



Michael F. Easley
Governor

William G. Ross, Jr., Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Coleen, H. Sullins, Director
Division of Water Quality

March 10, 2008

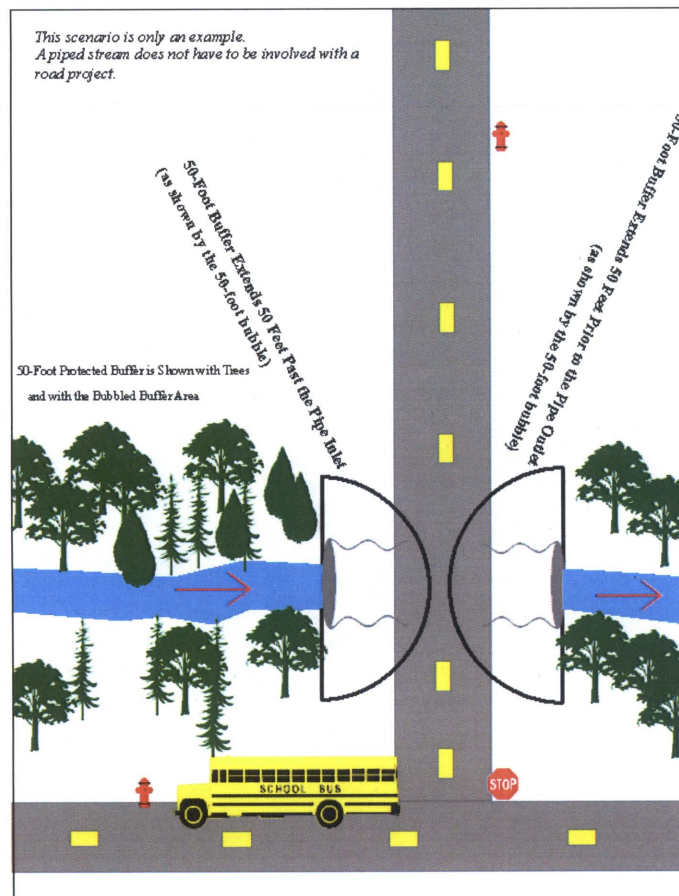
Buffer Interpretation/Clarification #2008-018

MEMORANDUM

RE: There has been a need to clarify how to measure the 50-foot buffer at the point where a stream ceases to be piped or “daylights” (the start point of a stream) as well as how to measure the 50-foot buffer at the point where a “daylighted” stream becomes piped (the stop point of a stream), per the Neuse River Basin Buffer Rule 15A NCAC 2B.0233(4), the Tar-Pamlico River Basin Buffer Rule 15A NCAC 2B.0259(4), the Randleman Lake Water Supply Watershed Buffer Rule 15A NCAC 2B.0250(3), and the Catawba River Basin Buffer Rule 15A NCAC 2B.0243(4).

Solution: In the case where a stream has been piped and then daylights, the buffer start point of that stream is a “bubble” arcing 50-feet upstream of the pipe. In the case where a daylighted stream becomes piped, the buffer stop point is a “bubble” arcing 50-feet downstream from the pipe.

**The drawing below illustrates the 50-foot buffer “bubble” at the start and stop points of a stream that is subject to the above-mentioned buffer rules*.*



Signature: _____

Date: _____

3-13-08

One
North Carolina
Naturally