

Point Source Inventory - Bryson Project

I. Introduction

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Division of Water Quality (NCDENR-DWQ) is responsible for managing the water quality of the state's freshwater resources. The NCDENR-DWQ relies on the basinwide management plan developed for each river basin. Each plan is evaluated and, based upon water quality monitoring, revised every 5-years. The goals of the plan are to identify and restore full use to impaired waters, protect highly valued resource waters, and manage problem pollutants. The primary component of a basinwide plan is the process of permitting point source, wastewater treatment facilities through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES).

A portion of the water quality issues addressed by various agencies in the FERC relicensing process was the identification and inventory of the point source discharges upstream, downstream and within project waters. Therefore, the objective of this report is to provide an inventory of the NPDES discharges for the entire watershed of the Oconaluftee River basin continuing until the confluence with the Tuckasegee River.

II. Methods

An inventory of the NPDES permits for the respective river basins was collated in January, 2002. Duke Power Company had in its GIS data base a list of the NPDES permits on record as of November, 1997. In order to update the inventory, a data request from the NCDENR - Division of Water Quality for the NPDES permits on record as of December, 2001 was requested. Upon obtaining these records, a comparison with the 1997 records revealed numerous point source discharges listed in the 1997 records were not listed in the 2002 data base. A complete record of the NPDES permits since 1997 was obtained from the various sources listed in Table 1. Duplicate records between databases were deleted.

III. Results

The results of the collation of the various databases are presented in Table 2. If the respective category is blank, that data was not available from the database supplied by the state. No discharges were noted from the Bryson dam to the confluence of the Tuckasegee River.

Table 1. List of Sources to Obtain NPDES Permit Information

| Data Source | Data acquired | Source | Obtained via | Internet URL |
|--------------------|----------------------|--|--|---|
| 1999 | 01/17/02 | Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division | Download from agency website | http://www.ganet.org//dnr/environ/techguide_files/gsb/dr0021.zip |
| 1994 | 11/06/97 | North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis | Download from agency website | http://www.ncmapnet.com/ |
| 2000 | 08/24/00 | North Carolina Center for Geographic Information and Analysis | Download from agency website | http://www.ncmapnet.com/ |
| 2001 | 01/16/02 | North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources Division of Water Quality | Attachment to email from Charles Weaver responding to request for data | |

Table 2. NPDES Permits - Tuckasegee River Basin, Oconaluftee River (Upstream of the Bryson Project)

| Data Source | PERMIT # | FACILITY | RECEIVING STREAM | TYPE | DATE ISSUED | DATE EXPIRES | PERMITTED FLOW (gal/day) | COUNTY | Longitude | Latitude |
|-------------|-----------|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|---------|------------------|------------------|
| 2001 | NC0025101 | USDI Smokemont WWTP | Oconaluftee River | Discharging 100% Domestic < 1MGD | 1/26/98 | 11/30/02 | 30000 | Swain | 83° 18' 32.00" W | 35° 32' 57.00" N |
| 1994 | NC0052469 | Cherokee WWTP | Oconaluftee River | - | 12/17/92 | - | - | Swain | 83° 21' 10.01" W | 35° 28' 1.99" N |
| 1994 | NC0048089 | Eastern Band of Cherokee Ind/Rough Br WWTP | Rough Branch | - | 12/17/92 | - | - | Jackson | 83° 10' 23.99" W | 35° 29' 40.99" N |