

Agenda Item: 14-23 **Request Approval of the Proposed Reclassification of a portion of the Green River, including Lake Adger, in Polk County (Broad River Basin) to Class WS-IV**

Explanation:

Polk County has requested that a portion of the Green River, including Lake Adger, be reclassified to allow its use as a water supply. The subject portion of the Green River is to proposed to be reclassified to WS-IV with a CA and WS-IV with a Protected Area (PA). The resulting water supply will allow Polk County to meet local water demands.

The project is required to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has not been issued yet for this project but is being pursued. As a reminder, a FONSI indicates that the project, as proposed, will not result in significant impacts to the environment. Lastly, the waters to be reclassified meet water supply standards according to 2011 DWR studies.

In November 2013 and January 2014, the Water Quality Committee and the Commission, respectively, approved the request to proceed with rule-making for the proposed reclassification. A public hearing was held in March 2014 in Mill Spring, NC. The Hearing Officer's Report of Proceedings sent to the members of the EMC includes all written comments received and further details on this proposed reclassification.

Recommendation:

The Hearing Officer recommends that the proposed reclassification be approved by the Commission. If reclassified as proposed and approved by the Rules Review Commission (RRC) in August of this year, the effective date for this reclassification will be September 1, 2014.