



PROPOSED WATER SUPPLY RECLASSIFICATION OF CATAWBA RIVER INCLUDING LAKE JAMES: PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR JANUARY 2017

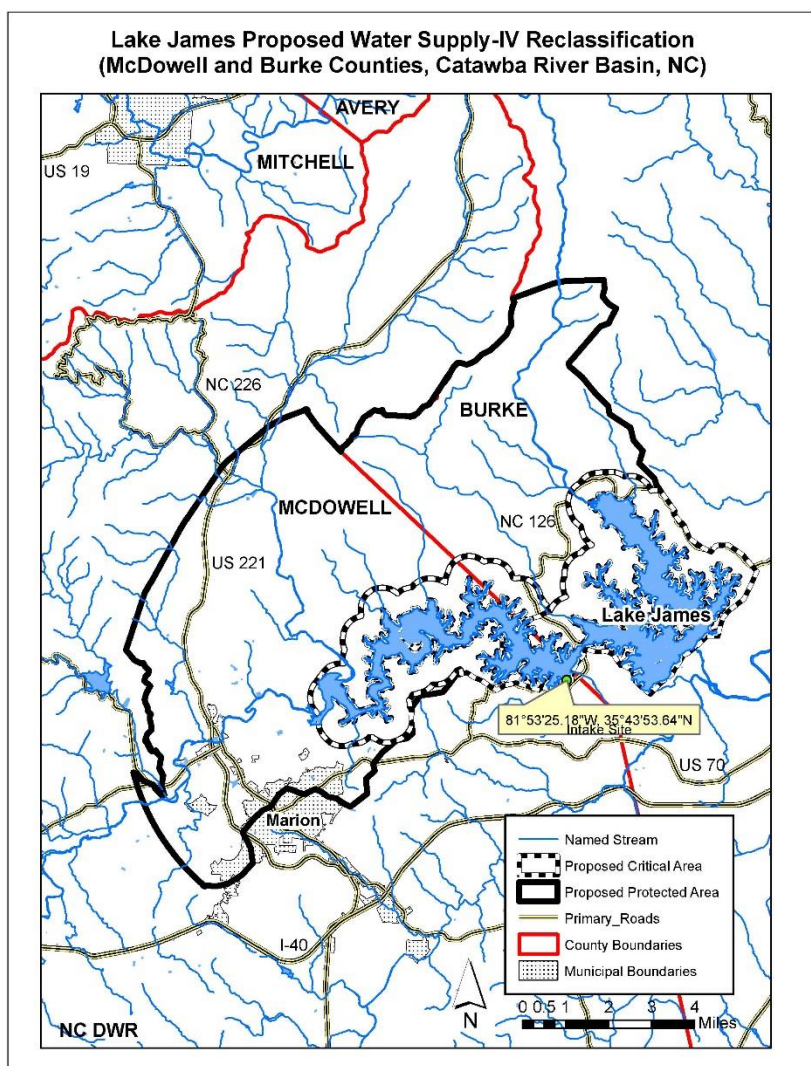


PUBLIC HEARING

McDowell County has requested that a Catawba River segment, including Lake James, in McDowell and Burke Counties (Catawba River Basin) be reclassified for a water supply. These waters are proposed to be reclassified to the Class Water Supply-IV (WS-IV) classification, including the Critical Area (CA) and Protected Area (PA) designations. This reclassification is needed to construct a new water supply intake in Lake James that McDowell County intends to use. A public hearing is going to be conducted in order to receive public comments on the proposed reclassification and associated fiscal note.

Location: McDowell Technical Community College
Harold Smith Building (Building 19) -
Room 113
54 College Drive
Marion, NC 28752

Time & Date: 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 5, 2017



WATERS TO BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATION

The portion of the Catawba River proposed to be reclassified to WS-IV CA extends nearly 0.5 mile from and draining to Lake James as measured from the normal pool elevation of that reservoir, and includes approximately 13,213 acres. The portion of the Catawba River proposed for reclassification to WS-IV PA extends nearly 5 miles from and draining to Lake James as measured from the normal pool elevation of that reservoir, and includes approximately 45,099 acres. There are 26 tributaries to the Catawba River included in this reclassification proposal ranging in classification from C and C Tr to B Tr, C Tr HQW, B HQW, and C HQW. Waterbodies within 0.5 mile and 5 miles of the normal pool elevation of the reservoir would be reclassified to WS-IV CA and WS-IV (PA), respectively.

REGULATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPOSED RECLASSIFICATION

If these waters are reclassified, regulations affecting new development as well as existing and new wastewater discharges would apply throughout the proposed area. Other requirements, which would apply only in the CA, are additional treatment for new industrial process wastewater discharges, no new land application sites, and no new landfills. Forestry and farming practices will not be affected. There are no permitted wastewater discharges located in the entire proposed watershed that would be impacted by the proposed reclassification. In addition, there are not any known planned land application sites or landfills in the proposed CA, and no known planned wastewater discharges or developments in the entire proposed area that would be impacted by the proposed reclassification. WS-IV requirements are located on the internet at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/planning/classification-standards/rules>.

The local governments that have land use jurisdiction within the proposed area are responsible for developing and implementing the water supply watershed ordinances within the PA and the CA. The local governments will have 270 days after the effective date of the proposed reclassification to develop or modify water supply watershed protection ordinances that must at least meet the state's minimum requirements (15A NCAC 2B .0100 and .0200). The proposed area is located within the jurisdictions of Burke County, McDowell County, and the City of Marion.

A fiscal note for this proposal has been completed and approved, and the note's quantifiable results revealed a one-time cost of approximately \$2,700 to the state, \$2,000 to Burke County, \$2,000 to McDowell County, and \$10,000 to the City of Marion.

MEETING FEDERAL TRIENNIAL REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

The public hearing and comment period are to be held in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act that requires States, at least every three years, to review and revise water quality standards. These standards are provided in existing rules NCAC 15A 02B .0100 and .0201 through .0228. The process is called the Triennial Review and includes an assessment and revision of the designated uses of waters (classifications) and the water quality criteria (standards), which are based on the designated uses. More specifically, this public hearing and comment period are to address the potential assignment of a WS-IV classification to a portion of the Catawba River watershed, including Lake James, for the purpose of protecting its proposed designated use as a public water supply. This proposal will result in changing the water quality standards for waters within the above-mentioned Critical Area and Protected Area.



HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

You may attend the public hearing and provide verbal comments that specifically address the proposed reclassification and its fiscal note for the subject portion of the Catawba River. The Hearing Officer may limit the length of time that you may speak at the public hearing, if necessary, so that all those who wish to speak may have an opportunity to do so. In addition, written comments addressing the proposed reclassification and fiscal note for the Catawba River segment will be accepted until January 30, 2017.

All persons interested and potentially affected by the proposal are encouraged to read this announcement and make comments on the proposal. The EMC may not adopt a rule that differs substantially from the text of the proposed rule published in the North Carolina Register unless the EMC publishes the text of the proposed different rule and accepts comments on the new text. The proposed effective date for this proposed reclassification is July 1, 2017. Written comments on the proposed reclassification and fiscal note for the Catawba River segment may be submitted to Elizabeth Kountis of the Division of Water Resources Planning Section at the postal address, e-mail address, or fax number listed below.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This announcement and a map of the waters proposed to be reclassified are located on the internet via <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/event-calendar> (look under "2017-01-5"). In the case of inclement weather on the day of the scheduled public hearing, please contact the telephone number below for a recorded message regarding any changes to the location, date, or time of the hearing. Further explanations and details on reclassifications may be obtained by writing or calling:

Elizabeth Kountis, DEQ-Division of Water Resources, Planning Section
1611 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1611
phone (919) 807-6418, fax (919) 807-6497, e-mail elizabeth.kountis@ncdenr.gov

To learn more about how the Division of Water Resources protects water quality in North Carolina, go to <http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources>.