Determination of Minor Construction Activity

North Carolina Division of Water Quality
Construction Grants and Loans Section

Project Applicant: Watauga County
Date: August 6, 2009
Project Number: 2W370918-01
Estimated Project Cost: $ 580,000
Estimated Funding Amount: $ 580,000

Project Description: The Upper Watauga River Enhancement Project is intended to improve and protect a High Quality Waterway section of the Watauga River, which is considered to be a High Quality Waterway and Trout Waters. The enhancement measures will stabilize eroded streambanks through natural channel design measures and a vegetated rock slope along the most severely eroded portion; native planting will occur in all disturbed areas (herbs, trees, shrubs). Four private landowners involved in the project have agreed to place permanent conservation easements of a 50' wide buffer along the river which will not be disturbed after the enhancement measures are in place.

The above named applicant intends to apply for assistance from the State Revolving Fund program associated with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to construct the wastewater facilities described above. The North Carolina Division of Water Quality (DWQ) has conducted a review of the project in accordance with the procedures (NCAC 15A Subchapter 1C) for conformance with the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act. The DWQ has determined that this project is a minor construction activity, and that the preparation of additional environmental documents is not required.

This determination shall become effective upon its distribution by DWQ. This determination can be revoked at any time adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision will be on file with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality, Construction Grants and Loans Section, and is available for public review at www.nccgl.net.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Mr. Kim H. Colson, P.E., Assistant Chief, Construction Grants and Loans Section, Division of Water Quality, 1633 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1633, or he may be reached by phone at (919) 715-6212.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Blaisdell

Daniel M. Blaisdell, P.E., Chief
Construction Grants and Loans Section
Division of Water Quality