

YADKIN-PEE DEE RIVER BASIN ASSOCIATION

OVERVIEW

The *NPDES Discharge Monitoring Coalition Program* was developed by DWQ to utilize NPDES instream monitoring requirements to create an effective program for assessing water quality within a watershed context. Participating permit holders voluntarily develop a monitoring program with the DWQ that is designed to evaluate coalition interests and watershed specific issues. In order to better utilize the resources spent by NPDES permittees, the monitoring locations are coordinated with the State's existing ambient and biological monitoring networks. This integrated management of monitoring resources reduces duplication and provides a more complete picture of watershed conditions. Coalition coordinators within DWQ are able to facilitate the collection of water quality data at two hundred sixty-nine monitoring locations on a monthly basis. The coalition program substantially increases the data resources available to the State for making basin-wide water quality management decisions. The Yadkin- Pee Dee River Basin Association (*YPDRBA*) was formed in 1998 and now consists of 39 permitted facilities. The following is a description of their operational plan.

VISION

To play a leading role in the overall enhancement of water quality throughout the Yadkin-Pee Dee River basin to a plateau that places the river among those of the highest quality in the United States.

MISSION

Pool financial resources and expertise of private and public organizations and individuals to monitor the water quality of the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin and to evaluate, recommend, and assist with implementation of management strategies that will reduce, control, and/or manage pollutant discharge into the basin to preserve the basin as a major source of water supply.

To preserve the waters of the Yadkin-Pee Dee River as a major source of water supply by:

1. Pooling financial resources and expertise;
2. Collecting and analyzing information and data and developing, evaluating and implementing strategies in and effort to reduce, control and manage pollutant discharge;
3. Providing technical, management, regulatory and legal recommendations regarding the implementation of strategies and appropriate effluent limitations on discharges into the Yadkin-Pee Dee River.

STRATEGIES

1. Maintain a financially sound, cost-effective and goal-oriented organization
2. Develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive program of in-stream water quality monitoring
3. Be and advocate/resource for point-source dischargers, providing them with available Association resources necessary to meet water quality standards
4. Communicate plans and accomplishments with the public, government agencies and other interested parties
5. Utilize funding from various sources, including State and Federal grants, to improve and protect water quality throughout the basin
6. Endeavor to influence legislation affecting the water quality of the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin in a manner that is both beneficial to dischargers and the environment
7. Encourage and promote Association Growth through membership recruitment, education and referral

PROJECTS

The YPDRBA monitors water quality at 71 stations throughout the Yadkin-Pee Dee River basin. In addition, they are the lead organization for a stream restoration project on *Grants Creek* and are assisting with the High Rock Lake TMDL development and coordination. To support this TMDL, the Association is collecting data to support chlorophyll a and turbidity modeling.

For additional information about the YPDRBA in general, including its various program activities and products, visit <http://www.yadkinpeedee.org>.