15A NCAC 02B .0202 DEFINITIONS

The definition of any word or phrase used in this Section shall be the same as given in G.S. 143, Article 21. The following words and phrases, which are not defined in this article, shall be interpreted as follows:

(1) Acute toxicity to aquatic life means lethality or other harmful effects sustained by either resident aquatic populations or indicator species used as test organisms in a controlled toxicity test due to a short-term exposure (relative to the life cycle of the organism) to a specific chemical or mixture of chemicals (as in an effluent). Short-term exposure for acute tests is generally 96 hours or less. Acute toxicity shall be determined using the following procedures:

(a) for specific chemical constituents or compounds, acceptable levels shall be equivalent to a concentration of one-half or less of the Final Acute Value (FAV) as determined according to "Guidelines for Deriving Numerical Water Quality Criteria for the Protection of Aquatic Life and its Uses" published by the Environmental Protection Agency and referenced in the Federal Register (50 FR 30784, July 29, 1985) which is hereby incorporated by reference including any subsequent amendments.

(b) for specific chemical constituents or compounds for which values described under Subparagraph (1)(a) of this Rule can not be determined, acceptable levels shall be equivalent to a concentration of one-third or less of the lowest available LC50 value.

(c) for effluents, acceptable levels are defined as no statistically measurable lethality (99 percent confidence level using Students t test) during a specified exposure period. Concentrations of exposure shall be determined on a case-by-case basis.

(d) in instances where detailed dose response data indicate that levels of acute toxicity are significantly different from those defined in this Rule, the Director may determine on a case-by-case basis an alternate acceptable level through statistical analyses of the dose response curve.

(2) Acute to Chronic Ratio (ACR) means the ratio of acute toxicity expressed as an LC50 for a specific toxicant or an effluent to the chronic value for the same toxicant or effluent.

(3) Agricultural uses include the use of waters for stock watering, irrigation, and other farm purposes.

(4) Applicator means any person, firm, corporation, wholesaler, retailer, distributor, any local, state, or federal governmental agency, or any other person who applies fertilizer to the land of a consumer or client or to land they own or to land which they lease or otherwise hold rights.

(5) Approved treatment, as applied to water supplies, means treatment accepted as satisfactory by the Division of Environmental Health or Division of Water Quality.

(6) Average (except bacterial) means arithmetical average and includes the analytical results of all samples taken during the specified period; all sampling shall be done as to obtain the most representative sample under prevailing conditions:

(a) Daily Average for dissolved oxygen, shall be of at least four samples;

(b) Weekly Average means the average of all daily composite samples obtained during the calendar week. If only one grab sample is taken each day, the weekly average is the average of all daily grab samples. A minimum of three daily grab samples is needed to calculate a weekly average.

(c) Monthly Average means the average of all daily composites (or grab samples if only one per day) obtained during the calendar month.

The definitions in this Paragraph do not affect the monitoring requirements for NPDES permits but rather shall be used by the Division along with other methodologies in determining violations of water quality standards. Arithmetical averages as defined by this Section, and not confidence limits nor other statistical descriptions, shall be used in all calculations of limitations which require the use of averages pursuant to this Section and 40 CFR 122.41(l)(4)(iii).

(7) Best Management Practice (BMP) means a structural or nonstructural management-based practice used singularly or in combination to reduce nonpoint source inputs to receiving waters in order to achieve water quality protection goals.

(8) Best usage of waters as specified for each class means those uses as determined by the Environmental Management Commission in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 143-214.1.

(9) Bioaccumulation factor (BAF) is a unitless value that describes the degree to which substances are taken up or accumulated into tissues of aquatic organisms from water directly and from food or other ingested materials containing the accumulated substances, and is usually measured as a ratio of a substance's

concentration in tissue versus its concentration in water in situations where exposure to the substance is occurring from both water and the food chain.

(10) Bioconcentration factor (BCF) is a unitless value that describes the degree to which substances are absorbed or concentrated into tissues of aquatic organisms from water directly and is usually measured as a ratio of substance's concentration in tissue versus its concentration in water in situations where exposure to the substance is occurring from water only.

