

- 1) Pursuant to DNR Rule 391-3-7.05, buffer variance applications will be reviewed by the Director only where the applicant provides reasonable evidence that impacts to the buffer have been avoided or minimized to the fullest extent practicable and only for the following criteria:
- (a) The project involves the construction or repair of an existing infrastructure project or a structure that, by its nature, must be located within the buffer. Such structures include, but are not limited to dams, public water supply intake structures, detention/retention ponds, waste water discharges, docks including access ways, boat launches including access ways, and stabilization of areas of public access to water; or
  - (b) The project will result in the restoration or enhancement to improve water quality and/or aquatic habitat quality; or
  - (c) Buffer intrusion is necessary to provide reasonable access to a property or properties; or
  - (d) The intrusion is for water and sewer lines that cannot reasonably be placed outside the buffer, and stream crossings and vegetative disturbance are minimized; or
  - (e) Crossing for utility lines, including but not limited to gas, liquid, power, telephone, and other pipelines, provided that the number of crossings and the amount of vegetative disturbance are minimized; or
  - (f) Recreational foot trails and viewing areas, providing that impacts to the buffer are minimal; or
  - (g) The project involves construction of one (1) single family home for residential use by the owner of the subject property and, at the time of adoption of this rule, there is no opportunity to develop the home under any reasonable design configuration unless a buffer variance is granted. Variances will be considered for such single family homes only if construction is initiated or local government approval is obtained prior to January 10, 2005; or
  - (h) For non-trout waters, the proposed land disturbing activity within the buffer will require a permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972, 33 U.S.C. Section 1344, and the Corps of Engineers has approved a mitigation plan to be implemented as a condition of such a permit; or
  - (i) For non-trout waters, a plan is provided for buffer intrusion that shows that, even with the proposed land disturbing activity within the buffer, the completed project will result in maintained or improved water quality downstream of the project; or
  - (j) For non-trout waters, the project with a proposed land disturbing activity within the buffer is located in, or upstream and within ten linear miles of, a stream segment listed as impaired under Section 303(d) of the federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972, 33 U.S.C. Section 1313(d) and a plan is provided that shows that the completed project will result in maintained or improved water quality in such listed stream segment and that the project has no adverse impact relative to the pollutants of concern in such stream segment; or
  - (k) The proposed land disturbing activity within the buffer is not eligible for a permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendment of 1972, 33 U.S.C. Section 1344, but includes required mitigation in accordance with the current EPD Buffer Mitigation Guidance document, and involves:
    - (1) piping, filling or re-routing of non-trout waters that are not jurisdictional Waters of the U.S.; or
    - (2) stream buffer impacts due to new infrastructure projects adjacent to State waters (jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional Waters of the U.S.). This criterion shall not apply to maintenance and/or modification to existing infrastructure, which are covered under 391-3-7.05(2)(a).