



N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Release: IMMEDIATE

Date: July 3, 2007

Contact: Susan Massengale

Phone: (919) 733-7015 ext.227

Public Hearings Scheduled On Draft Jordan Lake Nutrient Control Strategy

RALEIGH – Three hearings are scheduled in July to collect public comments on the proposed water supply nutrient strategy for communities in the B. Everett Jordan Reservoir watershed.

The hearings will be held at the following times and locations:

- 6:30 p.m., July 12 at Century Hall at the Century Center, 100 N. Greensboro St., Carrboro.
- 1:30-4 p.m., July 17 at the Koury Business Center, Room 101, Elon University, 401 N. O'Kelly Ave., Elon.
- 6:30 p.m., July 17 at the Koury Business Center, Room 101, Elon University, 401 N. O'Kelly Ave., Elon.

The N.C. Division of Water Quality will accept written comments on the proposal until Aug. 14. Please send comments to Rich Gannon or Jason Robinson with the Division of Water Quality's Planning Section, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1617 or by e-mail to rich.gannon@ncmail.net or jason.t.robinson@ncmail.net.

The reservoir, also known as Jordan Lake, serves as a drinking water source for Apex, Cary, Durham, Morrisville, the Research Triangle Park and Chatham County. It is also a popular recreational resource and supports a wide range of aquatic and water dependent wildlife.

Since its impoundment in 1983, data has indicated that the reservoir is high in nutrients. In excessive amounts, nutrients can impact aquatic life and raise the cost of drinking water treatment. The state Environmental Management Commission designated the lake as Nutrient Sensitive Water and required the development of a nutrient reduction strategy. While initial requirements reduced phosphorus inputs from wastewater discharges, nutrient inputs from these and other sources continued to impact the reservoir. The state's Clean Water Responsibility Act and the federal Clean Water Act require stricter nutrient controls from wastewater treatment plants, agricultural operations and stormwater runoff from development and other land-disturbing activities.

The proposed strategy is designed to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus inputs from sources to all three arms of the lake: the Upper New Hope, the Lower New Hope and the Haw. The proposed regulations distribute reduction responsibilities proportionally among all sources and use 2001 nutrient levels as a reference point. The proposal affects several parties in the watershed including agricultural operations, fertilizer applicators, public and private wastewater dischargers, developers and local governments. To see the proposed strategy, visit the division's Web site, <http://h20.enr.state.nc.us/nps/JordanNutrientStrategy.htm>.

###

Office of Public Affairs

Phone: (919) 715-4112

1601 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601

Diana Kees, Director

FAX (919) 715-5181

diana.kees@ncmail.net