Agenda Item 24-IF-01]

This item was originally designated as an information item, but it was changed to an action item by Chair Solomon.

EMC Chair Solomon presented a history and some updates regarding this litigation. The Commissioners had a discussion about whether to go into closed session and if so, how much information should be provided to the public about what would be discussed. A motion for the EMC to go into closed session to discuss legal matters and protect attorney-client privilege passed. The Commission went into closed session at 9:49am and returned to open session at 11:08am.

After returning to open session, the Commission discussed Commissioner Carter’s motion to dismiss the lawsuit. After that discussion, that motion to dismiss the EMC vs. RRC lawsuit passed.

March 14, 2024 Meeting

Approved Proceeding to Public Notice with the 2024 Periodic Review of 15A NCAC 02B, 02H, 02T and 02U

[Agenda Item 24-05]

The EMC approved proceeding to public notice with the 2024 Periodic Review of 15A NCAC 02B, 02H, 02T, and 02U. The EMC also approved a motion for this item waiving the 30 day requirement between rulemaking actions in the EMC by-laws.

May 9, 2024 EMC Meeting

Approved Proceeding to Public Comment with the Draft Proposed Rule 15A NCAC 02Q .0529, Title V Insignificant Research and Development Activities Exemption

[Agenda Item 24-06]

The EMC approved proceeding to public comment with the proposed draft rule 15A NCAC 02Q .0529 and its accompanying regulatory impact analysis.

Approved Hearing Officer’s Report and Approved Regulatory Impact Analysis for Amendments to 15A NCAC 02Q .0802, Gasoline Service Stations and Dispensing Facilities

[Agenda Item 24-07]

The EMC approved the hearing officer’s report and regulatory impact analysis for amendments to 15A NCAC 02Q .0802, Gasoline Service Stations and Dispensing Facilities.

Approval of Final Determinations and Response to Public Comments as Part of the Periodic Review of Rules Report for 15A NCAC Subchapter 2K – Dam Safety, to Public Notice in Accordance with S.L. 2013-413 (HB 74)

[Agenda Item 24-08]

The EMC approved proceeding to public comment and hearing regarding the Final Determinations and Response to Public Comments as part of the Periodic Review of Rules Report for 15A NCAC Subchapter 2K – Dam Safety.

Approved Proceeding to Public Notice and Hearing with Proposed Amendment to 15A NCAC 02T .0114 and 15A NCAC 02T .0118 pursuant to SL 2023-55, SL 2023-134, and SL 2023-137

[Agenda Item 24-09]

The EMC approved proceeding to public notice and hearing with the proposed amendment to 15A NCAC 02T .0114 and 15A NCAC 02T .0118 pursuant to SL 2023-55, SL 2023-134, and SL 2023-137.

July 11, 2024 EMC Meeting

Approved Appointments of Members to the Water Pollution Control System Operators Certification Commission (WPCSOCC)

[Agenda Item 24-10]

The EMC approved re-appointing four WPCSOCC members to their positions within the Commission: Steven Barry, Albert Rubin, Jonathan Russell, and Kenneth Stines. Their new terms would become effective July 1, 2024 and expire on June 30, 2027.

Approved Proceeding to Public Notice with the 2024 Periodic Review of 15A NCAC 02S “Rules and Criteria for the Administration of the Dry-Cleaning Solvent Cleanup Fund”

[Agenda Item 24-11]

The EMC approved proceeding to public notice with the 2024 Periodic Review of 15A NCAC 02S “Rules and Criteria for the Administration of the Dry-Cleaning Solvent Cleanup Fund.”

Approved Proceeding to Public Comment Regarding the Proposed Rule and Regulatory Impact Analysis on Amendment to 15A NCAC 02D .0410, PM2.5 Particulate Matter, to Incorporate the Revised National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)

[Agenda Item 24-12]

The EMC approved proceeding to public comment on the proposed Rule Amendment to 15A NCAC 02D .0410, PM2.5 Particulate Matter, and approved the regulatory impact analysis. This Amendment incorporates the Revised National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

Approved the Hearing Officer’s Recommendation to Adopt the Proposed Amendment to Laboratory Certification Rule 15A NCAC 02H .0804 and Regulatory Impact Analysis

[Agenda Item 24-13]

The EMC approved the adoption of the Amendment to Rule 15A NCAC 02H .0804 as recommended in the Hearing Officer’s Report.