(11) Biological integrity means the ability of an aquatic ecosystem to support and maintain a balanced and indigenous community of organisms having species composition, diversity, population densities and functional organization similar to that of reference conditions.

(12) Buffer means a natural or vegetated area through which stormwater runoff flows in a diffuse manner so that the runoff does not become channelized and which provides for infiltration of the runoff and filtering of pollutants. The buffer shall be measured landward from the normal pool elevation of impounded structures and from the bank of each side of streams or rivers.

(13) Built-upon area means that portion of a development project that is covered by impervious or partially impervious cover including buildings, pavement, gravel areas (e.g. roads, parking lots, paths), recreation facilities (e.g. tennis courts), etc. (Note: Wooden slatted decks and the water area of a swimming pool are considered pervious.)

(14) Chronic toxicity to aquatic life means any harmful effect sustained by either resident aquatic populations or indicator species used as test organisms in a controlled toxicity test due to long-term exposure (relative to the life cycle of the organism) or exposure during a substantial portion of the duration of a sensitive period of the life cycle to a specific chemical substance or mixture of chemicals (as in an effluent). In absence of extended periods of exposure, early life stage or reproductive toxicity tests may be used to define chronic impacts.

(15) Chronic value for aquatic life means the geometric mean of two concentrations identified in a controlled toxicity test as the No Observable Effect Concentration (NOEC) and the Lowest Observable Effect Concentration (LOEC).

(16) Cluster development means the grouping of buildings in order to conserve land resources and provide for innovation in the design of the project including minimizing stormwater runoff impacts. This term includes nonresidential development as well as single-family residential and multi-family developments. For the purpose of Sections .0100, .0200 and .0300 of this Subchapter, planned unit developments and mixed use development shall be considered as cluster development.

(17) Commercial applicator means any person, firm, corporation, wholesaler, retailer, distributor or any other person who for hire or compensation applies fertilizer to the land of a consumer or client.

(18) Concentrations are the mass of a substance per volume of water and for the purposes of this Section shall be expressed as milligrams per liter (mg/l), micrograms per liter (ug/l), or nanograms per liter (ng/l).

(19) Contiguous refers to those wetlands landward of the mean high water line or normal water level and within 575 feet of classified surface waters which appear as solid blue lines on the most recently published versions of U.S.G.S. 1:24,000 (7.5 minute) scale topographic maps.

(20) Critical area means the area adjacent to a water supply intake or reservoir where risk associated with pollution is greater than from the remaining portions of the watershed. The critical area is defined as extending either 1/2 mile from the normal pool elevation of the reservoir in which the intake is located or to the ridge line of the watershed (whichever comes first); or 1/2 mile upstream from and draining to the intake (or other appropriate downstream location associated with the water supply) located directly in the stream or river (run-of-the-river), or to the ridge line of the watershed (whichever comes first). Since WS-I watersheds are essentially undeveloped, establishment of a critical area is not required. Local governments may extend the critical area as needed. Major landmarks such as highways or property lines may be used to delineate the outer boundary of the critical area if these landmarks are immediately adjacent to the appropriate outer boundary of 1/2 mile. The Commission may adopt a different critical area size during the reclassification process.

(21) Cropland means agricultural land that is not covered by a certified animal waste management plan and is used for growing corn, grains, oilseed crops, cotton, forages, tobacco, beans, or other vegetables or fruits.

(22) Designated Nonpoint Source Agency means those agencies specified by the Governor in the North Carolina Nonpoint Source Management Program, as approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

(23) Development means any land disturbing activity which adds to or changes the amount of impervious or partially impervious cover on a land area or which otherwise decreases the infiltration of precipitation into the soil.

(24) Director means the Director of the Division of Water Quality.

(25) Discharge is the addition of any man-induced waste effluent either directly or indirectly to state surface waters.

(26) Division means the Division of Water Quality or its successors.

