N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Washington Regional Office Profile

Washington Region - 21 county territory
Estimated Population per 2010 – 790,869
Population Projection by 2030 – 960,600
Total Area of the Region – 11,808 sq. miles

Major Cities

- Greenville – Pitt County
- New Bern – Craven County
- Elizabeth City – Pasquotank County
- Goldsboro – Wayne County

- National Parks
  - Cape Hatteras National Seashore
  - Pungo National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)
  - Croatan National Forest
  - Mackey Island NWR
  - Pea Island NWR
  - Alligator River NWR
  - Lake Mattamuskeet NWR

- State Parks
  - Goose Creek State Park
  - Great Dismal Swamp State Park
  - Jockey's Ridge State Park
  - Merchants Millpond State Park
  - Pettigrew State Park - Lake Phelps
  - Cliffs of the Neuse State Park

Special Interest

- U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point
- Seymour Johnson Air Force Base
- U.S. Coast Guard Air Station and National Strike Force
- Harvey Point Defense Testing Activity Dept. of Defense
- Major Universities - East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University

Major Industry

- PotashCorp – Beaufort County
- Weyerhaeuser – Craven County & Pitt County
- Domtar Company –- Washington County
- DSM Pharmaceuticals Inc. – Pitt County
- Mt. Olive Pickle Company Inc. – Wayne County
- Nucor Inc. - Hertford County
- Progress Energy – Wayne County

Minor Industry

- NAACO Materials Handling Group Inc. – Pitt County
- ASMO Greenville of North Carolina Inc. – Pitt County
- Spirit Aero systems – Lenoir County
- N.C. Global Transpark- Lenoir County
- Agriculture
  - Crops
  - Trees
  - Poultry
  - Swine
  - Fisheries
- Potential Wind Farms

Division of Air Quality (DAQ)

DAQ's 14-person Washington Regional Office staff ensures that a wide range of core goals and objectives of the DAQ are met. Most priorities stem from the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments in conjunction with other related federal air quality rules and regulations, with a primary focus of protecting North Carolina's citizens from air pollution so that they can live healthy, prosperous lives. The basic duties performed include, but are not limited to, the issuance of air permits, investigation of citizen complaints, inspection of industrial facilities, and operation and maintenance of a network of sophisticated air monitors. Staff also provides daily compliance assistance to business and industry. DAQ provides same-day service for priority complaints and ambient monitors with problems.

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Number of nonattainment or maintenance counties:
No counties are currently designated as nonattainment or maintenance in the Washington Region, and all monitors are measuring compliance with all of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Class I Areas: There is one Class I area in the Washington Region – the Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge Area.

Relevant WARO Statistics: *all averages based on data from the five previous fiscal years (7/2006-6/2011)*

- DAQ currently has 259 permitted facilities in WARO; 35 Title V; 50 Synthetic minor; 174 Small.
- DAQ WARO issues an average of 79 small and synthetic minor permits to facilities each year with an average time to process and issue each permit of 29 days, with many permits issued in much less time.
- DAQ WARO provides an average of 103 reviews each year for permit revocations, tax certifications, environmental assessments, and mining permits.DAQ WARO issues an average of 15 written permit applicability determinations each year, plus at least that many via telephone.
- DAQ WARO performs technical reviews and provides comments to the Permits Section staff in central office on an average of 27 Title V permit applications each year.
- DAQ WARO conducts an average of 233 compliance inspections each year, providing on-site customer assistance with each inspection (including stack test observations, risk management plan inspections, and disaster response).
- DAQ WARO investigates an average of 216 complaints each year, serving at least two customers with each complaint investigation.
- Each permitted facility is assigned an inspector who serves as the facility's personal contact/customer service representative for all questions and issues; service is provided throughout the year for these facilities.
- All DAQ WARO staff members provide continuing customer service throughout the year for all permitted and non-permitted facilities. The universe of non-permitted facilities – much larger than the universe of permitted facilities – requires periodic compliance assistance in interpreting federal and state air quality regulations.
- Each of DAQ's 10-13 ambient monitors in the WARO, located at five different monitoring sites, requires personal visits for servicing on at least a weekly basis.
- The WARO observes an average of 23 source tests each year.

Characteristics of Washington Regional Office

- Large military bases pose unique environmental challenges
- High density of swine and poultry farms require specialized inspection and compliance oversight
- Largest mining operation in the state (PCS Phosphate) presents unique surface and groundwater issues
- Hurricane/flood response area require preparations for and response to emergencies
- Long travel distances require greater time commitment for public response and inspections