Approved Proceeding to Public Notice and Hearing with Proposed Revisions to the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin Rule, 15A NCAC 02B .0309, and Associated Regulatory Impact Analysis for the Proposed Reclassification of Portions of the Yadkin River, South Yadkin River, and Associated Tributaries to WS-IV Critical Area, WS-IV Protected Area, and WS-V (Yadkin Pee-Dee River Basin)

[Agenda Item 24-14]

The EMC approved proceeding to public notice and hearing with proposed revisions to the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin Rule, 15A NCAC 02B .0309, and associated regulatory impact analysis for the proposed reclassification of portions of the Yadkin River, South Yadkin River, and associated tributaries to WS-IV Critical Area, WS-IV Protected Area, and WS-V (Yadkin Pee-Dee River Basin).

Legislation Requiring Department and EMC Action by August 1, 2024

[Agenda Item 24-15]

S802/SL 2024-44 requires the EMC and DEQ to submit draft rules to the EPA for their comment by August 1, 2024. S802 was passed in the final days of the legislative session and presented to

the governor on June 28, 2024. Governor Cooper signed the bill into law on Monday, July 8, 2024. The bill requires the EMC to begin rulemaking once approval of the draft rules is provided by the EPA.

EMC Chair Solomon provided a history of this bill, noting that it required joint action by the EMC and DEQ within three weeks of this meeting date. After a discussion of potential options to comply with this law and its tight time frame, the EMC approved a motion to authorize the EMC Chair to work with DEQ to meet the obligations of this law by submitting a letter to the EPA.

September 12, 2024 EMC Meeting

Approved Sending the Periodic Review of Rules Report for 15A NCAC Subchapter 02R - Division of Mitigation Services, to Public Notice in Accordance with S.L. 2013-413 (HB 74)
[Agenda Item 24-16]

The EMC approved to proceed to a 60-day public comment period with the rule report for 15A NCAC 02R with initial determinations of “necessary.”

Approved the Report on Quality Control Measures for Title V Air Permit Processing Pursuant to Session Law 2023-134, Section 12.17(p)
[Agenda Item 24-17]

The EMC approved the report on quality control measures for Title V air permit processing as required by Section 12.17(p) of Session Law 2023-134.

Approved Final Determinations and Response to Public Comments for the Periodic Review of Rules Report for 15A NCAC 02B, 02H, 02T and 02U
[Agenda Item 24-18]

The EMC approved the final determinations and responses to public comments for the 2024 Periodic Review of Rules Reports for 15A NCAC 02B, 15A NCAC 02H, 15A NCAC 02T, and 15A NCAC 02U.

Approval to Proceed to Public Notice and Hearing with Proposed Amendment to 15A NCAC 02T .0114 and 15A NCAC 02T .0118 pursuant to SL 2023-55, SL 2023-134, and SL 2023-137
[Agenda Item 24-19]

The EMC approved the request to proceed to public notice and hearing for the proposed amended rules 15A NCAC 02T .0114 and 15A NCAC 02T .0118 pursuant to SL 2023-55, SL 2023-134, and SL 2023-137, and for the OSB-approved RIA.

Approved the 2022-2024 Biennial Report on the Progress in Developing and Implementing Basinwide Water Resources Management Plans

[Agenda Item 24-20]

The EMC approved the 2022-2024 Biennial Report on the Progress in Developing and Implementing Basinwide Water Resources Management Plans.

Approved 30-Day Waiver and Approved Request to Proceed to Public Notice and Hearing with the Proposed Rule Amendments to 15A NCAC 02L .0202 Groundwater Quality Standards and the Associated Fiscal and Regulatory Impact Analysis

[Agenda Item 24-21]

The EMC approved a 30-Day Waiver to bring this item to the EMC today. The EMC also approved the request to proceed to public notice and hearing with the proposed rule amendments to 15A NCAC 02L .0202 Groundwater Quality Standards and the associated regulatory impact analysis.

Moved that DEQ Include the EMC Chair and Vice-Chair or Their Designee in All Discussions with the EPA Concerning the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) Petition to De-delegate North Carolina's NPDES Authority

[Agenda Item 24-22]

The EMC moved that DEQ include the EMC Chair and Vice-Chair or their designee in all discussions with the EPA concerning the SELC petition to de-delegate North Carolina's NPDES authority.

November 14, 2024 EMC Meeting

Approved Proceeding to Public Notice and Hearing with Proposed Amendments to Tar-Pamlico Wastewater Discharge Requirements Rule (15A NCAC 02B .0733)

[Agenda Item 24-23]

The EMC approved proceeding to public notice and hearing with proposed amendments to the Tar-Pamlico Wastewater Discharge Requirements Rule (15A NCAC 02B .0733).