(27) Domestic wastewater discharge means the discharge of sewage, non-process industrial wastewater, other domestic wastewater or any combination of these items. Domestic wastewater includes, but is not limited to, liquid waste generated by domestic water using fixtures and appliances, from any residence, place of business, or place of public assembly even if it contains no sewage. Examples of domestic wastewater include once-through non-contact cooling water, seafood packing facility discharges and wastewater from restaurants.

(28) Effluent channel means a discernable confined and discrete conveyance which is used for transporting treated wastewater to a receiving stream or other body of water as provided in Rule .0215 of this Section.

(29) Existing development, for projects that do not require a state permit, shall be defined as those projects that are built or those projects that at a minimum have established a vested right under North Carolina zoning law as of the effective date of the local government water supply ordinance, or such earlier time that an affected local government's ordinances shall specify, based on at least one of the following criteria:

(a) substantial expenditures of resources (time, labor, money) based on a good faith reliance upon having received a valid local government approval to proceed with the project, or

(b) having an outstanding valid building permit in compliance with G.S. 153A-344.1 or G.S. 160A-385.1, or

(c) having an approved site specific or phased development plan in compliance with G.S. 153A-344.1 or G.S. 160A-385.1.

For projects that require a state permit, such as landfills, NPDES wastewater discharges, land application of residuals and road construction activities, existing development shall be defined as those projects that are built or those projects for which a state permit was issued prior to August 3, 1992.

(30) Existing uses mean uses actually attained in the water body, in a significant and not incidental manner, on or after November 28, 1975, whether or not they are included in the water quality standards, which either have been actually available to the public or are uses deemed attainable by the Environmental Management Commission. At a minimum, uses shall be deemed attainable if they can be achieved by the imposition of effluent limits and cost-effective and reasonable best management practices (BMPs) for nonpoint source control.

(31) Family subdivision means a division of a tract of land:

(a) to convey the resulting parcels, with the exception of parcels retained by the grantor, to a relative or relatives as a gift or for nominal consideration, but only if no more than one parcel is conveyed by the grantor from the tract to any one relative; or

(b) to divide land from a common ancestor among tenants in common, all of whom inherited by intestacy or by will.

(32) Fertilizer means any substance containing nitrogen or phosphorus which is used primarily for its plant food content.

(33) Fishing means the taking of fish by sport or commercial methods as well as the consumption of fish or shellfish or the propagation of fish and such other aquatic life as is necessary to provide a suitable environment for fish.

(34) Forest vegetation means the plants of an area which grow together in disturbed or undisturbed conditions in various wooded plant communities in any combination of trees, saplings, shrubs, vines and herbaceous plants. This includes mature and successional forests as well as cutover stands.

(35) Freshwater means all waters that under natural conditions would have a chloride ion content of 500 mg/l or less.

(36) Industrial discharge means the discharge of industrial process treated wastewater or wastewater other than sewage. Stormwater shall not be considered to be an industrial wastewater unless it is contaminated with industrial wastewater. Industrial discharge includes:

(a) wastewater resulting from any process of industry or manufacture, or from the development of any natural resource;

(b) wastewater resulting from processes of trade or business, including wastewater from laundromats and car washes, but not wastewater from restaurants; or

(c) wastewater discharged from a municipal wastewater treatment plant requiring a pretreatment program.

(37) Land-disturbing activity means any use of the land that results in a change in the natural cover or topography that may cause or contribute to sedimentation.

(38) LC50 means that concentration of a toxic substance which is lethal (or immobilizing, if appropriate) to 50 percent of the organisms tested during a specified exposure period. The LC50 concentration for toxic materials shall be determined for sensitive species as defined by Subparagraph (43) of this Rule under aquatic conditions characteristic of the receiving waters.

(39) Local government means a city or county in singular or plural as defined in G.S. 160A-1(2) and G.S. 158A-10.

(40) Lower piedmont and coastal plain waters mean those waters of the Catawba River Basin below Lookout Shoals Dam; the Yadkin River Basin below the junction of the Forsyth, Yadkin, and Davie County lines; and all of the waters of Cape Fear, Lumber, Roanoke, Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, Chowan, Pasquotank, and White Oak River Basins; except tidal salt waters which are assigned S classifications.

