

Text Change Amendment to Water & Wastewater Extension Policy (para. 4.2) and Technical Specifications

The Lower Catawba River Basin is on the South Carolina 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. Excess nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus, can stimulate the growth of algae in lakes. When algae grow out of control, it can result in an algal bloom, which can deplete the oxygen in the water and lead to the death of fish and other aquatic life. Algae blooms can also cause taste, odor, and toxicity problems in drinking water supplies.

Municipal and industrial wastewater and regulated stormwater are not the only sources of nutrients in the Catawba River Basin. Suburban, agricultural, and even natural areas contribute through stormwater runoff, which can carry fertilizers, animal waste, and nutrient laden sediments.

Although the State of South Carolina and Lancaster County have regulated and may continue to regulate riparian lands, including riparian buffers, neither the State nor the County is the authorized provider of water and sewer service within the unincorporated County. Lancaster County Water & Sewer District is the authorized provider. As the provider, Lancaster County Water & Sewer District has concerns about development in areas located in close proximity to the Catawba River and its tributaries. Such development may increase nutrient and sediment loading in the River.

Riparian buffers have been identified as an effective tool for controlling watershed nutrients. Riparian buffers are areas of vegetation located along the banks of streams, rivers, and other bodies of water. These buffers provide benefits by filtering stormwater nutrients and stabilizing streambank sediments. A riparian buffer provides a level of natural filtering to help prevent the increase in nutrients in the River. A buffer allows for the nutrients to assimilate into the buffer area. Assimilation adds another layer of protection for the source water. This is necessary to assist Lancaster County Water & Sewer District in compliance with regulatory treatment limits.

Lancaster County Water & Sewer District will not supply sewer service unless undisturbed riparian buffers are applied within 100 feet of all shorelines in Lancaster County along the Catawba River mainstem and all shorelines of the River mainstem lakes. In addition, undisturbed riparian buffers shall be applied within 100 feet of all perennial and 50 feet of all intermittent streams within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of and that are tributary to the shorelines of the Catawba River mainstem. No lot lines shall be within these buffer requirements. All riparian buffer areas shall be considered open areas and governed by the covenants applicable to any subdivision of the property.

Riparian buffers shall be measured as follows:

Catawba River – measured from the landward limit of the top of the bank

Mainstem Lakes – measured from the normal full pond elevation and extend landward

Perennial and Intermittent Streams – measured from the landward limit of the stream top of the bank

Perennial streams refers to those blue lined streams indicated on a USGS 1:24,000 topographical map. Intermittent streams refers to natural watercourses that do not flow year-round, but beyond periods of rainfall and with greater frequency than similarly located ephemeral streams. For the

purposes hereof, the terms "perennial stream" and "intermittent stream" shall not include any waters that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined or shall determine are not subject to its jurisdiction.

Upon approval of Lancaster County Water & Sewer District, water and sewer infrastructure may be installed within the riparian buffer, as such installations will have negligible impact on the ability of the buffer areas to act as natural filtration systems.

Nothing herein is intended to relieve any person or entity from compliance with State and County regulations. Nothing herein is intended to displace or be inconsistent with State and County regulations. Should any person or entity contend that Lancaster County Water & Sewer District's regulations on riparian lands, including riparian buffers, are repugnant or even inconsistent with State and County regulations, such person or entity shall set forth in writing the substance of the repugnancy or inconsistency and afford Lancaster County Water & Sewer District an opportunity to work with the person or entity, the State and/or the County to resolve any conflict.

Lancaster County Water & Sewer District shall continue its monitoring of those areas within close proximity to the Catawba River and its tributaries and reserves the right to amend its policies related to riparian lands, including but not limited to, the requisite size and placement of riparian buffers.