Approved Proceeding to Public Comment on Revisions to Permit Review Timelines and Definitions Pursuant to Session Law 2023-134, Section 12.11(a)-(c) and Approved the Regulatory Impact Analysis

[Agenda Item 24-24]

The EMC approved proceeding to public comment on revisions to permit review timelines and definitions pursuant to Session Law 2023-134, Section 12.11(a)-(c) and approved the regulatory impact analysis.

Approved Hearing Officer’s Report for Adoption of 15A NCAC 02Q .0529, Title V Insignificant Research and Development Activities Exemption and Approved Regulatory Impact Analysis

[Agenda Item 24-25]

The EMC approved the hearing officer’s report for Adoption of 15A NCAC 02Q .0529, Title V Insignificant Research and Development Activities Exemption and approved the regulatory impact analysis.

Approved the Final Determinations for the Periodic Review of Rules Report for 15A NCAC 02S

[Agenda Item 24-26]

The EMC approved the final determinations for the Periodic Review of Rules Report for 15A NCAC 02S.

III. Other EMC Activity

Update on the Revision to the 2021 NPDES General Permit for Aquaculture Pursuant to North Carolina Farm Act of 2023, Session Law 2023-63 Section 14

[January 11, 2024 EMC Meeting, Agenda Item 24-IF-02]

DWR Director Richard Rogers provided the Commission with an update on this matter. He noted that DEQ listened to the comments at public meetings and hearings, including engaging affected facilities regarding their comments. He also noted that DEQ has been working with EPA and the state legislature to implement the changes in the 2023 Farm Act. He said that DEQ complied with the 2023 Farm Act by re-opening the permit, re-noticing it, and revising it. He said that the EPA does not consider this new permit to be adequate or legitimate and that EPA expects DEQ to continue to enforce the previous 2021 permit. Finally, he said that DEQ was still working with the EMC, EPA, the NC Department of Agriculture, and legislature in the hopes of coming to a mutually agreeable resolution. The Commissioners then discussed this matter further.

Discussion of Wetlands Memo Provided by Commissioner Baumgartner

[January 11, 2024 EMC Meeting, Agenda Item 24-IF-03]

Commissioner Baumgartner described his wetlands memo at length. He noted that the General Assembly gave the EMC a directive to modify the wetlands rule to relate back to the federal definition of wetlands. Commissioners then discussed the implications of this change, noting that North Carolina's wetlands definition will now change automatically when the federal definition changes due to a court case or new presidential administration. Commissioners also discussed their concerns with this new definition. One concern was that the exact impacts of this definition change are uncertain and therefore the situation should be monitored going forward. Another concern was that this new definition change was actually a jurisdictional question, not a definition question. The areas that are no longer considered wetlands under [Sackett vs. EPA](#) are still wetlands even if North Carolina no longer has jurisdiction over them under the wetlands rule. These wetlands still need to be protected and still have significant natural resource value for other purposes.

Discussion of Rulemaking and Reports Required by 2023 Legislative Session

[January 11, 2024 EMC Meeting, Agenda Item 24-IF-04]

Chair Solomon gave a preview of the EMC's goals for 2024, noting three main categories of goals. One will be easy procedural matters that just need to be executed. Another will be matters that require changing some numbers along with some debate. The third category involves topics that will require more intense EMC attention such as 1,4-dioxane. Director Rogers said that the priority was the narrative standard study and that he hoped to work with the Water Quality Committee to set a firm deadline.

Overview of Governor Cooper's Executive Order 305 – An Order to Protect and Restore North Carolina's Critical Natural and Working Lands

[March 14, 2024 EMC Meeting, Agenda Item 24-IF-05]

DWR Director Rogers explained to the EMC that DEQ is currently discerning this executive order and determining exactly what it means and what DEQ will do. DEQ is also working with the Department of Natural Resources to develop a plan. EMC Chair Solomon indicated that there'd be another presentation in May on this topic.

Overview of Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) Process

[May 9, 2024 EMC Meeting, Agenda Item 24-IF-06]

Ed McLenaghan, the Assistant Budget Officer for Demographic and Economic Analysis at the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM), presented an overview of the regulatory

impact analysis process. He explained the three reasons that RIAs are a required part of the state rulemaking process. The first reason is to improve rule design by requiring the agency proposing the rule to thoughtfully consider the rule and its impacts. The agency should identify or correct any unintended consequences or undue burdens. The second purpose of an RIA is to provide information to the EMC and other stakeholders. The third reason RIAs are required is to communicate with the regulated community and other stakeholders about the rule to increase transparency.

