

DEQ Accepting Public Comment on Draft Priority Rating System for Viable Utility Reserve-funded Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Projects

The Division of Water Infrastructure is accepting comments on the draft Priority Rating System for Viable Utility Reserve (VUR) wastewater and drinking water construction project funding.

[Session Law 2020-79](#) created the VUR. Pursuant to §159G-39, the Division must rank each application for Authority review. The Authority must consider the Division's determination of priority when it reviews an application.

The Division and the State Water Infrastructure Authority use a well-established Priority Rating System for projects seeking funding through the State Revolving Fund and State Reserve Programs. This priority rating system was approved by the Authority, which tasked the Division with seeking public comment on the use of this Priority Rating System for VUR-funded construction projects.

The proposed system provides a consistent and transparent methodology for prioritization that aligns with the Authority's [Master Plan](#) and statutory requirements. The Priority Rating System supports applicants in their continued long-term efforts toward utility viability, as described in the Division's [Viable Utility Program](#).

The Division is now seeking public review of the draft VUR Priority Rating System for wastewater and drinking water projects, available at:

<https://files.nc.gov/ncdeq/WI/vur/Draft-Priority-Rating-System-for-VUR-projects-10-01-2021.pdf>.

Interested parties are encouraged to provide comments, using the comment procedure and contact information below, that reflect support for the draft VUR Priority Rating System for wastewater and drinking water construction projects, as well as areas of concern and suggestions for changes.

COMMENT PROCEDURE	Written comments on the draft VUR Priority Rating System for wastewater and drinking water construction projects should be submitted to the address below (see Contact Information) and received by 5:00 PM on November 1, 2021.
CONTACT INFORMATION	Submit written comments before 5:00 p.m. on November 1, 2021, using the contact information listed below. The draft Viable Utility Priority Rating System for Wastewater and Drinking Water Projects may be obtained at: Draft VUR Priority Rating System or by emailing, writing, or calling, as follows: By Email: Cathy.Akroyd@ncdenr.gov (<i>Subject Line: VUR Priority System Comments</i>). By Telephone: 919-707-9187.

	<p><u>By Mail: US Postal Service</u> <i>Subject Line: VUR Priority Rating System Comments Cathy Akroyd Division of Water Infrastructure 1633 Mail Service Center Raleigh, NC 27699-1633</i></p>	<p><u>By Courier or Special Delivery</u> <i>Subject Line: VUR Priority Rating System Comments Cathy Akroyd 8th Floor, Archdale Building 512 North Salisbury Street Raleigh, NC 27604</i></p>