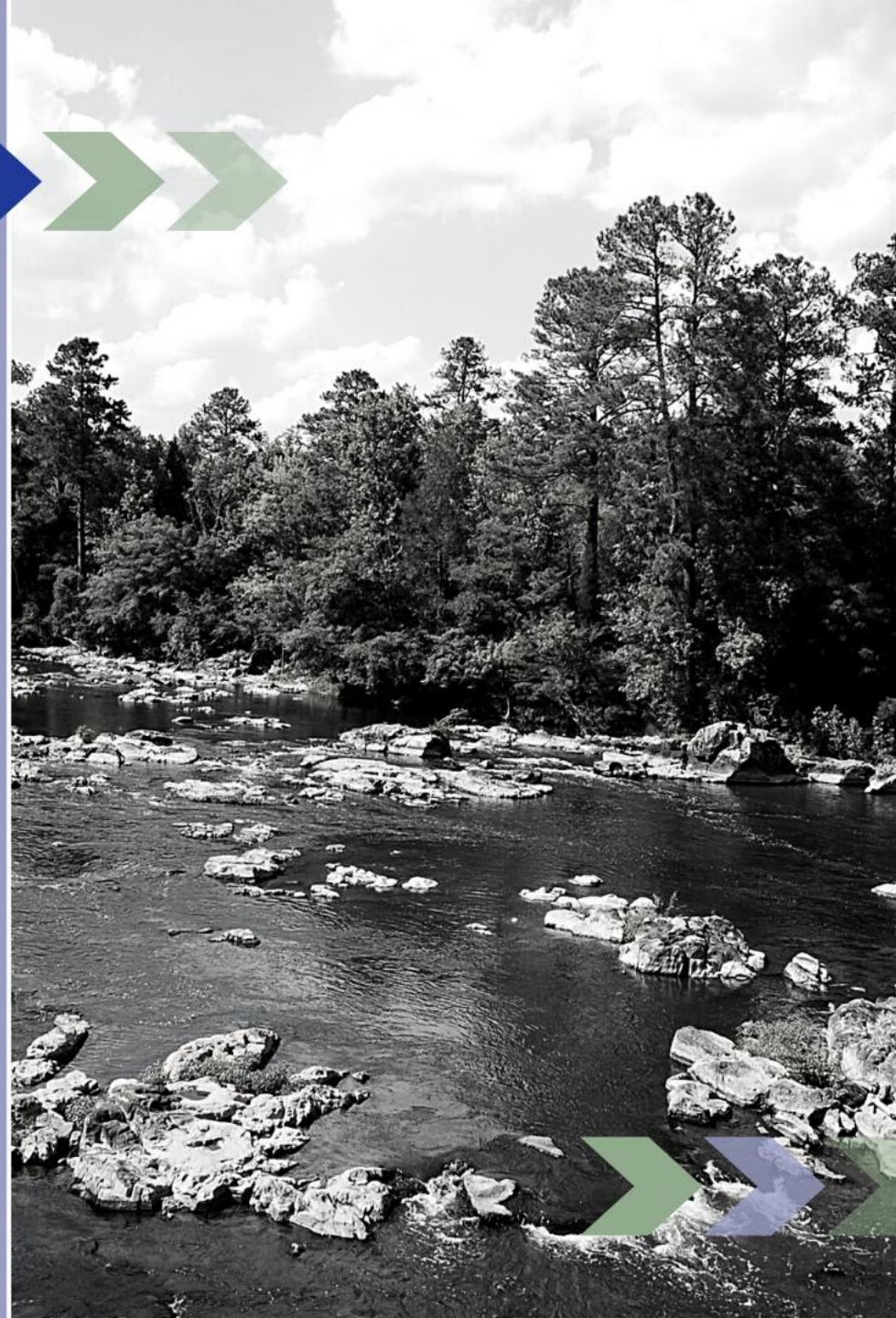




REGIONALIZATION IN THE CAROLINA CORE

CONSIDERATIONS FOR A HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT & A HEALTHY ECONOMY



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BACKGROUND

Serves as a liaison with the Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina on the state's largest economic development projects, serves as a single point of contact for large economic development projects, and assists local governments in preparing, planning, and coordinating environmental projects.

