NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF GROUNDWATER QUALITY STANDARDS

The Environmental Management Commission (EMC) will hold public hearings to collect comments on proposed revisions to rules regulating groundwater quality standards. The hearings are scheduled as follows:

April 21, 6:30 PM – Western Piedmont Community College – Moore Hall, 1001 Burkemont Avenue, Morganton

April 23, 6:30 PM – Bladen Community College – Multipurpose Auditorium Building, 7418 Highway 41 West, Dublin

April 30, 6:30 PM – Archdale Building, Ground Floor Hearing Room, 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh

The NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, on behalf of the Environmental Management Commission, will conduct hearings in order to receive public comments on proposed rule amendments to the groundwater quality standards contained in 15A NCAC 02L .0202 regulations. The proposed rules establish maximum allowable concentrations, resulting from any discharge of contaminants to the land or waters of the state, which may be tolerated without creating a threat to human health or which would otherwise render the groundwater unsuitable for its intended best usage. Every three years the State is required, by 15A NCAC 02L .0202, to review its groundwater water quality standards and interim maximum allowable concentrations to determine if changes are needed and, if necessary, to make those changes. Revision of these standards is needed to ensure that they contain the most recent health and toxicological information.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED RULES

Based on review of the most current and relevant toxicological information available, the proposed changes to groundwater standards include:

- A decrease in the allowable concentration for fifteen standards,
- an increase in the allowable concentration for twelve standards,
- the addition of a standard for formaldehyde,
- the removal of twelve standards and/or interim maximum allowable concentrations (note that these contaminants are still regulated under this rule),
- the reduction of significant figures to one,
- a change in the units of measure from mg/L (parts per million) to ug/L (parts per billion), except where noted,
- an update of ten chemical names, and
- the substitution of the language “at or above the practical quantitation limit” for the term “detectable.”

Copies of the proposed rules can be found at the NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality web page at http://www.ncwaterquality.org/admin/pubinfo/DWQPubInfoCalendar.htm or may be obtained by writing to Sandra Moore at the address provided below.

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

The EMC is interested in all comments pertaining to these proposed rule changes. It is very important that all interested and potentially affected persons or parties make their views known to the EMC whether in favor of or opposed to any or all of the proposed amendments. You may attend the public hearing and make relevant verbal comments and/or submit written comments, data or other relevant information. The Hearing Officer may limit the length of time that you may speak at the public hearing, if necessary, so that all those who wish to speak will have that opportunity. Written copies are requested for any oral comments presented at the public hearings. Comments may be presented at the public hearings or submitted in writing to the Planning Section of the NCDENR-Division of Water Quality by June 1, 2009. Such correspondence should be brought to the attention of:

Sandra Moore
DENR/DWQ Planning Section,
1617 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1617
Phone: (919) 807-6417
Fax: (919) 807-6497
Sandra.moore@ncmail.net .

In the case of inclement weather on the day of the scheduled public hearing, please contact the above telephone number for a recorded message regarding any changes to the location, day or time of the hearing.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Existing Division of Water Quality rules are located on the Internet at http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/admin/rules/codes_statutes.htm. Further explanations and details on the proposed rules may be obtained by visiting the DWQ Groundwater Standards website at http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/csu/trirev_GW.html or writing or calling the contact person above.