



## N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: Immediate  
Date: Jan. 12, 2011

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### State Seeks Comments on Communities Facing More Stringent Stormwater Pollution Controls

**RALEIGH** – State environmental officials are seeking public comments on whether 18 communities in the Lumber and Yadkin Pee-Dee river basins should be required to implement more stringent controls to prevent stormwater pollution, as part of the federally-designated Phase II Stormwater Management Program.

The state Division of Water Quality is considering measures for the communities and nearby areas to limit stormwater pollution, a leading cause of stream impairment in the state. Stormwater controls would include eliminating untreated wastewater discharges to creeks, developing campaigns to educate the public about stormwater pollution prevention, and implementing control requirements for new development.

The 18 communities that are candidates for the more stringent controls as part of the phase II stormwater program are:

- Lumber River Basin: Laurinburg, Lumberton, Pinehurst, Red Springs
- Yadkin Pee-Dee River Basin: Albemarle, Asheboro, Fairview, King, Lexington, Mocksville, Mount Airy, North Wilkesboro, Rockingham, Spencer, Statesville, Unionville, Walkertown, Wingate

Comments also are sought regarding areas surrounding these communities that may be affected by the expanded stormwater requirements. Under state law, stormwater controls on new development projects are required in unincorporated areas near designated phase II municipalities. Depending on the area covered by the Phase II program in a given county, new development stormwater requirements may affect the entire county. The proposed phase II program designations may also affect all or part of the towns of Aberdeen, Foxfire Village, Hamlet, Southern Pines, Troutman and Wilkesboro, as well as Davidson, Iredell, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland, Stanly and Wilkes counties. Maps of the areas potentially affected by designation under the phase II program can be found at: <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/ws/su/phase2>

The federal Phase I and Phase II Stormwater Management Programs were created in the 1990s. They address stormwater runoff from municipal separate storm sewer systems, land-disturbing activities, certain industrial activities and unregulated sources of stormwater discharges that have the greatest likelihood of causing continued environmental degradation. Communities are evaluated for inclusion in the phase II program as part of the update of each river basin's water quality plan every five years.

A community can come under the federal stormwater management program due to population number or density; in response to a petition for designation based on significant water quality concerns; or when the municipality's storm sewer system has been determined to be a cause of water quality impairment. The state can also place a community in the stormwater program based on population growth or if the stormwater discharge adversely impacts water quality or contributes significant pollutants to receiving waters.

Comments must be received by Feb. 14, 2011. Submit comments to: DWQ Stormwater Permitting Unit, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617, (919) 807-6300 attn: Mike Randall or Brian Lowther, or to [Mike.Randall@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Mike.Randall@ncdenr.gov) or [Brian.Lowther@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Brian.Lowther@ncdenr.gov).

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