

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 307  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/23/97

Short Title: Environmentally Sound Policy Act.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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February 24, 1997

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENACT THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND POLICY ACT (ESP)  
3 AND TO PROVIDE A MENU OF MEASURES TO PROTECT HEALTH AND  
4 THE ENVIRONMENT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Environmentally  
7 Sound Policy Act of 1997 (ESP)".

8 Section 2. Article 67 of Chapter 106 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

9 "ARTICLE 67.

10 "Swine Farms.

11 "§ 106-800. Title.

12 This Article shall be known as the 'Swine Farm Siting Act'.

13 "§ 106-801. Purpose.

14 The General Assembly finds that certain limitations on the siting of swine houses and  
15 lagoons for swine farms can assist in the development of pork production, which  
16 contributes to the economic development of the State, by lessening the interference with  
17 the use and enjoyment of adjoining property.

18 "§ 106-802. Definitions.

19 As used in this Article, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- 1 (1a) 'Intensive animal feeding operation' means a new or enlarged swine  
2 farm with a design capacity of more than 800,000 pounds steady state  
3 live weight.
- 4 (1) 'Lagoon' means a confined body of water to hold animal byproducts  
5 including bodily waste from animals or a mixture of waste with feed,  
6 bedding, litter or other agricultural materials.
- 7 (2) Repealed by Session Laws 1997 (Regular Session, 1996), c. 626, s. 7.
- 8 (3) 'Occupied residence' means a dwelling actually inhabited by a person on  
9 a continuous basis as exemplified by a person living in his or her home.
- 10 (3a) 'Outdoor recreational facility' means any plot or tract of land on which  
11 there is located an outdoor swimming pool, tennis court, or golf course  
12 that is open to either the general public or to the members and guests of  
13 any organization having 100 or more members.
- 14 (4) 'Site evaluation' means an investigation to determine if a site meets all  
15 federal and State standards as evidenced by the Waste Management  
16 Facility Site Evaluation Report on file with the Soil and Water  
17 Conservation District office or a comparable report certified by a  
18 professional engineer or a comparable report certified by a technical  
19 specialist approved by the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation  
20 Commission.

21 ~~Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources~~

- 22 (5) 'Swine farm' means a tract of land devoted to raising 250 or more  
23 animals of the porcine species.
- 24 (6) 'Swine house' means a building that shelters porcine animals on a  
25 continuous basis.

26 **"§ 106-803. Siting requirements for swine houses, lagoons, and land areas onto**  
27 **which waste is applied at swine farms.**

- 28 (a) A swine house or a lagoon that is a component of a swine farm shall be ~~located~~  
29 located:
- 30 (1) ~~at~~ At least 1,500 feet from any occupied residence;
- 31 (2) ~~at~~ At least 2,500 feet from any school, hospital, national or State park or  
32 forest, wildlife refuge, fragile or historic area, or outdoor recreational  
33 facility, or church;
- 34 (3) At least 1,320 feet from any surface waters of the State;
- 35 (4) At least 1,000 feet from any property boundary for any new or enlarged  
36 swine farm with a design capacity of at least 500,000 pounds steady  
37 state live weight;
- 38 (5) At least 1,500 feet from any property boundary for any new or enlarged  
39 swine farm with a design capacity of more than 1,000,000 pounds  
40 steady state live weight;
- 41 (6) ~~at~~ At least 500 feet from any property boundary-~~boundary~~ or public or  
42 private drinking water supply.

1 (a1) The outer perimeter of the land area onto which waste is applied from a lagoon  
2 that is a component of a swine farm shall be at least 50 feet from any boundary of  
3 property on which an occupied residence is located from any perennial stream or river,  
4 other than an irrigation ditch or canal.

5 (a2) No component of a liquid animal waste management system for which a permit  
6 is required under Part 1A of Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, other than  
7 a land application site, shall be constructed on land that is located within the 100-year  
8 floodplain.

9 (b) A swine house or a lagoon that is a component of a swine farm may be located  
10 closer to a residence, school, hospital, church, or a property boundary than is allowed  
11 under subsection (a) of this section if written permission is given by the owner of the  
12 property and recorded with the Register of Deeds.

