

**15A NCAC 02B .0315 NEUSE RIVER BASIN**

(a) Classifications assigned to the waters within the Neuse River Basin are set forth in the Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule, which may be inspected at the following places:

- (1) the Internet at <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-planning/classification-standards/river-basin-classification>; and
- (2) the following offices of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality:
  - (A) Raleigh Regional Office  
3800 Barrett Drive  
Raleigh, North Carolina;
  - (B) Washington Regional Office  
943 Washington Square Mall  
Washington, North Carolina;
  - (C) Wilmington Regional Office  
127 Cardinal Drive Extension  
Wilmington, North Carolina; and
  - (D) Division of Water Resources  
Central Office  
512 North Salisbury Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina.

(b) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective:

- (1) March 1, 1977 see Paragraph (c) of this Rule;
- (2) December 13, 1979 see Paragraph (d) of this Rule;
- (3) September 14, 1980 see Paragraph (e) of this Rule;
- (4) August 9, 1981 see Paragraph (f) of this Rule;
- (5) January 1, 1982 see Paragraph (g) of this Rule;
- (6) April 1, 1982 see Paragraph (h) of this Rule;
- (7) December 1, 1983 see Paragraph (i) of this Rule;
- (8) January 1, 1985 see Paragraph (j) of this Rule;
- (9) August 1, 1985 see Paragraph (k) of this Rule;
- (10) February 1, 1986 see Paragraph (l) of this Rule;
- (11) May 1, 1988 see Paragraph (m) of this Rule;
- (12) July 1, 1988 see Paragraph (n) of this Rule;
- (13) October 1, 1988 see Paragraph (o) of this Rule;
- (14) January 1, 1990 see Paragraph (p) of this Rule;
- (15) August 1, 1990;
- (16) December 1, 1990 see Paragraph (q) of this Rule;
- (17) July 1, 1991 see Paragraph (r) of this Rule;
- (18) August 3, 1992;
- (19) April 1, 1994 see Paragraph (t) of this Rule;
- (20) July 1, 1996 see Paragraph (u) of this Rule;
- (21) September 1, 1996 see Paragraph (v) of this Rule;
- (22) April 1, 1997 see Paragraph (w) of this Rule;
- (23) August 1, 1998 see Paragraph (x) of this Rule;
- (24) August 1, 2002 see Paragraph (y) of this Rule;
- (25) July 1, 2004 see Paragraph (z) of this Rule;
- (26) November 1, 2007 see Paragraph (aa) of this Rule;
- (27) January 15, 2011 see Paragraph (bb) of this Rule; and
- (28) July 1, 2012 see Paragraph (cc) of this Rule.

(c) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective March 1, 1977 with the a total of 179 streams in the Neuse River Basin reclassified from Class D to Class C.

(d) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective December 13, 1979 as follows: Little River [Index No. 27-57-(21.5)] from source to the dam at Wake Forest Reservoir has been reclassified from Class A-II to Class A-II and B.

(e) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective September 14, 1980 as follows: The Eno River from Durham County State Road 1003 to U.S Highway 501 [Index No. 27-2-(16)] was reclassified from Class C and B to Class A-II and B.