(41) MF is an abbreviation for the membrane filter procedure for bacteriological analysis.

(42) Major variance means a variance from the minimum statewide watershed protection rules that results in the relaxation, by a factor greater than five percent of any buffer, density or built-upon area requirement under the high density option; any variation in the design, maintenance or operation requirements of a wet detention pond or other approved stormwater management system; or relaxation by a factor greater than 10 percent, of any management requirement under the low density option.

(43) Minor variance means a variance from the minimum statewide watershed protection rules that results in a relaxation, by a factor of up to five percent of any buffer, density or built-upon area requirement under the high density option; or that results in a relaxation by a factor up to 10 percent, of any management requirement under the low density option.

(44) Mixing zone means a region of the receiving water in the vicinity of a discharge within which dispersion and dilution of constituents in the discharge occurs and such zones shall be subject to conditions established in accordance with 15A NCAC 2B .0204(b).

(45) Mountain and upper piedmont waters mean all of the waters of the Hiwassee; Little Tennessee, including the Savannah River drainage area; French Broad; Broad; New; and Watauga River Basins; and those portions of the Catawba River Basin above Lookout Shoals Dam and the Yadkin River Basin above the junction of the Forsyth, Yadkin, and Davie County lines.

(46) Nonconforming lot of record means a lot described by a plat or a deed that was recorded prior to the effective date of local watershed regulations (or their amendments) that does not meet the minimum lot-size or other development requirements of Rule .0211 of this Subchapter.

(47) Nonpoint source pollution means pollution which enters waters mainly as a result of precipitation and subsequent runoff from lands which have been disturbed by man's activities and includes all sources of water pollution which are not required to have a permit in accordance with G.S. 143-215.1(c).

(48) Non-process discharge means industrial effluent not directly resulting from the manufacturing process. An example would be non-contact cooling water from a compressor.

(49) Nutrient sensitive waters mean those waters which are so designated in the classification schedule in order to limit the discharge of nutrients (usually nitrogen and phosphorus). They are designated by "NSW" following the water classification.

(50) Offensive condition means any condition or conditions resulting from the presence of sewage, industrial wastes or other wastes within the waters of the state or along the shorelines thereof which shall either directly or indirectly cause foul or noxious odors, unsightly conditions, or breeding of abnormally large quantities of mosquitoes or other insect pests, or shall damage private or public water supplies or other structures, result in the development of gases which destroy or damage surrounding property, herbage or grasses, or which may cause the impairment of taste, such as from fish flesh tainting, or affect the health of any person residing or working in the area.

(51) Primary Nursery Areas (PNAs) are tidal saltwaters which provide essential habitat for the early development of commercially important fish and shellfish and are so designated by the Marine Fisheries Commission.

(52) Primary recreation includes swimming, skin diving, skiing, and similar uses involving human body contact with water where such activities take place in an organized or on a frequent basis.

(53) Protected area means the area adjoining and upstream of the critical area in a WS-IV water supply in which protection measures are required. The boundaries of the protected areas are defined as within five miles of the normal pool elevation of the reservoir and draining to water supply reservoirs (measured from the normal pool elevation) or to the ridge line of the watershed (whichever comes first); or 10 miles upstream and draining to the intake located directly in the stream or river (run-of-the-river), or to the ridge line of the watershed (whichever comes first). Local governments may extend the protected area. Major landmarks such as highways or property lines may be used to delineate the outer boundary of the protected area if these landmarks are immediately adjacent to the appropriate outer boundary of five or 10 miles. In some cases the protected area shall encompass the entire watershed. The Commission may adopt a different protected area size during the reclassification process.

(54) Residential development means buildings for residence such as attached and detached single family dwellings, apartment complexes, condominiums, townhouses, cottages, and their associated outbuildings such as garages, storage buildings, and gazebos.

(55) Residuals means any solid or demisolid waste generated from a wastewater treatment plant, water treatment plant or air pollution control facility permitted under the authority of the Environmental Management Commission.

(56) Riparian area means an area that is adjacent to a body of water.