13 **"§ 106-804. Enforcement.**

14 (a) Any person ~~owning~~ who owns property directly affected by the siting  
15 requirements of G.S. 106-803 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may bring a civil  
16 action against a swine farmer who has violated G.S. 106-803 and may seek any one or  
17 more of the following:

- 18 (1) Injunctive relief.
- 19 (2) An order enforcing the siting requirements under G.S. 106-803.
- 20 (3) Damages caused by the violation.

21 (b) A person is directly affected by the siting requirements of G.S. 106-803 only if  
22 the person ~~owns~~ owns a facility or property located less than the siting requirements  
23 specified under G.S. 106-803.

- 24 (1) ~~An occupied residence located less than 1,500 feet from a swine house~~  
25 ~~or lagoon in violation of G.S. 106-803.~~
- 26 (2) ~~A school, hospital, or church located less than 2,500 feet from a swine~~  
27 ~~house or lagoon in violation of G.S. 106-803.~~
- 28 (3) ~~Property whose boundary is located less than 500 feet from a swine~~  
29 ~~house or lagoon in violation of G.S. 106-803.~~
- 30 (4) ~~Property on which an occupied residence is located and whose boundary~~  
31 ~~is less than 50 feet from the outer perimeter of the land area onto which~~  
32 ~~waste is applied from a lagoon that is a component of a swine farm in~~  
33 ~~violation of G.S. 106-803.~~
- 34 (5) ~~Property that abuts a perennial stream or river, or on which a perennial~~  
35 ~~stream or river is located, and that property and that perennial stream or~~  
36 ~~river are less than 50 feet from the outer perimeter of the land area onto~~  
37 ~~which waste is applied from a lagoon that is a component of a swine~~  
38 ~~farm in violation of G.S. 106-803.~~

39 (c) If the court determines it is appropriate, the court may award court costs,  
40 including reasonable attorneys' fees and expert witnesses' fees, to any party. If a  
41 temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction is sought, the court may require the  
42 filing of a bond or equivalent security. The court shall determine the amount of the bond  
43 or security.

1 (d) Nothing in this section shall restrict any other right that any person may have  
2 under any statute or common law to seek injunctive or other relief.

3 **"§ 106-805. Written notice of swine farms.**

4 Any person who intends to construct a swine farm whose animal waste management  
5 system is subject to a permit under Part 1A of Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General  
6 Statutes shall, after completing a site evaluation and before the farm site is modified,  
7 ~~attempt to notify all adjoining property owners and owners,~~ all property owners who own  
8 property located across a public road, street, or highway from the swine ~~farm-farm,~~ the  
9 county or counties in which the farm site is located, and the local health departments of  
10 that person's intent to construct the swine farm. This notice shall be by certified mail sent  
11 to the address on record at the property tax office in the county in which the land is  
12 located. The written notice shall include all of the following:

- 13 (1) The name and address of the person intending to construct a swine farm.
- 14 (2) The type of swine farm and the design capacity of the animal waste  
15 management system.
- 16 (3) The name and address of the technical specialist preparing the waste  
17 management plan.
- 18 (4) The address of the local Soil and Water Conservation District office.
- 19 (5) Information informing the adjoining property owners and the property  
20 owners who own property located across a public road, street, or  
21 highway from the swine farm that they may submit written comments to  
22 the Division of Water Quality, Department of Environment, Health, and  
23 Natural Resources.

24 Prior to issuing a permit for an intensive animal feeding operation, the Department shall  
25 conduct a public hearing at the applicant's expense if the Department receives at least 20  
26 written requests for the public hearing from persons who live within one mile of the  
27 proposed site."

28 Section 2.1. G.S. 143-215.107(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to  
29 read:

30 "(11) To develop and adopt standards and plans necessary to implement  
31 programs to control the emission of odors from animal operations, as  
32 defined in G.S. 143-215.10B."

