

Union County  
Public Works  
500 N Main Street #500  
Monroe, NC 28112

November 2016



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Is there enough water for drought conditions?

Extensive water modeling of the Yadkin River and Lake Tillery indicates that adequate water is available to support water supply needs including during drought conditions. Union County also has a Water Use Ordinance that requires reduction in water use by its customers during drought conditions to preserve the water supply.

### How will the project affect the water levels at Lake Tillery?

Extensive water modeling on the Yadkin River and Lake Tillery indicates that the impacts on lake elevations will be minor to the point of being difficult to determine by visual observation.

### How much property is needed for the project?

It is not yet known how much property will be needed for the project. It is anticipated that the water intake infrastructure will be constructed on existing Town of Norwood property. The water transmission pipeline will utilize existing road right-of-ways to the best extent possible. Union County will need to acquire additional land in Union County for the water treatment plant.

### Contact Us

**Online:** [www.yadkinwater.com](http://www.yadkinwater.com)

**Email:** [info@yadkinwater.com](mailto:info@yadkinwater.com)



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLIC WORKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you for your continued interest in the Yadkin Regional Water Supply Project. We're grateful to have you involved in our efforts to bring Union County a long-term, sustainable water supply for the Yadkin Basin residents of Union County.

In our last newsletter, we shared with you that the State was holding three public hearings in late August and early September so that the communities surrounding Lake Tillery, and upstream and downstream of the lake would be up-to-date and informed on the project status. These meetings also gave everyone the opportunity to express their support or voice any concerns about the project. The comments provided at the public hearings will be evaluated by the staff of the NC Department of Environmental Quality and reported to the Environmental Management Commission as they make their decision on issuing our interbasin transfer (IBT) certificate.

At the hearings, we heard several people express concern over the effects that the IBT will have on Lake Tillery. We understand everyone's love for the lake and desire to know that it won't be harmed. **No one is more passionate about protecting our water resources than Union County, and we would never propose a project that would hurt the lake or prevent you from enjoying it.**

We've done extensive research evaluating the potential impacts on Lake Tillery from the IBT and have concluded that the impacts will be minimal. Our analysis even takes into account Lake Tillery's worst drought on record, and calculates how an IBT would affect the lake level if a similar drought happened again. Our analysis shows that even during this worst case drought, lake levels remain within the normal operating range. Union County takes great pride in being a good steward of the water resource entrusted to our care and use, and we understand our need to protect them and keep them safe. It's not a responsibility that we take lightly.

We appreciate everyone who attended the hearings. It is important to us that our citizens and those of our neighboring communities understand the project and have a chance to share their opinions. We encourage you to check our website [www.yadkinwater.com](http://www.yadkinwater.com) regularly for updates on the project.

**Ed Goscicki**, Executive Director  
Union County Public Works

## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- IBT Public Hearings
- YRWS in the Community
- Lake Level Water Modeling

## YADKIN REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY IN THE COMMUNITY

Would your local group or organization like to learn more about the Yadkin Regional Water Supply project? Contact us to schedule a member of the project team to attend your meeting and provide project details, updates and answer questions. Submit your request for a speaker at [info@yadkinwater.com](mailto:info@yadkinwater.com). Please provide your organization's name, meeting time and meeting location. We are committed to partnering with the community and look forward to attending your next meeting!



## UNION COUNTY IBT PUBLIC HEARINGS

The North Carolina Division of Water Resources and the Environmental Management Commission hosted three public hearings for Union County's Interbasin Transfer (IBT) certificate. Residents were invited to attend the following public hearings to learn more about the project and submit comments.

- **Aug. 23** at the Town of Norwood Community Building
- **Aug. 24** at the Anson County Hampton B. Allen Library
- **Sept. 1** at the Union County Government Center

It is our understanding that 85 comments (in-person and written) were received between August 23 and October 3. All comments will receive an official response from the Division of Water Resources. The EMC will consider all public comments received and responses to comments when making its final determination on whether to issue a certificate for the water transfer. A final determination from the EMC is expected in early 2017. For more information on the IBT certificate or IBT petition visit: <http://www.yadkinwater.com/about.php>

## PROJECT BENEFITS INCLUDE:



LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY FOR RESIDENTS



REDUCED DEPENDENCY ON THE CATAWBA RIVER



INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING FOR NORWOOD



SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH IN UNION COUNTY AND NORWOOD






## STAY INFORMED

Stay up-to-date on the Yadkin Regional Water Supply project by visiting the project website at [www.yadkinwater.com](http://www.yadkinwater.com).

- The project website features:
- A project overview video
  - Project maps
  - Project resources
  - And much more!

## LAKE LEVEL WATER MODELING

Union County is required by the State of North Carolina to undergo an environmental review process to analyze potential alternatives and their impact on the human environment. This process results in Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements that document the details of the analysis. Lake levels at Lake Tillery and the six other North Carolina lakes in the Yadkin-Pee Dee River Basin were one of the key impacts evaluated in selecting a preferred alternative.

 <p><b>WATER SUPPLY</b></p> <p>The preferred alternative can supply the 28.9 mgd needed for current and future needs.</p>	 <p><b>COST</b></p> <p>The preferred alternative represents one of the lowest cost alternatives and is a financially feasible option for this water supply.</p>	 <p><b>LAKE IMPACTS</b></p> <p>The preferred alternative has less impact on lake aesthetics, other water needs, and hydropower than the other alternatives evaluated.</p>	 <p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b></p> <p>The environmental impacts of the preferred alternative are similar, or significantly less, than the other alternatives evaluated.</p>	 <p><b>COMMUNITY</b></p> <p>The water supply partnership between the Town of Norwood and Union County makes the preferred alternative the most politically acceptable alternative.</p>
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Currently, when Lake Tillery is at its highest elevation it reaches 278 feet and during summer months can drop to a minimum elevation of 276 feet. Both levels are still optimal conditions for recreational activity on the lake and scenic views. Union County hired local engineers to consider all environmental impacts to ensure plants, wildlife and other natural resources would not be adversely affected by the project. The engineers also developed an extensive water modeling analysis to determine how Union County's request for water would affect lake levels. The lakes were evaluated by looking at Yadkin River flows from the past 50 years as reference points to calculate lake elevation estimates until 2050. By using established data from Lake Tillery's history, results show the lake can provide Union County with water, and lake levels will remain between 276-278 feet during normal conditions.

But what about potential drought conditions? Many lake goers remember the worst drought on record during 1999-2002 that left many concerned the lake would never be the same. Union County's water modeling analysis also determined the results of lake levels during a potential drought. The results determined that even if the worst drought on record occurs again with the additional effects of climate change, the impact during a one-month period could be up to nine inches as result of Union County's water use. However, the lake would still remain well above the minimum elevation of 276 feet during summer months.

For more information on Union County's water modeling, view the Final Environmental Impact Statements on the project website at [www.yadkinwater.com](http://www.yadkinwater.com).

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Residents are encouraged to visit the project website and leave a comment. *If you do not wish to receive future messages, please visit the project website and leave a comment indicating your desire to be removed from the mailing list.*