- Previous Experience:
 - Town Manager- Robbins, NC
 - Solid Waste Director- Moore County, NC
 - Family Court Coordinator- Randolph County, NC

AGENDA

1. WHAT?
2. WHERE?
3. WHEN?
4. WHO?
5. WHY?
6. HOW?





WHAT?

Session Law 2023-134 Section 12.16(b)

"The Department shall develop a Regional Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Master Plan in the geographic area surrounding United States Route 421 between Interstate Route 85 in Greensboro and Interstate Route 95 in Dunn, designated as a high-priority corridor in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. The Department may contract with a third party for all or part of the development of the Master Plan. The Master Plan shall prioritize a study of options for the regionalization of water and wastewater systems and make recommendations for the long-term economic growth and environmental protection of the region. The study shall also consider options for the governance of one or more regional systems and nutrient loading capacity for wastewater discharges. The Department shall submit the Regional Master Plan to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division no later than May 1, 2024."



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023		
SESSION LAW 2023-134 HOUSE BILL 259		
AN ACT TO MAKE BASE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS OF STATE AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND INSTITUTIONS.		
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:		
PART I. TITLE AND INTRODUCTION		
TITLE OF ACT		
SECTION 1.1. This act shall be known as the "Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2023."		
INTRODUCTION		
SECTION 1.2. The appropriations made in this act are for maximum amounts necessary to provide the services and accomplish the purposes described in the budget in accordance with the State Budget Act. Savings shall be effected where the total amounts appropriated are not required to perform these services and accomplish these purposes, and the savings shall revert to the appropriate fund at the end of each fiscal year, except as otherwise provided by law.		
PART II. CURRENT OPERATIONS AND EXPANSION/GENERAL FUND		
GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS		
SECTION 2.1.(a) Appropriations from the General Fund for the budgets of the State departments, institutions, and agencies, and for other purposes as enumerated, are made for each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium, according to the following schedule:		
Current Operations - General Fund	FY 2023-2024	FY 2024-2025
EDUCATION		
North Carolina Community College System		
Requirements	1,877,925,960	1,902,511,556
Less: Receipts	403,685,353	388,408,799
Net Appropriation	1,474,240,607	1,514,102,757
Department of Public Instruction		
Requirements	13,492,320,541	13,699,714,749
Less: Receipts	1,927,760,615	1,750,698,621
Net Appropriation	11,564,559,926	11,949,016,128
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA		
East Carolina Univ. - Academic Affairs		
Requirements	431,788,788	432,957,458



WHERE?

