



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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STATE ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS SCHEDULE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD/PUBLIC HEARING ON ECONOMIC RECOVERY PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY PROJECTS

RALEIGH – The public has the opportunity starting today to comment on the draft plan for distribution of money from the state’s allocation of nearly \$66 million for public water supply projects from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

State environmental officials have announced a comment period beginning today and running through April 7 to gather public comments on the draft plan for distribution of money from the state’s allocation for public water supply infrastructure projects. A public hearing has been scheduled for April 3 at 10 a.m. in Room 1a224 at 2728 Capital Blvd in Raleigh.

The state has applied for a federal capitalization grant of \$65,625,000. Approximately 503 projects with requests totaling more than \$887 million are included on the draft project list.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund monies from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 will be awarded as loans, but the loans will be structured so that half of the principal will be “forgiven” and the other half of the loan will be repaid at zero percent interest with up to a 20-year payback. The principle forgiveness means that half of each loan will not need to be repaid. The other half of the money will need to be repaid at a zero percent interest rate. If a project’s actual cost is lower than originally projected or the scope of the project is reduced, the same 50-50 split will be maintained.

If sufficient applications are received, at least 20 percent of the monies awarded must be spent on green projects – those that include environmentally innovative projects, energy and water efficiency, and interconnections. Priority is given to projects that can proceed quickly, already have any required permits and have additional funding committed, if needed.

The draft documents for consideration are the intended use plan and comprehensive project priority list. These documents can be found online at: <http://ncdrinkingwater.state.nc.us>.

Please mail written comments by April 7 to Sid Harrell, Public Water Supply Section/Division of Environmental Health, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C. 27699-1634 or call (919) 733-2321.

For further information on ARRA as it relates to drinking water, please visit the Public Water Supply Section’s Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Unit Web site at: <http://ncdrinkingwater.state.nc.us>.

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