Agenda Item: **10-42** **Request for Approval, With Conditions, of the Interbasin Transfer Certificate for Greenville Utilities Commission, Town of Farmville, Town of Winterville, and Greene County**

Explanation:

On April 14, 2009, the Greenville Utilities Commission (GUC) submitted a petition requesting an interbasin transfer (IBT) certificate from the EMC. The certificate would allow the GUC to provide potable water to the Town of Farmville, Town of Winterville, and Greene County. These water sales would result in interbasin transfers from the Tar River Basin to the Contentnea Creek and Neuse River Basins. The water sales are necessary to allow these communities to comply with the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area (CCPCUA) rules, enacted by the EMC in 2001. These regulations were developed to control ground water use in the Cretaceous Aquifers in response to decreasing ground water levels and saltwater intrusion. The CCPCUA rules require ground water users in the impacted areas to reduce their consumption in three phases between 2008 and 2018. The Town of Farmville, Town of Winterville, and Greene County rely on the Cretaceous Aquifers for water supply and are affected by the CCPCUA rules. To comply with the CCPCUA reductions and meet customer demands, these communities plan to purchase finished water from the GUC.

On May 14, 2009 the EMC agreed to hold a public hearing on the petition. The public hearing was held on November 5, 2009 at Pitt Community College in Winterville, with 37 persons in attendance. In total, 21 provided comments, either at the hearing (10 speakers) or during the public comment period. Upon consideration of the public comments and the applicants' petition, the hearing officers recommend that the interbasin transfer certificate be issued, with conditions.

Recommendations:

The hearing officers recommend that the EMC issue an interbasin transfer certificate to the petitioners, with the conditions outlined in the hearing officers report. The certificate would allow a transfer of up to 8.3 MGD from the Tar River Basin to the Contentnea Creek River Basin and up to 4.0 MGD from the Tar River Basin to the Neuse River Basin.