

Minimum Criteria Under the NC Environmental Policy Act

Projects or activities subject to SEPA require all three of the following conditions to be met:

1. An action by a state agency (issuing permits);
2. An expenditure of public money or private use of public land; and
3. A potential detrimental environmental effect upon natural resources, public health and safety, natural beauty, or historical or cultural elements of the State's common heritage. [[NC General Statute 113A, sections 1 to 13](#)].

Projects permitted by DWQ typically requiring preparation of an environmental document (EA or EIS) are wastewater treatment plant expansions, perennial stream impact projects, and sewer line extensions.

New reclaimed water utilization distribution lines are exempt from SEPA review.

In general, construction or expansion activities exceeding the minimum thresholds established below require an environmental document and a full inter-agency review. Note that the list below is not all inclusive of every project. [15A NCAC 01C](#) should be comprehensively reviewed to determine a particular project's applicability to SEPA:

- Relocation of discharge points within the same river basin
- New discharge facilities with a proposed permitted expansion of less than 500,000 gallons per day and producing an instream waste concentration of less than 33 percent during the 7-day 10-year low flow conditions
- Expansion of an existing discharge facility of less than 500,000 gallons per day additional flow
- New surface irrigation, high rate infiltration, or subsurface wastewater systems with a proposed permitted capacity not exceeding 100,000 gallons per day
- Reclaimed water utilization systems with reclaimed water utilization being the sole disposal option with a proposed permitted capacity not exceeding 200,000 gallons per day
- New reclaimed water utilization sites with a proposed permitted capacity not to exceed 500,000 gallons per day when the reclaimed water utilization system is required for compliance with any other wastewater disposal permit
- New reclaimed water utilization sites with a proposed permitted capacity not to exceed 1,000,000 gallons per day when the reclaimed water utilization system is not required for compliance with any other wastewater disposal permit
- New permits or modification to existing permits for land application of residuals utilization, where less than 10 acres not previously permitted is prior converted within three years or will be converted from a non-plantation forested area to application area
- New or expanding surface disposal sites disposing less than 3000 dry tons of residuals per year
- Gravity sewer extensions with three or more miles of 18" or greater diameter sewer line
- New or expanding individual pump stations and associated force mains with a proposed permitted capacity of less than 1750 gallons per minute.

If you are unsure if a proposed project exceeds the minimum thresholds...

Please contact [Jackie Roddy](#) ((919) 807-6442).