SEVEN-COUNTY REGION

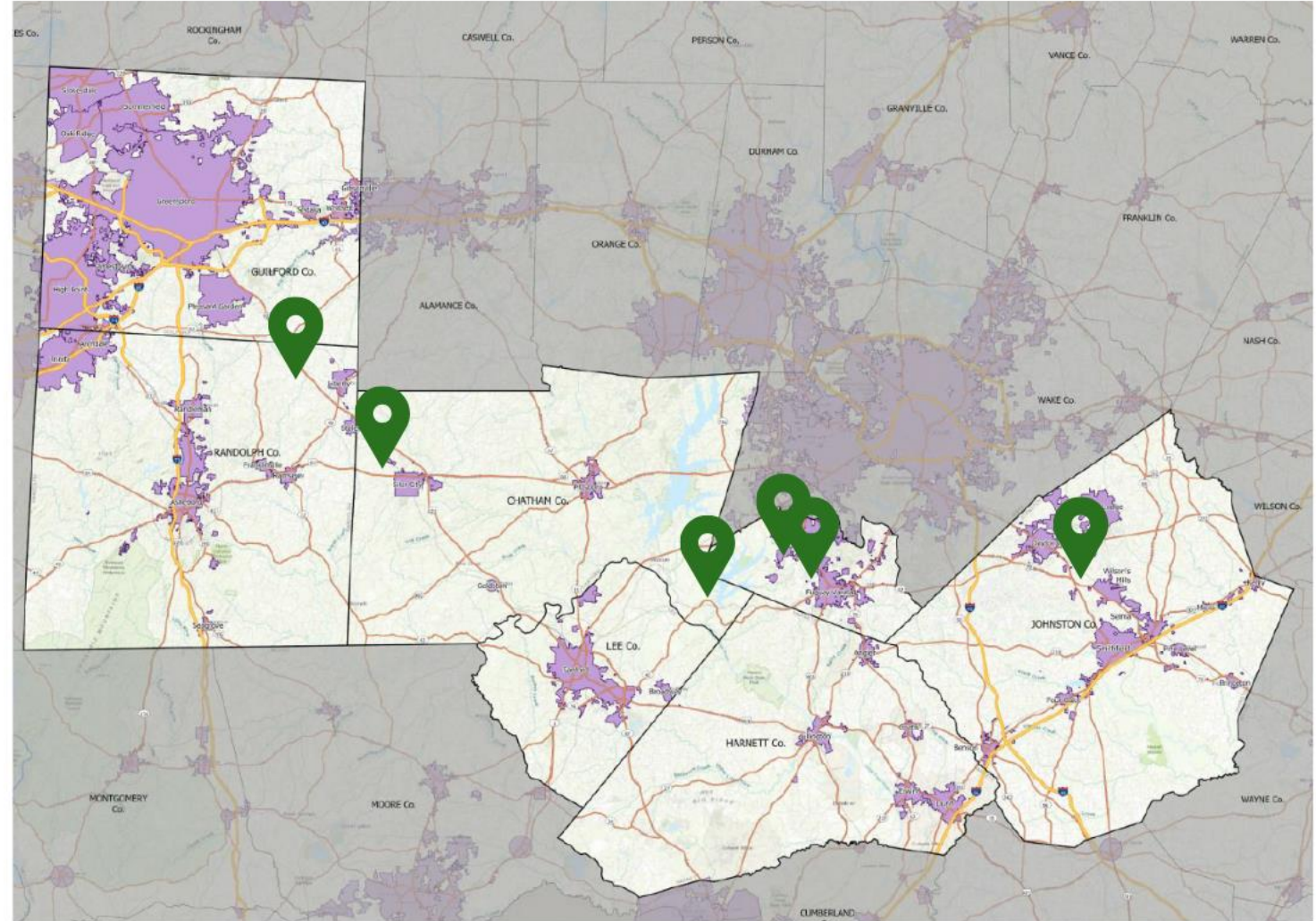
- Chatham County
- Guilford County
- Harnett County
- Johnston County
- Lee County
- Randolph County
- Southern Wake County



WHEN?

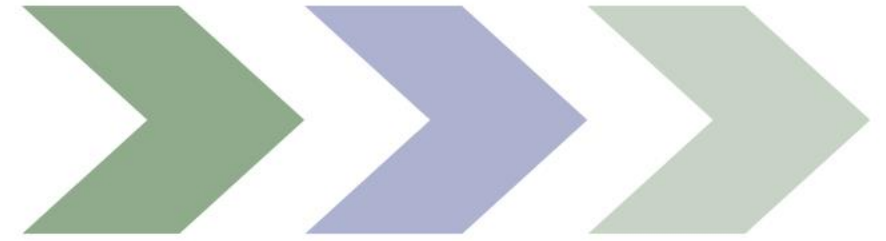
DEADLINE

- To DEQ by April 1
- To General Assembly by May 1





WHO?



DEQ TEAM

- Leadership
- Division of Water Resources
 - Drinking Water
 - Basin Planning
 - Wastewater
 - Pretreatment & NPDES
 - Water Supply Planning
- Division of Water Infrastructure
 - Viable Utilities Unit

PRIVATE SECTOR TEAM

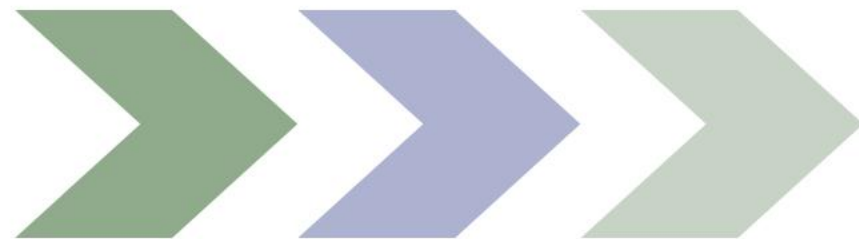
- Private engineering firms working within the identified region & with impacted municipalities.
 - Firms focusing on various aspects of the report:
 - Assessment of existing infrastructure
 - Water Treatment
 - Sustainability
 - Potential costs
 - Projections





WHY?

