

1 15A NCAC 07H .0309 is proposed for amendment as follows:

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3 **15A NCAC 07H .0309 USE STANDARDS FOR OCEAN HAZARD AREAS: EXCEPTIONS**

4 (a) The following types of development shall be permitted seaward of the oceanfront setback requirements of Rule
5 .0306(a) of this Section if all other provisions of this Subchapter and other state and local regulations are met:

- 6 (1) campsites;
- 7 (2) driveways and parking areas with clay, packed sand, or gravel;
- 8 (3) elevated decks not exceeding a footprint of 500 square feet. Existing decks exceeding a footprint of
9 500 square feet may be replaced with no enlargement beyond their original dimensions;
- 10 (4) beach accessways consistent with Rule .0308(c) of this Section;
- 11 (5) unenclosed, uninhabitable gazebos with a footprint of 200 square feet or less;
- 12 (6) uninhabitable, single-story storage sheds with a foundation or floor consisting of wood, clay, packed
13 sand or gravel, and a footprint of 200 square feet or less;
- 14 (7) temporary ~~amusement stands~~ structures consistent with Section .1900 of this Subchapter;
- 15 (8) sand fences;
- 16 (9) swimming pools; ~~and~~
- 17 (10) fill not associated with dune creation that is obtained from an upland source and is of the same
18 general characteristics as the sand in the area in which it is to be ~~placed~~ placed; and
- 19 (11) Temporary weather monitoring structures permitted by General Permit in 15A NCAC 07H .2800.

20 ~~In all cases, this~~ With the exception of development specifically allowed by another rule in this Chapter, all
21 development shall be permitted only if it is landward of the vegetation line or pre-project vegetation line, whichever
22 is applicable; involves no alteration or removal of primary or frontal dunes which would compromise the integrity of
23 the dune as a protective landform or the dune vegetation; is not essential to the continued existence or use of an
24 associated principal development; and meets all other non-setback requirements of this Subchapter.

25 (b) Where application of the Ocean Hazard Area setback requirements of Rule .0306(a) of this Section would preclude
26 placement of a structure in Ocean Erodible Areas, State Ports Inlet Management Areas, and Inlet Hazard Areas, but
27 not Unvegetated Beach Areas, the structure shall be permitted seaward of the applicable setback line if each of the
28 following conditions are met:

- 29 (1) The development is set back from the ocean the maximum feasible distance on the existing lot and
30 the development is designed to minimize encroachment into the setback area;
- 31 (2) The development is at least 60 feet landward of the vegetation line, measurement line, or pre-project
32 vegetation line, whichever is applicable;
- 33 (3) The development is not located on or oceanward of a frontal dune, but is entirely behind the
34 landward toe of the frontal dune at the lowermost point along the profile of the dune's slope;
- 35 (4) The development incorporates each of the following design standards, which are in addition to those
36 required by Rule .0308(d) of this Section;

- 1 (A) All pilings shall have a tip penetration that extends to at least four feet below mean sea
2 level;
- 3 (B) The total floor area of the structure shall be no more than 2,500 square feet. For the purpose
4 of this Section, roof-covered decks and porches that are structurally attached shall be
5 included in the calculation of footprint;
- 6 (C) Driveways and parking areas shall be constructed of clay, packed sand or gravel except in
7 those cases where the development does not abut the ocean and is located landward of a
8 paved public street or highway currently in use. In those cases, other material may be used;
9 and
- 10 (D) No portion of a building's total floor area, including elevated portions that are cantilevered,
11 knee braced, or otherwise extended beyond the support of pilings or footings, may extend
12 oceanward of the total floor area of the landward-most habitable building or structure. The
13 alignment shall be measured from the most oceanward point of the adjacent building or
14 structure's roof line, including roofed decks. An "adjacent" property is one that shares a
15 boundary line with the site of the proposed development. When no adjacent building or
16 structure exists, or the geometry or orientation of a lot or shoreline precludes the placement
17 of a building in line with the landward most adjacent structure of similar use, an average
18 line of construction shall be determined by the Director of the Division of Coastal
19 Management based on an approximation of the average seaward-most positions of the
20 rooflines of adjacent structures along the same shoreline, extending 500 feet in either
21 direction. If no structures exist within this distance, the proposed structure shall meet the
22 applicable setback from the Vegetation Line but shall not be held to the landward-most
23 adjacent structure or an average line of structures. The ocean hazard setback shall extend
24 landward of the vegetation line, static vegetation line or measurement line, whichever is
25 applicable, a distance no less than 60 feet.
- 26 (5) All other provisions of this Subchapter and other state and local regulations are met. If the
27 development is to be serviced by an on-site waste disposal system, a copy of a valid permit for such
28 a system shall be submitted as part of the CAMA permit application.
- 29 (c) The following types of water dependent development shall be permitted seaward of the oceanfront setback
30 requirements of Rule .0306(a) of this Section if all other provisions of this Subchapter and other state and local
31 regulations are met:
- 32 (1) piers providing public access; and
33 (2) maintenance and replacement of existing state-owned bridges, and causeways and accessways to
34 such bridges.
- 35 (d) Replacement or construction of a pier house associated with an ocean pier shall be permitted if each of the
36 following conditions is met:

