

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Union County Receives Interbasin Transfer Certificate

MONROE, N.C. (May 15, 2017) -- Union County has reached a milestone in its efforts to provide a long-term, sustainable water supply for its residents. On Thursday, May 11, the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC) granted the County an interbasin transfer (IBT) certificate as part of its Yadkin Regional Water Supply Project (YRWSP).

“Union County is pleased with the EMC’s decision to grant the County’s IBT certificate request,” said Ed Goscicki. “This project represents sound, long-term regional planning for our community by utilizing Yadkin River water to serve our customers in the Yadkin River basin. As we move forward in the development and implementation of this project, we commit to working openly and effectively with all of our stakeholders.”

The YRWSP project is a collaborative effort between Union County and the Town of Norwood, located in Stanly County, to provide a new water supply source to Union County and new infrastructure to the Town of Norwood. The project addresses how to meet the County’s growing population’s demand for water for 2020 and beyond.

This project will include a new water intake and pump station at Lake Tillery in Norwood and a 21-mile pipeline to bring that water to Union County residents in the Yadkin River Basin.

The IBT certificate was issued following a thorough review of the project from the Division of Water Resources. Union County submitted a 3,455-page Environmental Impact statement (EIS) in January 2015, which evaluated the effects that the plan, along with other potential options, will have on the environment.

An interbasin transfer is the movement of surface water from one river basin into another. Transfers that exceed 2 million gallons per day (MGD) average daily, or 3 MGD maximum daily, require an IBT certificate.

With the IBT certificate issued, Union County and the Town of Norwood will continue additional permitting and design efforts. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2019. The water treatment facility is expected to be operational by early 2022 and will serve Union County residents for years to come.

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