

Huisman, John

From: David Schwartz [dcschwartz@hotmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 09, 2010 9:46 AM
To: Huisman, John
Subject: Written comments for Falls Lake Rules concerning rule .0283, fertilizer management for homeowners near the lake

Dear Mr. John Huisman,

I hope you are doing well. I attended the entire Raleigh public hearing on the Falls Lake Rules last week and would like to submit my written comments below.

First I would like to say it appears a great deal of thought went into the rules and also the conduct of the meeting. I feel the rules are reasonable. The only loophole I could find was in rule .0283, Fertilizer Management, *"The rule does not apply to fertilization of residential lands done by the homeowner."* I hope this loophole can be closed before the rules are accepted into law.

During the public hearing, several people (including homeowners who live around the lake) commented, "We are all in this together," and that is why I strongly feel fertilizer management must apply to homeowners as well. The City of Durham has always been a progressive leader in the State of NC and despite some of their official's belly-aching at last week's meeting, will continue to lead and follow through on their responsibilities to clean up Falls Lake, in my opinion. This does not mean that those who live closest to the lake should get a free pass. If anything, residents bordering the lake should stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the City of Durham by accepting responsibility and leadership in finding ways to maintain their property without using fertilizer.

I was a seasonal state employee at Falls Lake State Recreation Area from spring until fall of 1996 and helped clean up the park after Hurricane Fran struck. I can honestly say it is my favorite lake in the State of NC. Since that time, however, rampant development of houses with huge, irrigated, and fertilized lawns has occurred around the lake, which surely contributes to increased concentrations of nitrogen and phosphorus in the lake.

Again, I appreciated the public hearing and this opportunity to provide these written comments. I also enjoyed the comments from the public.

All the best,

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