STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS OF PUBLIC HEARING ON INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND JOBS ACT NORTH CAROLINA WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM'S PROPOSED ADOPTION OF NEW SERVICE PROVIDER

APRIL 8, 2026

STATE ENERGY OFFICE

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SUMMARIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this hearing report is to outline proceedings for the proposed adoption of a new service provider and associated service territories under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) NC Weatherization Assistance Program (NCWAP).

Background and Summary

The goal of the NCWAP is to install energy conservation measures in the homes of income-eligible persons, especially homes occupied by the elderly, persons with disabilities, children, and high energy burden users. Funds are applied to the most cost-effective conservation measures, which are determined by conducting an on-site energy audit of the dwelling. Energy conservation measures funded through the program may range from air sealing and insulating single-family homes to replacing hearing systems, windows, and doors. NCWAP assistance is eligible in all types of housing units, including both single and multi-family housing, manufactured housing and group homes. The program is not geographically limited and provides services in each of North Carolina's 100 counties.

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) State Energy Office (SEO) implements NCWAP through a network of local providers with expertise in energy conservation. These subgrantees provide energy conservation services using their own trained crews or by contracting work to qualified contractors.

In accordance with 10 CFR 440.14 *State plans,* the NC IIJA State Plan, and 10 CFR 440.15, *Subgrantees*, states are required to:

- Select subgrantees on the basis of public comment received during a public hearing conducted in addition to other findings related to experience and performance in weatherization, experience in assisting low-income persons in the area being served and its capacity to undertake a timely and effective weatherization program
- Pprovide at least 10 days' notice of a hearing to inform prospective subgrantees and must conduct one or more public hearings to receive comments on a proposed State plan or amendments.

A hybrid public hearing was held at the DEQ Green Square office building, 1st floor training room (1210) on April 8, 2026. The focus of the hearing was to accept comments on the proposed adoption of the following service provider under the IIJA NCWAP.

- New North Carolina Project (NNCP): Region 2 service territory, which includes Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender and Wayne counties.

The public comment period for this hearing began on March 16, 2026, by providing notice through the News & Observer newspaper, publishing notice on the DEQ website and issuing a notice via DEQ's email distribution platform.

Pablo Torres, Program Manager of the IIJA NCWAP was appointed and acted as the hearing officer during the hearing.

Public Comments and Responses Thereto

DEQ SEO did not receive any written or verbal comments during the comment period or at the public hearing.

Conclusion

Overall, zero commenters provided feedback on the proposed adoption of the new weatherization service provider under IIJA NCWAP, the New North Carolina Project.

Hearing Officer's Recommendation

The Hearing Officer recommends the proposed service provider, New North Carolina Project, be adopted as the new provider for the IIJA WAP's Region 2, which includes Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender and Wayne counties. A contract will be executed following approval of the New North Carolina Project by the U.S. Department of Energy.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS

Introduction

The DEQ SEO held hybrid a public hearing on April 8, 2026, at 4 p.m. at the DEQ Green Square office building, 1st floor training room (1210).

The hearing considered the proposed adoption of the following service provider under the IIJA NCWAP.

- New North Carolina Project (NNCP): Region 2 service territory, which includes Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender and Wayne counties.

Public comments were accepted between March 16, 2026, through April 10, 2026.

A public notice announcing the hearing was published in the *"News and Observer"* statewide newspaper, posted on the DEQ website and issued via DEQ's email distribution platform on March 16, 2026.

Hearing Officer Appointment

JOSH STEIN
Governor
D. REID WILSON
Secretary
JULIE WOOSLEY
Director

NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

March 11, 2026

To: Pablo Torres

From: Julie Woosley

Subject: Hearing Officer Appointment

A hybrid public hearing has been scheduled for April 8, 2026, at 4:00 pm at the Department of Environmental Quality, Green Square Building, 1st Floor Training Room (1210), 217 West Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603, to receive public comments on the proposed "State of North Carolina Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) / Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Weatherization Assistance Plan" also known as the NCDEQ SEO IIJA State Plan, for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2029. The attached public notice describes the hearing's purpose.

I am hereby appointing you as the hearing officer for this hearing. You will receive all relevant public comments and report your findings and recommendations to the State Energy Office in a hearing record. You and Weatherization Assistance Program Staff will assist in this process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Julie Woosley, at (919) 707-8374.

Julie Woosley, SEO Director

3/11/2026
Date

North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | State Energy Office
217 West Jones Street | 4345 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4345
919.707.8778

Public Notice

NC Department of Environmental Quality: Public hearing scheduled on proposed adoption of Weatherization Assistance Program service provider | NC DEQ

Public hearing scheduled on proposed adoption of Weatherization Assistance Program service provider

March 16, 2026

RALEIGH - The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) State Energy Office (SEO) will hold a public hearing on April 8 to accept comments on the proposed adoption of a regional service provider in eastern North Carolina for the NC Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Members of the public are invited to attend in person or online.

