

DRAFT FY12 River Basin Advisory Commission Status Report

Status Report on River Basin Advisory October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 Department of Health and Environmental Control Bureau of Water

In 2004, the SC General Assembly established two bi-state river basin advisory commissions by statute, the Catawba/Wateree River Basin Advisory Commission and the Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin Advisory Commission.

The commissions were established primarily to provide a forum for discussion of issues related to water and other natural resources in the basin as well as guidance and advice regarding the use, stewardship and enhancement of the natural resources in the basin for the purposes of integrated river basin management.

Since the creation of South Carolina's River Basin Advisory Commissions in 2004, the Catawba/Wateree Commission has been active in water supply and management issues. Specifically, the Commission has been instrumental in facilitating discussions and solutions to issues related to water withdrawal modeling, legislation and litigation. The Commission has also hosted government and non-governmental stakeholders to provide updates on a range of water quality issues such as basin planning, stormwater management and impaired waters.

Catawba/Wateree River Basin Advisory Commission

This commission is comprised of 16 members and includes eight legislative representatives from the North Carolina and South Carolina General Assemblies. The remaining eight members include a representative of Duke Energy Carolinas, a representative from a South Carolina water or sewer utility, a member from the bi-state Catawba River task force, a representative from the North Carolina marine commissions in the basin, a member of a South Carolina lake homeowners' association on the river, a member from the Carolina's Partnership Inc., a member of a North Carolina nonprofit land conservation trust and a member at large.

Since Oct. 1, 2011, the Catawba/Wateree Commission has met 3 times, on October 7, 2011, December 2, 2012 and March 2, 2012.

The October 7th meeting was called specifically to discuss the proposed construction of an expanded water supply reservoir by the Catawba River Water Supply Project, a joint venture between Lancaster County in South Carolina and Union County in North Carolina. Presentations were given on behalf of the Catawba River Water Supply Project explaining the need for the expanded reservoir and details of the planned construction. Continuing the discussion, the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation presented alternatives to the proposed reservoir expansion for consideration including increased water conservation measures. The meeting came to a close with an update by the Catawba Wateree Water Management Group of their recent research on safe yield. The Group is currently in the second phase of developing a water supply master plan for the Catawba basin which is expected to be complete in 2013.

Topics of discussion at the December 2 meeting included joint hydrologic modeling of the Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin by North and South Carolina, approval processes for Federal 404

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permits, approval processes in North and South Carolina for State 401 certification and water conservation and efficiency. The Commission agreed to send a letter of support to state legislatures for appointment of members to the Yadkin-Pee Dee Commission to allow it to initiate its own modeling efforts in the Yadkin/Pee Dee basin.

At the March 2nd meeting, the Union of Concerned Scientists presented on water use nation-wide and representatives from the N.C. Division of Water Resources and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control presented on water conservation activities conducted in each state. The Commission also adopted a decision tool drafted by Commission member Mark Hollis to aid the Commission in reviewing and commenting on environmental projects in the basin.

The Bureau of Water provides staffing and assistance to the commission. There were minor meeting expenses and members' travel expenses for federal fiscal year 2012.

The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources has established a website for the commission where meeting agendas, meeting summaries, speaker presentations and other relevant information are available to interested parties:
<http://www.ncwater.org/basins/rbac/index.php?tabid=1>.

Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin Advisory Commission

The Yadkin/Pee Dee Commission is comprised of 15 members and includes eight legislative representatives from North Carolina and South Carolina. The remaining seven members include a representative from Progress Energy, Alcoa Power Generating Inc., Weyerhaeuser Inc., a North Carolina and South Carolina water or sewer utility, a South Carolina agricultural entity, and a land development industry that does business within the basin.

Since its establishment, the Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin Advisory Commission has not met, and neither state has appointed members to the commission. In December of 2011, the Catawba Bi-State Commission requested members be appointed to the Yadkin/Pee Dee River Basin Advisory Commission. Appointment of members is still pending.