- **Set Businesses and Communities up for Success**
 - Governments need to ensure that residents can *make a living* while communities remain *livable*
- **Rapid Growth in NC**
 - Transformative projects
 - Significant planning for site development
 - Infrastructure investment/planning necessary
- **Historic Investment**
 - DEQ is currently handling \$6 billion in infrastructure funding
 - General Assembly receives funding requests for ED projects
 - Quick fix vs. strategic investment
- **Significant Challenges** (DETAILS ON THE FOLLOWING SLIDE)
 - Water quality and treatment needs
 - Struggling utilities



WHY?

CONTINUED

Significant Challenges Overview

- Impairments within the Upper Cape Fear River Basin (phosphorus and nitrogen)
- Several, small and underfunded utilities in the area
- Larger utility systems are challenged to meet rapid demand
- Compliance and other environmental issues
- Emerging contaminants (and managing impact downstream)
- Older treatment processes



WHY?

CONTINUED

Why Pursue a Regional Approach?

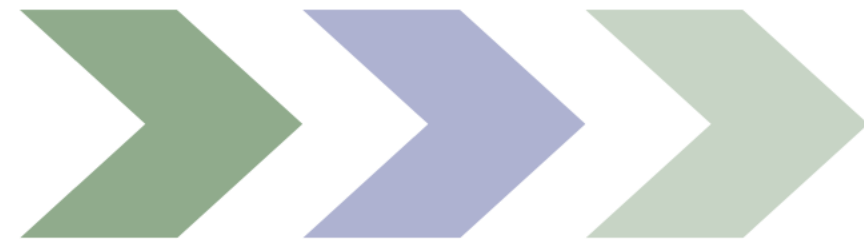
WATER→WASTEWATER→WATER→WASTEWATER→WATER→WASTEWATER

- Economic and environmental impact is not confined to municipal or county borders.
 - Actions made upstream impact users downstream.
 - The “every town for itself” approach is not a good long-term strategy.
- Solutions can have a significant impact on multiple stakeholders across the region.
- Comprehensive solutions might have a greater impact faster than more individualized approaches.
- Potential for efficient and effective allocation of financial and environmental resources.





Zoom In: Example

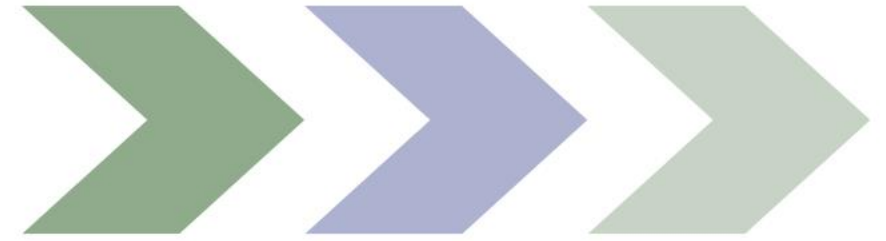


SILER CITY: CHATHAM ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

- Located in Western Chatham County (next to Randolph County Line)
- Siler City has a moratorium for wastewater
- \$55M From NCGA to Asheboro for a water line to serve the site
 - An Eastern Randolph Water District is planned
 - Switch treatment methods for Ramseur
 - No long-term wastewater solution found in Eastern Randolph
- \$75M for wastewater improvements (contingent on Sanford operating) (including wastewater treatment plant expansion)
 - Recently upgraded permit from 4MGD to 6MGD.
- Needs more water and wastewater capacity for future needs

NEIGHBORING EXAMPLES AND CHALLENGES

How?