33 Section 3. G.S. 143-215(e) is repealed.

34 Section 4. G.S. 153A-340 reads as rewritten:

35 **"§ 153A-340. Grant of power.**

36 (a) For the purpose of promoting health, safety, morals, or the general welfare, a  
37 county may regulate and restrict the height, number of stories and size of buildings and  
38 other structures, the percentage of lots that may be occupied, the size of yards, courts and  
39 other open spaces, the density of population, and the location and use of buildings,  
40 structures, and land for trade, industry, residence, or other purposes, and to provide  
41 density credits or severable development rights for dedicated rights-of-way pursuant to  
42 G.S. 136-66.10 or G.S. 136-66.11.

1 (b) These regulations may not affect bona fide farms, but any use of farm property  
2 for nonfarm purposes is subject to the regulations. Bona fide farm purposes include the  
3 production and activities relating or incidental to the production of crops, fruits,  
4 vegetables, ornamental and flowering plants, dairy, livestock, poultry, and all other forms  
5 of agricultural products having a domestic or foreign market. These regulations may  
6 apply to intensive animal feeding operations, as defined in G.S. 106-802. An intensive  
7 animal feeding operation is not a farm for the purpose of this Part.

8 (c) The regulations may provide that a board of adjustment may determine and  
9 vary their application in harmony with their general purpose and intent and in accordance  
10 with general or specific rules therein contained. The regulations may also provide that  
11 the board of adjustment or the board of commissioners may issue special use permits or  
12 conditional use permits in the classes of cases or situations and in accordance with the  
13 principles, conditions, safeguards, and procedures specified therein and may impose  
14 reasonable and appropriate conditions and safeguards upon these permits. Where  
15 appropriate, the conditions may include requirements that street and utility rights-of-way  
16 be dedicated to the public and that recreational space be provided. When issuing or  
17 denying special use permits or conditional use permits, the board of commissioners shall  
18 follow the procedures for boards of adjustment except that no vote greater than a majority  
19 vote shall be required for the board of commissioners to issue such permits, and every  
20 such decision of the board of commissioners shall be subject to review by the superior  
21 court by proceedings in the nature of certiorari.

22 (d) A county may regulate the development over estuarine waters and over lands  
23 covered by navigable waters owned by the State pursuant to G.S. 146-12, within the  
24 bounds of that county.

25 (e) For the purpose of this section, the term 'structures' shall include floating  
26 homes.

27 (f) Any petition for review by the superior court shall be filed with the clerk of  
28 superior court within 30 days after the decision of the board of commissioners is filed in  
29 such office as the ordinance specifies, or after a written copy thereof is delivered to every  
30 aggrieved party who has filed a written request for such copy with the clerk at the time of  
31 the hearing of the case, whichever is later. The decision of the board of commissioners  
32 may be delivered to the aggrieved party either by personal service or by registered mail  
33 or certified mail return receipt requested."

34 Section 5. A zoning regulation applicable to intensive animal feeding  
35 operations adopted by a board of county commissioners prior to the date Section 4 of this  
36 act becomes effective is hereby retroactively validated.

37 Section 6. There is established a one-year moratorium for any new or  
38 expanding swine farm or lagoon for which a permit is required under Part 1A of Chapter  
39 143 of the General Statutes for any area in the State that: (i) has a county population of  
40 less than 75,000 according to the most recent decennial federal census; (ii) has over one  
41 hundred fifty million dollars (\$150,000,000) on expenditures for travel and tourism based  
42 on the most recent figures of the Department of Commerce; and (iii) is not in the coastal  
43 area as defined by G.S. 113A-103. Effective 1 January 1997, until the expiration of a

1 one-year period beginning on the date this act becomes effective, the Environmental  
2 Management Commission shall not issue a permit for an animal waste management  
3 system, as defined in G.S. 143-215.10B, or for a new or expanded swine farm or lagoon,  
4 as defined in G.S. 106-802.