He also explained that the impact RIAs measure extends beyond just budgetary impacts and also includes impacts on ecosystems, human health, and natural resources. He said RIAs focus on impacts only to the State of NC, not the nation or world as a whole. Mr. McLenaghan noted that it is not always possible to ascertain costs and benefits with perfect accuracy but that OSBM does the best it can, and that the purpose of RIAs is to provide helpful information. The presentation was followed by some discussion and a question and answer session.

Recent Federal Regulatory Actions on PFAS (Drinking Water)

[May 9, 2024 EMC Meeting, Agenda Item 24-IF-07]

Rebecca Sadosky, Chief of the Public Water Section, presented this item. Ms. Sadosky stated that the presentation was a summary of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS that was published in April 2024. The regulation will affect over 1,900 public water systems in North Carolina. The regulation sets Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and a Hazard Index (HI) for 6 PFAS. Water systems will be required to monitor for PFAS and if an MCL or HI is exceeded, they will need to take action to reduce the concentration of regulated PFAS, and notify the regulated community of the exceedance. The presentation also included a summary of PFAS samples collected from public water systems in NC.

Recent Federal Regulatory Actions on PFAS CERCLA & Enforcement Discretion Policy

[May 9, 2024 EMC Meeting, Agenda Item 24-IF-08]

Division of Waste Management Director Michael Scott presented this information item regarding the recent action by the EPA to issue a final rule designating two PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), as hazardous substances under the Federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as “Superfund.” Mr. Scott provided a summary of the federal rule change requirements, including release reporting requirements and DOT requirements under the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act. He also summarized the key points of the PFAS Enforcement Discretion and Settlement Policy under CERCLA issued by EPA on the same date. The policy outlines how the EPA intends to enforce the rule but does not require any rulemaking actions or updates by the EMC. The presentation also included links to the EPA’s websites for the Superfund program, the final rule, and the enforcement policy.

Status Reports to the General Assembly

[May 9, 2024 EMC Meeting, Agenda Item 24-IF-09]

The following three attachments were provided to the EMC without presentation:

[Attachment A – EMC Narrative Standards Report Status Report](#)

[Attachment B – NC Collaboratory Preliminary Report of Treatment Technologies for 1-4, Dioxane](#)

[Attachment C 1-4, Dioxane in Drinking Water HHRA Legislative Report 01May2024](#)

EMC Delegation of Authority for NPDES Permits

[July 11, 2024 EMC Meeting, Agenda Item 24-IF-10]

Chair Soloman began the discussion by noting that NCGS 143B-282 gives the EMC the authority to grant permits to control air and water pollution. He also said that the Commission has given permit authority to DEQ by rule, not by statute.

Chair Solomon said that DEQ issued a general aquaculture permit without properly accounting for all the costs in the RIA. He said he was concerned that this permit was done in the name of the EMC without the EMC having full knowledge or feedback. Keith Larick from the NC Farm Bureau addressed the Commission about the aquaculture NPDES General Permit that governed about 30 trout farms. He said perhaps there could be an opportunity for members of the regulated community to call upon the EMC if they feel they aren't making progress with DEQ.

Elijah Williams from the Water Reclamation Division for the City of Greensboro's Water Resources Department addressed the EMC. He too wanted the opportunity to address the EMC regarding Greensboro's NPDES permitting concerns. Paul Calamita, General Counsel to the NC Water Quality Association, also addressed the EMC. He also sought the opportunity to address the EMC regarding certain permits affecting local government utilities. After that, Committee members discussed the matter further.

DEQ Secretary's Update to the EMC on Hurricane Helene Relief

[November 14, 2024 EMC Meeting, Agenda Item 24-IF-11]

DEQ Secretary Mary Penny Kelley described DEQ's progress on Hurricane Helene relief. She presented information about landslides, the status of public water systems, debris removal, and waste management. She also answered some questions from Commission members.

IV. Nutrient Control Strategies Sections 2, 3, and 4 of S.L. 2005-190 (as amended by S.L. 2006-259, S.L. 2009-486, S.L. 2017-10, and S.L. 2018-5)

Session Law 2005-190, as amended, requires the EMC to identify any nutrient control criteria necessary to prevent excess nutrient loading in each drinking water supply reservoir and periodically report on monitoring and nutrient management strategies necessary to protect the drinking water supply reservoirs and their designated uses. This section is presented by reservoir.

