

15A NCAC 02B .0269 RIPARIAN BUFFER MITIGATION FEES TO THE NC ECOSYSTEM ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The following is the process for payment of fees to the Riparian Buffer Restoration Fund administered by the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program as one option to mitigate riparian buffer impacts allowed under rules in this Subchapter. Persons who wish to use this option shall first meet the criteria established for doing so in the buffer rules in this subchapter that reference this Rule. Such buffer rules include, but may not be limited to, 15A NCAC 02B .0242, .0244, .0260, and .0268. Persons who choose to satisfy their mitigation determination by paying a compensatory mitigation fee to the Riparian Buffer Restoration Fund as allowed here shall use the following procedure:

- (1) SCHEDULE OF FEES: The amount of payment into the Fund shall be based on the costs of riparian buffer restoration. The payment amount shall be determined by multiplying the acres or square feet of mitigation required under other rules in this Subchapter by an initial value of ninety-six cents per square foot or forty-one thousand eight hundred and eighteen dollars per acre (\$41,818/acre). This initial per-acre rate shall be adjusted in January of each year by staff of the NC Ecosystem Enhancement Program based upon the construction cost index factor published every December in the *Engineering News Record*.
- (2) The required fee shall be submitted to the N.C. Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NC EEP), 1652 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1652 prior to any activity that results in the removal or degradation of the protected riparian buffer for which a "no practical alternatives" determination has been made pursuant to requirements of other rules in this Subchapter.
- (3) The payment of a compensatory mitigation fee may be fully or partially satisfied by donation of real property interests pursuant to requirements of other rules in this Subchapter.

History Note: Authority G.S. 143-214.1; 143-214.5; 143-214.5(i); 143-214.7; 143-214.12; 143-214.21; 143-215.3(a)(1); 143-215.6A; 143-215.6B; 143-215.6C; 143-215.8B; 143B-282(c); 143B-282(d); S.L. 2005-190; S.L. 2006-259; Eff. August 11, 2009.