- (f) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 9, 1981 to remove the swamp water designation from all waters designated SA in the Neuse River Basin.
- (g) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective January 1, 1982 as follows: The Trent River from the mouth of Brice Creek to the Neuse River [Index No. 27-101-(39)] was reclassified from Class SC Sw to Class SB Sw.
- (h) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective April 1, 1982 as follows:
- (1) Longview Branch from source to Crabtree Creek [Index No. 27-33-(21)] was reclassified from Class C1 to Class C.
  - (2) Watson Branch from source to Walnut Creek [Index No. 27-34-(8)] was reclassified from Class C1 to Class C.
- (i) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective December 1, 1983 to add the Nutrient Sensitive Waters classification to the entire river basin above Falls dam.
- (j) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective January 1, 1985 as follows: Nobel Canal from source to Swift Creek [Index No. 27-97-(2)] was reclassified from Class C1 to Class C.
- (k) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 1, 1985 as follows:
- (1) Southeast Prong Beaverdam Creek from source to Beaverdam Creek [Index No. 27-33-15(2)] was reclassified from Class C1 to Class C.
  - (2) Pigeon House branch from source to Crabtree Creek [Index No. 27-33-(18)] was reclassified from Class C1 to Class C.
  - (3) Rocky Branch from source to Pullen Road [Index No. 27-34-6-(1)] was reclassified from Class C1 to Class C.
  - (4) Chavis Branch from source to Watson Branch [Index No. 27-37-8-1] was reclassified from Class C1 to Class C.
- (l) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective February 1, 1986 to reclassify all Class A-I and Class A-II streams in the Neuse River Basin to WS-I and WS-III.
- (m) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective May 1, 1988 to add the Nutrient Sensitive Waters classification to the waters of the Neuse River Basin below the Falls Lake dam.
- (n) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective July 1, 1988 as follows:
- (1) Smith Creek [Index No. 27-23-(1)] from source to the dam at Wake Forest Reservoir has been reclassified from Class WS-III to WS-I.
  - (2) Little River [Index No. 27-57-(1)] from source to the N.C. Hwy. 97 Bridge near Zebulon including all tributaries has been reclassified from Class WS-III to WS-I.
  - (3) An unnamed tributary to Buffalo Creek just upstream of Robertson's Pond in Wake County from source to Buffalo Creek including Leo's Pond has been reclassified from Class C to B.
- (o) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective October 1, 1988 as follows:
- (1) Walnut Creek (Lake Johnson, Lake Raleigh) [Index No. 27-34-(1)]. Lake Johnson and Lake Raleigh have been reclassified from Class WS-III to Class WS-III B.
  - (2) Haw Creek (Camp Charles Lake)(Index No. 27-86-3-7) from the backwaters of Camp Charles Lake to dam at Camp Charles Lake has been reclassified from Class C to Class B.
- (p) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective January 1, 1990 as follows:
- (1) Neuse-Southeast Pamlico Sound ORW Area which includes all waters within a line beginning at the southwest tip of Ocracoke Island, and extending north west along the Tar-Pamlico River Basin and Neuse River Basin boundary line to Lat. 35 degrees 06' 30", thence in a southwest direction to Ship Point and all tributaries, were reclassified from Class SA NSW to Class SA NSW ORW.
  - (2) Core Sound (Index No. 27-149) from northeastern limit of White Oak River Basin (a line from Hall Point to Drum Inlet) to Pamlico Sound and all tributaries, except Thorofare, John Day Ditch were reclassified from Class SA NSW to Class SA NSW ORW.
- (q) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective December 1, 1990 with the reclassification of the following waters as described in (1) through (3) of this Paragraph.
- (1) Northwest Creek from its source to the Neuse River (Index No. 27-105) from Class SC Sw NSW to Class SB Sw NSW;
  - (2) Upper Broad Creek [Index No. 27-106-(7)] from Pamlico County SR 1103 at Lees Landing to the Neuse River from Class SC Sw NSW to Class SB Sw NSW; and
  - (3) Goose Creek [Index No. 27-107-(11)] from Wood Landing to the Neuse River from Class SC Sw NSW to Class SB Sw NSW.

(r) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective July 1, 1991 with the reclassification of the Bay River [Index No. 27-150-(1)] within a line running from Flea Point to the Hammock, east to a line running from Bell Point to Darby Point, including Harper Creek, Tempe Gut, Moore Creek and Newton Creek, and excluding that portion of the Bay River landward of a line running from Poorhouse Point to Darby Point from Classes SC Sw NSW and SC Sw NSW HQW to Class SA NSW.

(s) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 3, 1992 with the reclassification of all water supply waters (waters with a primary classification of WS-I, WS-II or WS-III). These waters were reclassified to WS-I, WS-II, WS-III, WS-IV or WS-V as defined in the revised water supply protection rules (15A NCAC 02B .0100, .0200 and .0300), which became effective on August 3, 1992. In some cases, streams with primary classifications other than WS were reclassified to a WS classification due to their proximity and linkage to water supply waters. In other cases, waters were reclassified from a WS classification to an alternate appropriate primary classification after being identified as downstream of a water supply intake or identified as not being used for water supply purposes.

(t) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective April 1, 1994 as follows:

- (1) Lake Crabtree [Index No. 27-33-(1)] was reclassified from Class C NSW to Class B NSW.
- (2) The Eno River from Orange County State Road 1561 to Durham County State Road 1003 [Index No. 27-10-(16)] was reclassified from Class WS-IV NSW to Class WS-IV B NSW.
- (3) Silver Lake (Index No. 27-43-5) was reclassified from Class WS-III NSW to Class WS-III B NSW.

(u) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective July 1, 1996 with the reclassification of Austin Creek [Index Nos. 27-23-3-(1) and 27-23-3-(2)] from its source to Smith Creek from classes WS-III NSW and WS-III NSW CA to class C NSW.