GUIDING PRINCIPALS

1. Data Driven
2. Practically Achievable
3. Creative

APPROACH & EXPECTATIONS

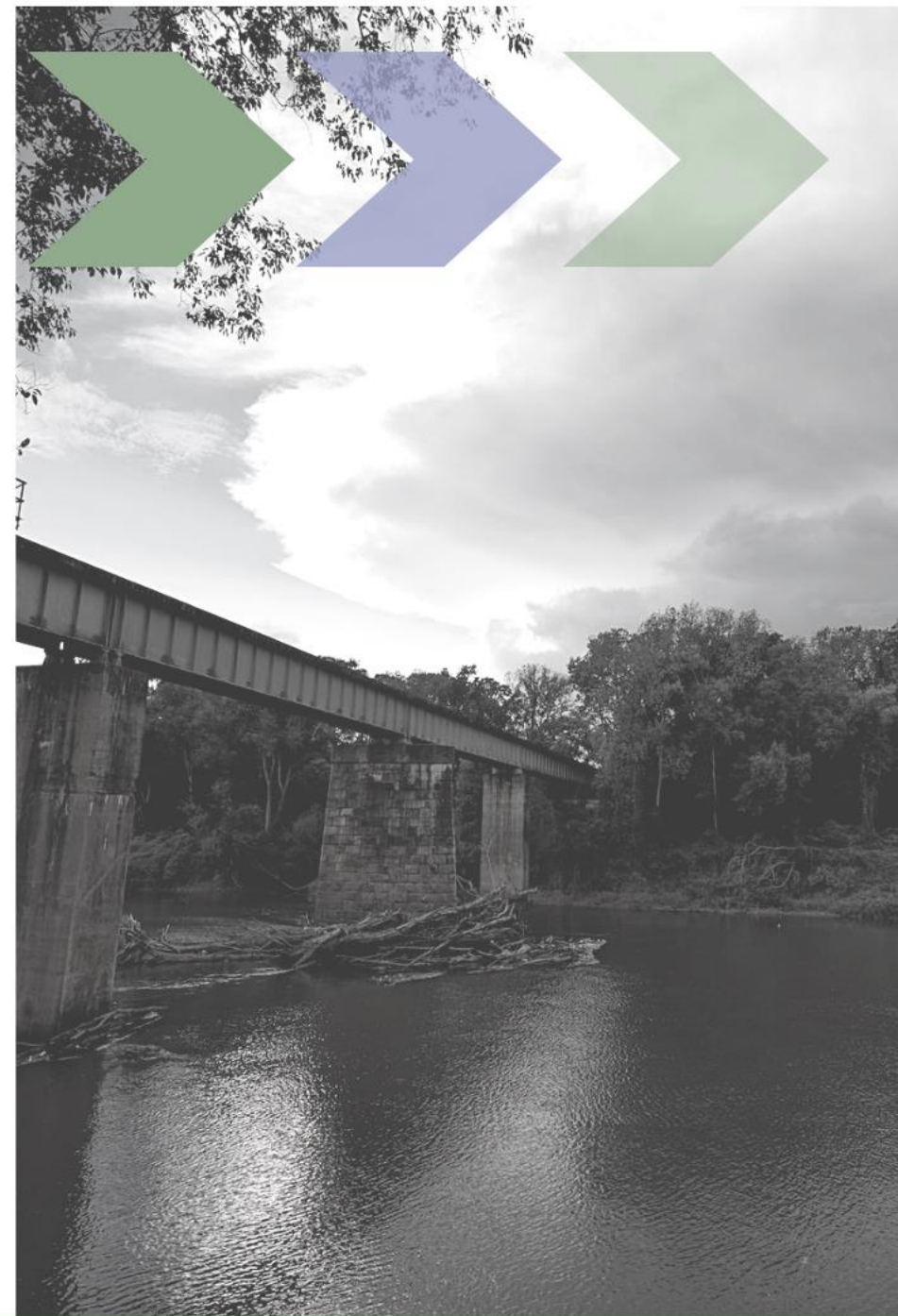
- Examples of what is possible. A “first step” in building a strategy.
 - Secondary studies are necessary to operationalize recommendations.
- It is not intended to be a mandate or ultimatum for LGUs.
- Cooperation among municipalities can be difficult.
- Highlight shared interests among all decision-makers.



How?

STUDY CONSIDERATIONS

- Evaluate water and wastewater capacity and treatment
 - Impairments in the stream
 - Nutrient loading capacity
 - Impact of announced (indirect/induced) projects
- Identify opportunities for interconnections and consolidation
 - Potential governing options
- Mitigate impact of emerging contaminants
- Utilize best practices surrounding environmental justice
- Increase environmental sustainability



How?



DELIVERABLES

- At least 3 regional strategies informed by learned opportunities and challenges from the study.
- Comprehensive assessment of existing infrastructure
- Environmental Impact analysis
- Rough Order of Magnitude costing for strategies (operational/capital)
- Environmental justice analysis
- Potential policy changes

LIMITS & ASSUMPTIONS

- Relying on Water Supply Plans
- Reviewing Inspection Reports/Interviewing facilities: No on-the-ground inspections.
- Unsure what additional projects will be
- Additional studies necessary for true financial impact for capital projects and operations.