(57) Secondary recreation includes wading, boating, other uses not involving human body contact with water, and activities involving human body contact with water where such activities take place on an infrequent, unorganized, or incidental basis.

(58) Sensitive species for aquatic toxicity testing is any species utilized in procedures accepted by the Commission or its designee in accordance with Rule .0103 of this Subchapter, or the following genera:

(a) Daphnia;
(b) Ceriodaphnia;
(c) Salmo;
(d) Pimephales;
(e) Mysidopsis;
(f) Champia;
(g) Cyprinodon;
(h) Arbacia;
(i) Penaeus;
(j) Menidia;
(k) Notropis;
(l) Salvelinus;
(m) Oncorhynchus;
(n) Selenastrum;
(o) Chironomus;
(p) Hyalella;
(q) Lumbriculus.

(59) Shellfish culture includes the use of waters for the propagation, storage and gathering of oysters, clams, and other shellfish for market purposes.

(60) Stormwater collection system means any conduit, pipe, channel, curb or gutter for the primary purpose of transporting (not treating) runoff. A stormwater collection system does not include vegetated swales, swales stabilized with armoring or alternative methods where natural topography prevents the use of vegetated swales (subject to case-by-case review), curb outlet systems or pipes used to carry drainage underneath built-upon surfaces that are associated with development controlled by the provisions of 15A NCAC 2H .1003(c)(1).

(61) Source of water supply for drinking, culinary or food-processing purposes means any source, either public or private, the waters from which are used for human consumption, or used in connection with the processing of milk, beverages, food, or other purpose which requires water suitable for human consumption.

(62) Swamp waters mean those waters which are classified by the Environmental Management Commission and which are topographically located so as to generally have very low velocities and other characteristics

which are different from adjacent streams draining steeper topography. They are designated by "Sw" following the water classification.

(63) Tidal salt waters mean all tidal waters which are classified by the Environmental Management Commission which generally have a natural chloride ion content in excess of 500 parts per million and include all waters assigned S classifications.

(64) Toxic substance or toxicant means any substance or combination of substances (including disease-causing agents), which after discharge and upon exposure, ingestion, inhalation, or assimilation into any organism, either directly from the environment or indirectly by ingestion through food chains, has the potential to cause death, disease, behavioral abnormalities, cancer, genetic mutations, physiological malfunctions (including malfunctions or suppression in reproduction or growth) or physical deformities in such organisms or their offspring.

(65) Trout waters are those waters which have conditions which shall sustain and allow for trout propagation and survival of stocked trout on a year-round basis. These waters shall be classified by the Commission after considering the requirements of Rule .0101(b) and (c) of this Subchapter and include all waters designated by "Tr" in the water classification.

(66) Waste disposal includes the use of waters for disposal of sewage, industrial waste or other waste after approved treatment.

(67) Water dependent structures are those structures for which the use requires access or proximity to or siting within surface waters to fulfill its basic purpose, such as boat ramps, boat houses, docks and bulkheads. Ancillary facilities such as restaurants, outlets for boat supplies, parking lots and commercial boat storage areas are not water dependent structures.

(68) Water quality based effluent limits and best management practices are limitations or best management practices developed by the Division for the purpose of protecting water quality standards and best usage of surface waters consistent with the requirements of G.S. 143-214.1 and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended.

(69) Waters with quality higher than the standards means all waters for which the determination of waste load allocations (pursuant to Rule .0206 of this Section) indicates that water quality is sufficiently greater than that defined by the standards such that significant pollutant loading capacity still exists in those waters.

(70) Watershed means the entire land area contributing surface drainage to a specific point. For the purpose of the water supply protection rules in 15A NCAC 2B .0104 and .0211 local governments may use major landmarks such as highways or property lines to delineate the outer boundary of the drainage area if these landmarks are immediately adjacent to the ridgeline.

(71) Wetlands are "waters" as defined by G.S. 143-212(6) and are areas that are inundated or saturated by an accumulation of surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas. Wetlands classified as waters of the state are restricted to waters of the United States as defined by 33 CFR 328.3 and 40 CFR 230.3.

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