(v) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective September 1, 1996 with the reclassification of an unnamed tributary to Hannah Creek (Tuckers Lake) [Index No. 27-52-6-0.5] from Class C NSW to Class B NSW.

(w) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective April 1, 1997 with the reclassification of the Neuse River (including tributaries) from mouth of Marks Creek to a point 1.3 miles downstream of Johnston County State Road 1908 to class WS-IV NSW and from a point 1.3 miles downstream of Johnston County State Road 1908 to the Johnston County Water Supply intake (located 1.8 miles downstream of Johnston County State Road 1908) to class WS-IV CA NSW [Index Nos. 27-(36) and 27-(38.5)].

(x) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 1, 1998 with the revision of the Critical Area and Protected Area boundaries surrounding the Falls Lake water supply reservoir. The revisions to these boundaries are the result of the US Army Corps of Engineers raising the lake's normal pool elevation. The result of these revisions is the Critical and Protected Area boundaries (classifications) may extend further upstream than the current designations. The Critical Area for a WS-IV reservoir is defined as 0.5 miles and draining to the normal pool elevation. The Protected Area for a WS-IV reservoir is defined as 5 miles and draining to the normal pool elevation. The normal pool elevation of the Falls Lake reservoir has changed from 250.1 feet mean sea level (msl) to 251.5 feet msl.

(y) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective August 1, 2002 with the reclassification of the Neuse River [portions of Index No. 27-(56)], including portions of its tributaries, from a point 0.7 mile downstream of the mouth of Coxes Creek to a point 0.6 mile upstream of Lenoir County proposed water supply intake from Class C NSW to Class WS-IV NSW and from a point 0.6 mile upstream of Lenoir County proposed water supply intake to Lenoir proposed water supply intake from Class C NSW to Class WS-IV CA NSW.

(z) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective July 1, 2004 with the reclassification of the Neuse River (including tributaries in Wake County) [Index Nos. 27-(20.7), 27-21, 27-21-1] from the dam at Falls Lake to a point 0.5 mile upstream of the Town of Wake Forest Water Supply Intake (former water supply intake for Burlington Mills Wake Finishing Plant) from Class C NSW to Class WS-IV NSW and from a point 0.5 mile upstream of the Town of Wake Forest proposed water supply intake to Town of Wake Forest proposed water supply intake [Index No. 27-(20.1)] from Class C NSW to Class WS-IV NSW CA. Fantasy Lake [Index No. 27 -57-3-1-1], a former rock quarry within a WS-II NSW water supply watershed, was reclassified from Class WS-II NSW to Class WS-II NSW CA.

(aa) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective November 1, 2007 with the reclassification of the entire watershed of Deep Creek (Index No. 27-3-4) from source to Flat River from Class WS-III NSW to Class WS-III ORW NSW.

(bb) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective January 15, 2011 with the reclassification of all Class C NSW waters and all Class B NSW waters upstream of the dam at Falls Reservoir from

Class C NSW and Class B NSW to Class WS-V NSW and Class WS-V & B NSW, respectively. All waters within the Falls Watershed are within a designated Critical Water Supply Watershed and are subject to a special management strategy specified in Rules .0275 through .0283 of this Subchapter.

(cc) The Neuse River Basin Classification Schedule was amended effective July 1, 2012 as follows:

- (1) Johnston County owned quarry near Little River [Index No. 27-57-(20.2)] from Class C NSW to Class WS-IV NSW CA. The Division of Water Resources maintains a Geographic Information Systems data layer of this quarry;
- (2) a portion of the Neuse River [Index Number 27-(41.7)] from a point approximately 1.4 miles downstream of Gar Gut to a point approximately 1.7 miles upstream of Bawdy Creek from Class WS-V NSW to Class WS-IV NSW; and
- (3) a portion of the Neuse River [Index No. 27-(49.5)] from a point approximately 0.5 mile upstream of S.R. 1201 (Johnston County intake) to S.R. 1201 (Johnston County intake) from Class WS-IV NSW to Class WS-IV NSW CA.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 143-214.1; 143-215.1; 143-215.3(a)(1);  
Eff. February 1, 1976;  
Amended Eff. November 1, 2007; July 1, 2004 (see SL 2001-361); August 1, 2002; August 1, 1998; April 1, 1997; September 1, 1996; July 1, 1996; April 1, 1994; August 3, 1992; July 1, 1991;  
Amended Eff. January 15, 2011 (this permanent rule replaces the temporary rule approved by the RRC on December 16, 2010);  
Amended Eff. July 1, 2012;  
Readopted Eff. November 1, 2019.*