Categorical Exclusion

North Carolina Division of Water Infrastructure

Project Applicant:	*Town of Boone*
Date:	*October 27, 2026*
Project Name:	*Water system resilience in Boone*
Project Number:	*SRF-D-HEL-0051*
Estimated Project Cost:	*$3,780,806*
Estimated Funding Amount:	*$3,780,806*

Project Description: *Add a second floor to the existing structure at South Fork New River Raw Water Pump Station to elevate Helene-damaged critical electrical and mechanical equipment above base flood elevation; replace damaged access bridge at Winkler's Creek Reservoir with a 160-foot plastic-fiber structure; and install 677 solar photovoltaic modules at the Ricky L. Miller Water Treatment Plant*

The above-named applicant will receive funding assistance from the State Revolving Fund. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Infrastructure (**Division**) has conducted a review of the project in accordance with the NCGS §159G-38. The Division has determined that this project is below the minor construction activities threshold outlined in the 15A NCAC 01C .0408; therefore, the project is exempt from inter-agency review, and the preparation of additional environmental documents is not required.

This determination shall become effective upon its distribution by the Division and will be available on the Division's website (https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/division-water-infrastructure/environmental-documents). This determination can be revoked at any time adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision will be on file with the Division, and is available for public scrutiny upon request.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed in writing to Ms. Stephanie Suter, Deputy Director, Division of Water Infrastructure, North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, 1633 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699. Alternatively, she can be reached via telephone at 919.707.9044 or via e-mail at stephanie.suter@deq.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

Renee Parkman

Renee Parkman, P.E., Supervisor
Drinking Water Projects Unit
Division of Water Infrastructure