

**Agenda Item: 14-02 Request to Proceed to Public Hearing with the Proposed Reclassification of a Segment of the Green River (including Lake Adger) in Polk County to Class WS-IV**

**Explanation:**

Polk County has requested that a Green River segment, including Lake Adger, be reclassified from Class C to Class WS-IV CA and WS-IV (PA) in order to construct a public water supply intake. This new water supply source will Polk County to meet local water demands; thus, this proposal serves the public interest per Executive Order #70 and complies with G.S. 150B, the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). The waters to be reclassified meet water supply water quality standards according to 2011 Division studies. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for this project's Environmental Assessment has not yet been issued but is being pursued, and as a reminder, a FONSI indicates that the project will not result in significant impacts to the environment.

If reclassified, wastewater discharge and new development restrictions will apply throughout the proposed watershed. Other requirements, which apply only in the proposed CA, are additional treatment for new industrial process wastewater discharges as well as no new landfills and new land application sites. There are no permitted wastewater discharges in the proposed watershed. In addition, there are not any known planned land application sites or planned landfills in the proposed CA, and no known planned wastewater discharges or developments in the entire proposed area.

Polk County is the only local government with jurisdiction in the proposed area. Local governments with jurisdiction in a proposed watershed have 270 days after the reclassification effective date to modify or create water supply watershed protection ordinances. Given that Polk County requested the reclassification, it did not need to provide a resolution. As a reminder, the purpose of a resolution is to indicate whether or not a potentially impacted local government will implement the water supply rules within its jurisdiction once a reclassification becomes effective.

At the November 2013 Water Quality Committee (WQC) meeting, the WQC granted staff approval to proceed to the full Environmental Management Commission (EMC) with the reclassification. A fiscal analysis for this proposal has been approved by OSBM, and the analysis' quantifiable results revealed a one-time cost of approximately \$800 to the state and \$1,600 to Polk County.

The proposed effective date for this reclassification is September 14, 2014.

**Recommendation:**

That the EMC approve the fiscal note and grant staff approval to proceed to public hearing for the proposed reclassification.