EXAMPLE :

WOLFSPEED: 1,800 JOBS

Direct Jobs by New Regional Residents: 829

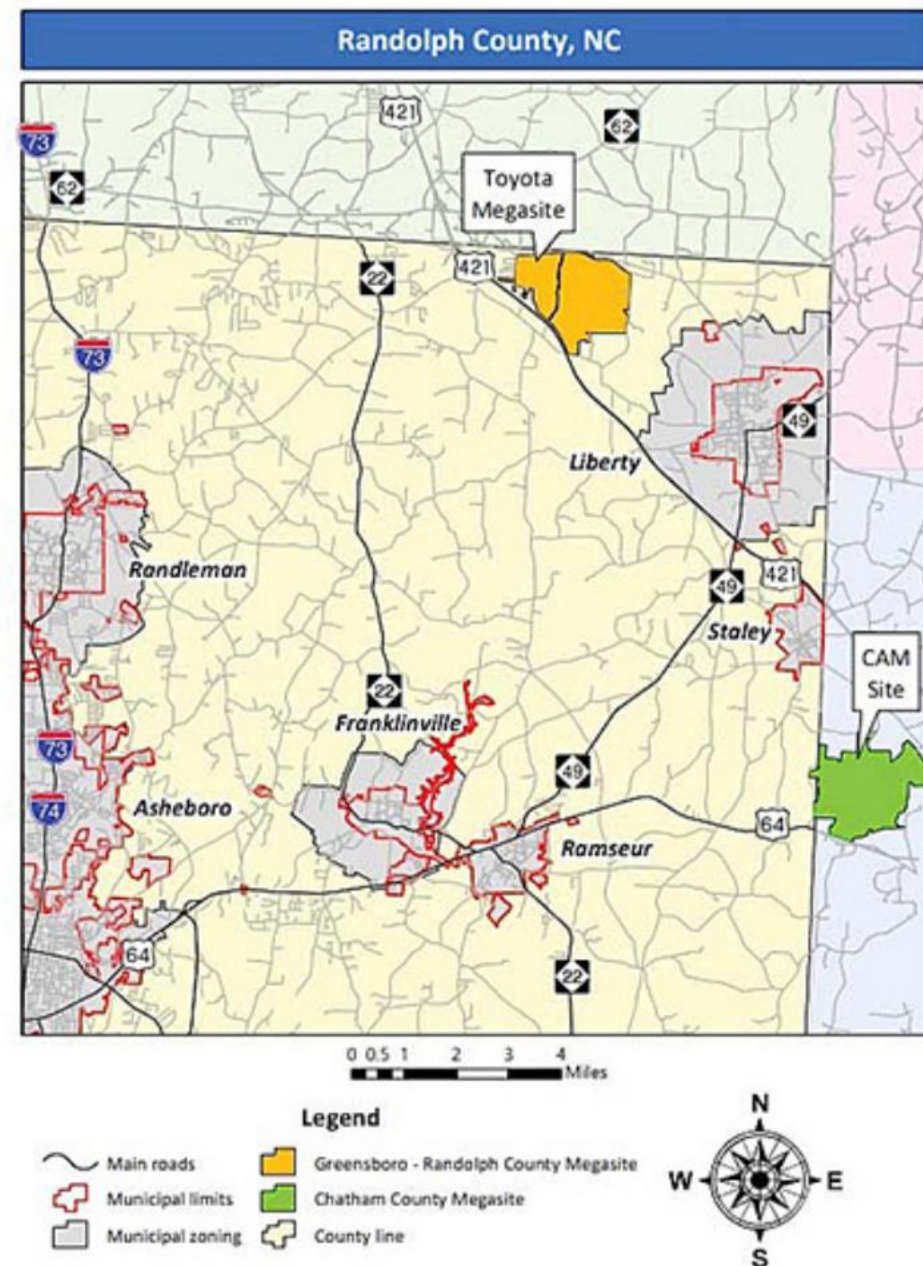
Indirect Jobs by New Regional Residents: 1,079

Induced Jobs by New Regional Residents: 957

REGIONAL JOBS: 2,866

**Regional is defined as the 7 county region

- *How many new homes will this require? Where will they go?*
- *What types of businesses will serve Wolfspeed in the region?*
- *What potential wastewater constituents will new businesses require?*
- *What kind of growth was originally planned for?*
- *Where might be the greatest need for industrial wastewater?*



CONTACT INFORMATION



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