Falls Lake Reservoir

The EMC is required to report its progress in implementing a nutrient control strategy to reduce excess nutrient loading to the Falls Lake water supply reservoir. Following an extensive stakeholder and rule-making process, the Falls Lake nutrient rules went into effect Jan. 15, 2011, and have been implemented accordingly since. In July 2016, the General Assembly passed S.L. 2016-94, calling for an evaluation of the Falls and Jordan nutrient strategies, separating these rules from the rest of the periodic rules re-adoption process, and setting later rulemaking timelines. The legislation called on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) to study the Jordan and Falls strategies and report recommendations to guide further rulemaking to the ERC, EMC and DEQ. More recently, S.L. 2018-5 revised the due date for the Falls UNC Study to December 2023. This legislation also extended the deadline for initiating Falls rules re-adoption to December 31, 2024.

During the December 2023 - December 2024 period, DWR staff:

- Continued collaboration with the Upper Neuse River Basin Association (UNRBA) on their reexamination process of the Falls Lake rule requirements. This included providing technical input and review of the UNRBA's efforts to develop new lake, watershed, and statistical models for Falls Lake.
- Reviewed the Final UNC Collaboratory Report, wrapping up the multi-year Falls Lake study pursuant to Session Law 2016-94 section 14.13(c).
- Reviewed UNRBA's Falls Lake Watershed & Lake Model Reports and Final Recommendations for a revised Falls Lake Nutrient Management Strategy and Re-adoption of the Falls Lake Rules.
- Convened the Falls Lake Basin Oversight Committee to review and approve the Falls Lake Agriculture Annual Report documenting the agriculture community's compliance with the Falls Agriculture Rule.
- Reviewed the third annual Interim Alternative Implementation Approach Reports submitted by Falls local governments to document their compliance with Stage I of the Existing Development Rule.
- Participated in a joint UNRBA and DWR rules re-adoption kickoff meeting in addition to several technical stakeholder workshop meetings in November and December 2024 to initiate the Falls rules re-adoption process and receive input on the development of draft rule concepts.

Jordan Lake Reservoir

Section 4 requires the EMC to report on progress toward developing and implementing a nutrient management strategy for reservoirs including Jordan Lake. After a several-year stakeholder process, the Jordan Lake rules went into effect in August 2009. Since then, there have been nine session laws that have revised or delayed the rules. Most recently, S.L. 2018-5 added a lake and watershed modeling component to the Collaboratory Study and extended the deadline for the EMC to initiate rules re-adoption to Dec 31, 2019. The lake component was completed in Winter 2023, reviewed internally, and released for external review. Stakeholder meetings for the Jordan rule readoption have begun and staff provided an update on the Jordan rules readoption process to the EMC Water Quality Committee during its November meeting.

During the December 2023 - December 2024 period, DWR staff:

- Participated in Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW) stakeholder meetings and provided written feedback to their comments and reports, including the JLOW Draft Rule Recommendation.
- Closed contract with third-party neutral facilitation team for stakeholder engagement on the Jordan rules readoption process and continued stakeholder meetings without facilitation team.
- Held Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings (eleven TAGs by Dec 2024), two All-Party Stakeholder meetings, and one Nutrient Scientific Advisory Board (NSAB) meeting to solicit input on current Jordan rules and new rule concepts.
- Drafted rules for riparian buffer protection and existing development in Jordan and contributed to rule concept development for wastewater, stormwater, and agriculture.
- Completed data collection with hired intern using class B biosolids land application permits as well as post construction stormwater permits.
- Implemented Jordan Stage I existing development rule and fertilizer management certification.
- Attended NCSU training on stormwater control measures certification and inspection.

High Rock Lake Reservoir

A site-specific standard for chlorophyll-a for High Rock Lake was adopted by the Environmental Management Commission and Office of Administrative Hearing's Rules Review Commission with an effective date of September 1, 2022. The US Environmental Protection Agency provided a decision document supporting the establishment of this site-specific standard dated December 7, 2022. During 2023, DWR conducted a facilitated informal stakeholder engagement process intended to inform nutrient strategy rule development for compliance with the chlorophyll-a standard. A Nutrient Strategy Steering Committee was convened to oversee development of a report of recommendations for rulemaking.

During the December 2023 - December 2024 period, DWR staff:

- Assisted the Nutrient Strategy Steering Committee to produce a final report of recommendations for rulemaking.
- Formed a technical workgroup of agricultural experts to perform an analysis of current waste management rules and provide feedback on preliminary proposals to improve poultry waste and municipal biosolids management.
- Convened meetings with stormwater experts to analyze current post-construction stormwater standards and provide recommendations on potential future rulemaking.
- Drafted rules for nutrient load reduction and riparian buffer protection in the watershed.

V. Closing

This report has been prepared based on the 2024 EMC agendas and meeting minutes. A more detailed description of this information can be found on the [EMC website](#).

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is accurate and complete.

JD Solomon, Chair, Environmental Management Commission