5 Section 7. There is established a one-year moratorium on the construction or  
6 expansion of swine farms and lagoons. The Environmental Management Commission  
7 shall not issue a permit for an animal waste management system, as defined in G.S. 143-  
8 215.10B, for a new or expanded swine farm or lagoon, as defined in G.S. 106-802, for a  
9 one-year period beginning on the date this act becomes effective except as provided by  
10 this section. This section prohibits the construction or expansion of an animal waste  
11 management system for a swine farm for one year from the date this act becomes  
12 effective regardless of the date on which a site evaluation for the swine farm is completed  
13 and regardless of whether the animal waste management system is permitted under Part  
14 1A of Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes or deemed permitted under 15A  
15 North Carolina Administrative Code 2H.0217 but does not prohibit:

- 16 (1) Construction to repair a component of an existing swine farm or lagoon.
- 17 (2) Construction to replace a component of an existing swine farm or  
18 lagoon if the replacement does not result in an increase in swine  
19 population, except as provided in subdivision (4) of this section.
- 20 (3) Construction or expansion, if the person undertaking the construction or  
21 expansion of the swine farm, lagoon, or animal waste management  
22 system has, prior to the effective date of this section, either:
  - 23 a. Entered into a bona fide contract to purchase land, materials, or  
24 equipment for the construction or expansion; or
  - 25 b. Been approved for a loan or line of credit from a lending  
26 institution to finance the construction or expansion and has  
27 obligated or expended funds derived from the loan or line of  
28 credit.
- 29 (4) Construction or expansion on or after the date this act becomes law for  
30 the purpose of increasing the swine population to the projected  
31 population or to the population that the animal waste management  
32 system serving that swine farm is designed to accommodate, as set forth  
33 in a registration of the swine operation filed with the Department of  
34 Environment, Health, and Natural Resources before the date this act  
35 becomes law.
- 36 (5) Construction or expansion on or after the date this act becomes law for  
37 the purpose of complying with applicable animal waste management  
38 rules and not for the purpose of increasing the swine population.

39 Section 8. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, Section 2 of  
40 this act is effective when it becomes law and applies to the construction or enlargement,  
41 on or after the effective date of this act, of swine houses, lagoons, and land areas onto  
42 which waste is applied from a lagoon that are components of a swine farm. Section 2 of

1 this act does not apply under each of the following circumstances when the construction  
2 or enlargement occurs on or after the effective date of this act:

3 (1) For the purpose of increasing the swine population to that set forth as  
4 the projected population in a registration of the swine operation filed  
5 with the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources  
6 prior to the effective date of this act.

7 (2) For the purpose of increasing the swine population to the population  
8 that the animal waste management system is designed to accommodate  
9 as that system is set forth in a registration of the swine operation filed  
10 with the Department of Environment, Health, and Natural Resources, or  
11 an animal waste management plan approved prior to the effective date  
12 of this act.

13 (3) For the purpose of complying with applicable animal waste  
14 management rules and not for the purpose of increasing the swine  
15 population.

16 (b) Section 1 and Sections 3 through 8 of this act are effective when this act  
17 becomes law. Section 1, Sections 3 through 8, and the provisions of Section 2 of this act  
18 applicable to intensive animal feeding operations as defined in G.S. 106-802, as amended  
19 by Section 2 of this act, apply to any intensive animal feeding operation for which  
20 construction began on or after 1 January 1997, regardless of the date on which the site  
21 evaluation was completed.

22 (c) Section 2.1 of this act is effective when it becomes law. The  
23 Environmental Management Commission shall publish the text of a proposed rule to  
24 regulate the emission of odors from animal operations under G.S. 143-215.107(11), as  
25 enacted by Section 2.1 of this act, within six months of the date on which the North  
26 Carolina Agricultural Research Service at North Carolina State University issues its final  
27 report on economically feasible odor control technologies as provided in Section 27.3 of  
28 Chapter 18 of the 1995 Session Laws (1996 Second Extra Session) and in any event, not  
29 later than 1 May 1998. The Environmental Management Commission shall adopt a rule  
30 to regulate the emission of odors from animal waste management systems within one  
31 year of the date the Commission publishes the text of a proposed rule as required by this  
32 subsection and in any event, not later than 1 May 1999. The Board of Governors of The  
33 University of North Carolina shall present its final report and recommendations on  
34 economically feasible odor control technologies to the Environmental Review  
35 Commission and the Environmental Management Commission not later than 1 November  
36 1997.