The weatherization program saves North Carolinians energy, reduces utility bills and increases home comfort and safety by providing free weatherization services for income-eligible households. WAP is federally funded on an annual basis.

Under the 2021 IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), NC's WAP was appropriated an additional $89 million for the purpose of enhancing energy efficiency in income-eligible households statewide.

The United States Department of Energy (DOE) requires each state to submit an IIJA WAP State Plan. DEQ previously accepted public comments and on March 27, 2023, held a hearing on the proposed plan. DOE approved this plan in August 2023.

The focus of this hearing is the proposed adoption of the following service provider and associated service territories under the IIJA WAP program:

- New North Carolina Project (NNCP): Region 2 service territory, which includes Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender and Wayne counties.

NNCP was conditionally approved by DEQ to be the service provider for Region 2 following a competitive Request for Proposal process, which opened on Dec. 5, 2025, and closed on Jan. 23, 2026. NNCP will be awarded approximately $5 million to be the regional service provider until 2029 or depletion of funds. To view the full RFP, visit Request for Proposals: North Carolina Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Weatherization Assistance Program - Regions 2, 3, and 4 | NC DEQ.

Public comment can also be provided by mail to the DEQ Weatherization Assistance Program, 1613 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1613, or via email to seo.publiccomments@deq.nc.gov, with "2026 NNCP Comment" in the subject line.

The public comment period is open beginning March 16, 2026, through April 10, 2026. To be included in the hearing record, all comments must be postmarked, emailed or received by SEO (if delivered in person) no later than April 10, 2026.

Event: Public hearing on proposed adoption of Weatherization Assistance Program service provider
When: Wednesday, April 8, 4 p.m.
Where: DEQ Green Square Office Building, Training Room #1210, 217 West Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27603
Join via Webex: https://ncgov.webex.com/ncgov/j.php?MTID=m21fb07102030a6f681df2f99a5537f0c
Meeting Number/Access Code: 2438 254 6635

Meeting Password: ncwap (62927 when dialing from a phone)
Join by telephone: +1-415-655-0003 US Toll

Please note the hearing officer may limit the length of oral presentations to accommodate the total number of speakers.

To learn more about IIJA WAP and view the statewide service territory map, visit Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Weatherization Assistance Program | NC DEQ. For additional hearing documentation, visit www.deq.nc.gov/wap-hearings.

News & Observer: Published Public Notice (Publisher's Affidavit)

McClatchy

The Beaufort Gazette
The Belleville News-Democrat
Bellingham Herald
Centre Daily Times
Sun Herald
Idaho Statesman
Bradenton Herald
The Charlotte Observer
The State
Ledger-Enquirer
Durham | The Herald-Sun
Fort Worth Star-Telegram
The Fresno Bee
The Island Packet
The Kansas City Star
Lexington Herald-Leader
The Telegraph - Macon
Merced Sun-Star
Miami Herald
El Nuevo Herald
The Modesto Bee
The Sun News - Myrtle Beach
Raleigh News & Observer
Rock Hill | The Herald
The Sacramento Bee
San Luis Obispo Tribune
Tacoma | The News Tribune
Tri-City Herald
The Wichita Eagle
The Olympian

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Account #	Order Number	Identification	Order PO	Cols	Depth
66504	IPL0322331	Legal Ad - IPL0322331	NC DEQ Weatherization Assistance Program	1.0	77.0L

ATTENTION: NC Dept of Environmental Quality State Energy Ofc
217 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27603
sascha.medina@deq.nc.gov

NC Department of Environmental Quality, State Energy Office NC Weatherization Assistance Program

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ADOPTION OF NC WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SERVICE PROVIDER

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) State Energy Office (SEO) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed adoption of a regional service provider in eastern North Carolina for the NC Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), as required by federal regulations.
The program saves North Carolinians energy, reduces utility bills and increases home comfort and safety by providing free weatherization services for income-eligible households. WAP is federally funded on an annual basis. Under the 2021 IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), NC's WAP was appropriated an additional $89 million for the purpose of enhancing energy efficiency in income-eligible households statewide.
The focus of this hearing is the proposed adoption of the following service provider and associated service territory under the IIJA WAP program:

- New North Carolina Project (NNCP): Region 2 service territory, which includes Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender and Wayne counties

