



North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Division of Water Quality

Coleen H. Sullins
Director

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Governor

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Secretary

**FACT SHEET – Proposed Monitoring Rules for Animal Feeding Operations
15A NCAC 02T .1310-.1311**

REASONS FOR PROPOSED RULEMAKING:

In order to protect North Carolina's waters from pollution, the state Environmental Management Commission (EMC) supports the evaluation of potential impacts from many different sources.

In 2007, the EMC received petitions seeking the development of rules to assess potential water quality impacts from animal feeding operations. In 2008, the EMC approved the petitions and directed the Division of Water Quality, with input from various stakeholder groups, to develop rules to establish and implement a surface water monitoring program addressing the petitioners concerns.

The proposed rules define the process for establishing sampling locations at each subject animal operation, sampling frequency and water quality parameters to be evaluated. The rules also prioritize the implementation process and describe how farms may voluntarily form monitoring coalitions.

BASIC RULE REQUIREMENTS:

- Visual observations during/after land application
- Establishment of a surface water monitoring plan by DWQ
 - Up to three sample locations
 - One upstream (background) and two downstream
 - Provisions for fewer sampling sites depending on topography, distance to surface waters, functioning BMPs, etc.
- 3 sample events per year
 - Nitrate (NO₃-N)
 - Ammonia (NH₃-N)
 - Fecal Coliform
 - Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD₅)
 - Chloride
- Annual reporting of sample results
- Monitoring can be reduced if results show no impact
- Implementation by watershed, starting with Neuse, Tar-Pam, and White Oak

AQUIFER PROTECTION SECTION

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- Required immediately for any new or expanding facility
- Groundwater monitoring required if the farm impacts neighboring wells – no change from current DWQ policy

BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED RULES:

- Develop an understanding of the impact of Animal Feeding Operations on surrounding surface waters.
- Document that facilities are in compliance with the no-discharge provisions of the permits.
- Upstream and downstream sampling locations help to identify potential sources of pollution. Follow-up by DWQ can help direct resources where they are needed to meet water quality goals.

HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS:

A person may submit written comments concerning the adoption of 15A NCAC 2T .1310-.1311 to the Aquifer Protection Section of the NCDENR-Division of Water Quality. Such correspondence should be brought to the attention of:

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All written comments must be received by July 14, 2009 in order to be considered.

MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the “Hot Topics” section of the DWQ website: www.ncwaterquality.org

- Copies of the proposed rules
- Complete Fiscal Analysis
- Links to additional information