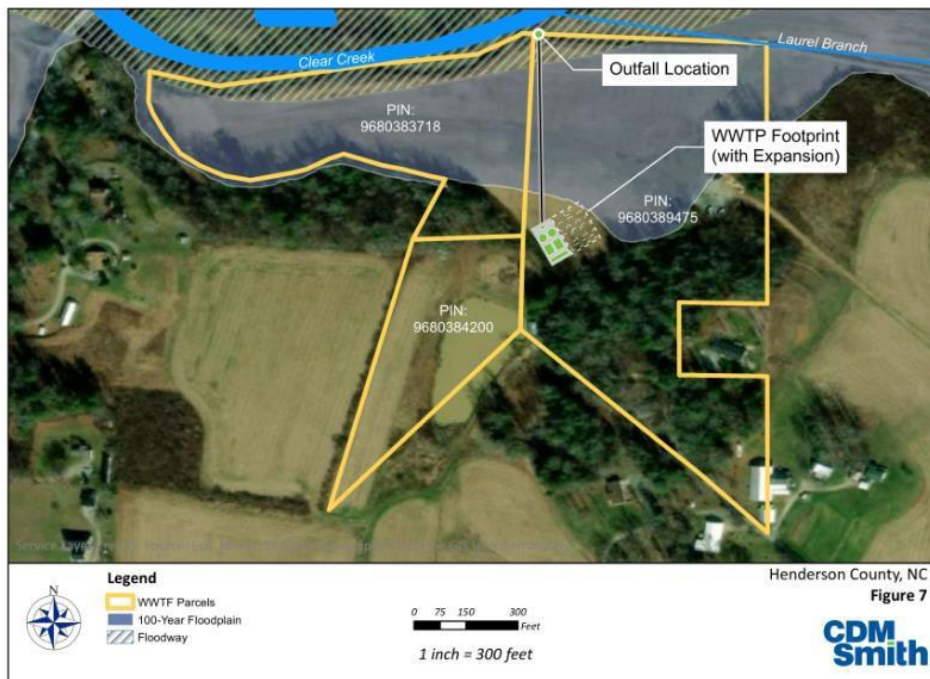


NCDEQ Seeking Public Comment on Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Permit

Draft Permit Overview

Henderson County has applied for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for a proposed municipal wastewater treatment plant that would serve existing residential and commercial properties in Edneyville.



The minor municipal plant would have the capacity to treat up to 200,000 gallons per day, with the option to expand to up to 500,000 gallons per day.

The treated wastewater would discharge into Clear Creek, which is part of the French Broad River Basin.

Clear Creek is listed on the 2022 North Carolina 303(d) list as impaired for aquatic life.

Figure 1 Proposed Clear Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant

Public Comment Period

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources is accepting comments on the draft NPDES permit until **5 p.m. Feb. 6**. Comments can be submitted using any of the following options:

Email: publiccomments@deq.nc.gov with “Clear Creek WWTP” in the subject line

Mail: Wastewater Permitting, Attn: Henderson County-Clear Creek WWTP Permit, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C., 27699-1617

In-Person: Monday, February 5, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Auditorium at North Henderson High School, 35 Fruitland Rd, Hendersonville, NC 28792, Speaker registration opens at 5:30 p.m., onsite via sign-up sheet.

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Facility Location

The proposed wastewater treatment plant would be located near Fruitland Road on approximately half an acre on 15 acres near the confluence of Clear Creek and Laurel Branch.

Facility Discharges

Henderson County will be required to monitor the quality of the wastewater discharged from the plant, and report the findings to DWR. The water quality standards that the plant would have to meet are given in the table below. In addition, the plant cannot discharge any floating solids or visible foam, other than trace amounts.

	Monthly average limit	Weekly average limit	Daily maximum	Daily average
Total residual Chlorine			28 micrograms per liter	
Biochemical oxygen demand	30 mg per liter	45 mg per liter		
Ammonia	Monitor and report			
Dissolved oxygen				More than 5 mg per liter
Total suspended solids	30 mg per liter	45 mg per liter		
pH	Not less than 6 or more than 9 standard units			
Fecal coliform	200/100 mL	400/100 mL		
Chronic toxicity	Toxicity tests done quarterly			
Total nitrogen	Monitor and report			
Total phosphorus	Monitor and report			

Due to concerns about the aquatic life impairment in Clear Creek, DWR included a condition in the permit that the permittee shall submit a plan - within three months of the permit's effective date - for studying the biological integrity of the waters receiving the treated wastewater.

The details of the monitoring requirements, and DWR's enforcement policies, are available on the DEQ website. Printed copies of the draft permit and related documents may be reviewed by appointment at the Asheville Regional Office, located at 2090 U.S. 70 Highway, Swannanoa, NC 28778-8211.

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To make an appointment to review the documents, please call 828-296-4500, and ask for a Water Quality Regional Operations supervisor. File materials may not be removed from any DWR office, but copy machines are available for use upon payment of the cost to DWR, pursuant to G.S. 132-6.2.

Visit the NCDEQ website to learn more: <https://www.deq.nc.gov/news/events/public-hearing-henderson-county-npdes-wastewater-permit-nc0090247clear-creek-wastewater-treatment>. For questions, email Laura Oleniacz at laura.oleniacz@deq.nc.gov or call 919-707-8604.