NNCP was conditionally approved by DEQ to be the service provider for Region 2 following a competitive Request for Proposal process, which opened on Dec. 5, 2025, and closed on Jan. 23, 2026. NNCP will be awarded approximately $5 million to be the regional service provider until 2029 or depletion of funds.
The public hearing will be hybrid and held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 4 p.m. at the DEQ Green Square Office Building, 217 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27603, 1st Floor Training Room (#1210). For information concerning the hybrid public hearing and accessing associated documentation, please visit: www.deq.nc.gov/wap-hearings.
Comments may be submitted by email to seo.publiccomments@deq.nc.gov or by postal mail to:
NC Department of Environmental Quality
Weatherization Assistance Program
1613 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1613
To be included in the hearing record, all comments must be postmarked, emailed, or received by SEO (if delivered in person) no later than April 10, 2026.
IPL0322331
Mar 16 2026

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF WAKE, COUNTY OF DURHAM
Before the undersigned, a Notary duly commissioned and authorized to administer oaths, affirmations, etc., personally appeared the undersigned, who being duly sworn or affirmed, according to law, doth depose and say that he or she is Accounts Receivable Specialist of the News & Observer Publishing Company, a corporation organized and doing business under the Laws of the State of North Carolina, and publishing a newspaper known as The News & Observer, Wake and State aforesaid, the said newspaper in which such notice, paper, document, or legal advertisement was published was, at the time of each and every such publication, a newspaper meeting all of the requirements and qualifications of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina and was a qualified newspaper within the meaning of Section 1-597 of the General Statutes of North Carolina, and that as such he or she makes this affidavit; and is familiar with the books, files and business of said corporation and by reference to the files of said publication the attached advertisement was inserted in the aforesaid newspaper on dates as follows:

1.0 insertion(s) published on:
03/16/26 Print

Print Tearsheet Link

Marketplace Link

Amanda Rodela

DIGITALLY SIGNED

Amanda Rodela

Sherry J Chasteen

DIGITALLY SIGNED

Sworn to and subscribed before me on Mar 16, 2026, 10:25 AM ED

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF TEXAS
SHERRY J CHASTEEN
ELECTRONIC NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF TEXAS
COMMISSION # 125328493
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 4/16/2029

Online Notary Public. This notarial act involved the use of online audio/video communication technology. Notarization facilitated by SIGNiX®

NC Department of Environmental Quality, State Energy Office NC Weatherization Assistance Program

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED ADOPTION OF NC WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SERVICE PROVIDER

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) State Energy Office (SEO) will conduct a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed adoption of a regional service provider in eastern North Carolina for the NC Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), as required by federal regulations.

The program saves North Carolinians energy, reduces utility bills and increases home comfort and safety by providing free weatherization services for income-eligible households. WAP is federally funded on an annual basis. Under the 2021 IIJA, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), NC's WAP was appropriated an additional $89 million for the purpose of enhancing energy efficiency in income-eligible households statewide.

The focus of this hearing is the proposed adoption of the following service provider and associated service territory under the IIJA WAP program:

- New North Carolina Project (NNCP): Region 2 service territory, which includes Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender and Wayne counties

NNCP was conditionally approved by DEQ to be the service provider for Region 2 following a competitive Request for Proposal process, which opened on Dec. 5, 2025, and closed on Jan. 23, 2026. NNCP will be awarded approximately $5 million to be the regional service provider until 2029 or depletion of funds.

The public hearing will be hybrid and held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 4 p.m. at the DEQ Green Square Office Building, 217 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27603, 1st Floor Training Room (#1210). For information concerning the hybrid public hearing and accessing associated documentation, please visit: www.deq.nc.gov/wap-hearings.

Comments may be submitted by email to seo.publiccomments@deq.nc.gov or by postal mail to:

NC Department of Environmental Quality
Weatherization Assistance Program
1613 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1613

To be included in the hearing record, all comments must be postmarked, emailed, or received by SEO (if delivered in person) no later than April 10, 2026.

IPL0322331
Mar 16 2026

Transcript

A transcript of the April 8, 2026, public hearing has not been prepared; however, a recording of the proceeding will be kept on file with DEQ SEO for one year from the date of the final actions by the IIJA NCWAP.

A list of those who attended Raleigh hearing whether in-person or online are listed below

Hearing Officer:

Pablo Torres

In-Person and Virtual Staff Members of the NCSEO or other state employees at the Raleigh hearing:

Julie Woosley	Holly Weyers	Helen Hossley
Sascha Medina	Noelle Keister	

In-Person or Virtual member of the General Public:

Carter Bockenstedt

Laurie O'loughlin

DOCUMENTS TO FILE

The following documentation is incorporated as part of this hearing record by reference. However, the materials are maintained on file for a period of 7 years.

1. Confirmation of purchase of materials submitted to the News & Observer
2. Recording of the public hearing and the associated transcript