- (1) The ocean pier provides public access for fishing and other recreational purposes whether on a commercial, public, or nonprofit basis;
 - (2) Commercial, non-water dependent uses of the ocean pier and associated pier house shall be limited to restaurants and retail services. Residential uses, lodging, and parking areas shall be prohibited;
 - (3) The pier house shall be limited to a maximum of two stories;
 - (4) A new pier house shall not exceed a footprint of 5,000 square feet and shall be located landward of mean high water;
 - (5) A replacement pier house may be rebuilt not to exceed its most recent footprint or a footprint of 5,000 square feet, whichever is larger;
 - (6) The pier house shall be rebuilt to comply with all other provisions of this Subchapter; and
 - (7) If the pier has been destroyed or rendered unusable, replacement or expansion of the associated pier house shall be permitted only if the pier is being replaced and returned to its original function.
- (e) In addition to the development authorized under Paragraph (d) of this Rule, small scale, non-essential development that does not induce further growth in the Ocean Hazard Area, such as the construction of single family piers and small-scale erosion control measures that do not interfere with natural oceanfront processes, shall be permitted in the Ocean Hazard Area along those portions of shoreline that exhibit features characteristic of an Estuarine Shoreline. Such features include the presence of wetland vegetation, and lower wave energy and erosion rates than in the adjoining Ocean Erodible Area. Such development shall be permitted under the standards set out in Rule .0208 of this Subchapter. For the purpose of this Rule, small-scale is defined as those projects which are eligible for authorization under 15A NCAC 07H .1100, .1200, and 15A NCAC 07K .0203.
- (f) Transmission lines necessary to transmit electricity from an offshore energy-producing facility may be permitted provided that each of the following conditions is met:
- (1) The transmission lines are buried under the ocean beach, nearshore area, and primary and frontal dunes, all as defined in Rule .0305 of this Section, in such a manner so as to ensure that the placement of the transmission lines involves no alteration or removal of the primary or frontal dunes; and
 - (2) The design and placement of the transmission lines shall be performed in a manner so as not to endanger the public or the public's use of the beach.
- (g) Existing stormwater outfalls as of the last amended date of this rule within the Ocean Hazard AEC that are owned or maintained by a State agency or local government, may be extended oceanward subject to the provisions contained within 15A NCAC 07J .0200. Outfalls may be extended below mean low water and may be maintained in accordance with 15A NCAC 07K .0103. Shortening or lengthening of outfall structures within the authorized dimensions, in response to changes in beach width, is considered maintenance under 15A NCAC 07K .0103. Outfall extensions may be marked with signage and shall not prevent pedestrian or vehicular access along the beach. This Paragraph does not apply to existing stormwater outfalls that are not owned or maintained by a State agency or local government.

1 *History Note:* *Authority G.S. 113A-107(a); 113A-107(b); 113A-113(b)(6)a; 113A-113(b)(6)b; 113A-113(b)(6)d;*
2 *113A-124;*
3 *Eff. February 2, 1981;*
4 *Amended Eff. April 1, 2020; June 1, 2010; February 1, 2006; September 17, 2002 pursuant to S.L.*
5 *2002-116; August 1, 2000; August 1, 1998; April 1, 1996; April 1, 1995; February 1, 1993; January*
6 *1, 1991; April 1, 1987;*
7 *Readopted Eff. December 1, 2020;*
8 *Amended Eff. May 1, 2027; November 1, 2025; August 1, 2022.*