

Impact Assessment in North Carolina: A Case Study

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A broader research project

How can the legal system promote policies that are **cost-effective**, **sustainable**, **fair**, and that **work as intended**?

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Impact Assessment

action-forcing mechanism:



Impact Assessment

Two basic tools: **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** and **Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)**

Diffusion to countries and states

From “look before you leap” to “**look back**”

Impact Assessment in North Carolina

Both EIA (EIS) and RIA (Fiscal Note), but **narrow triggers**

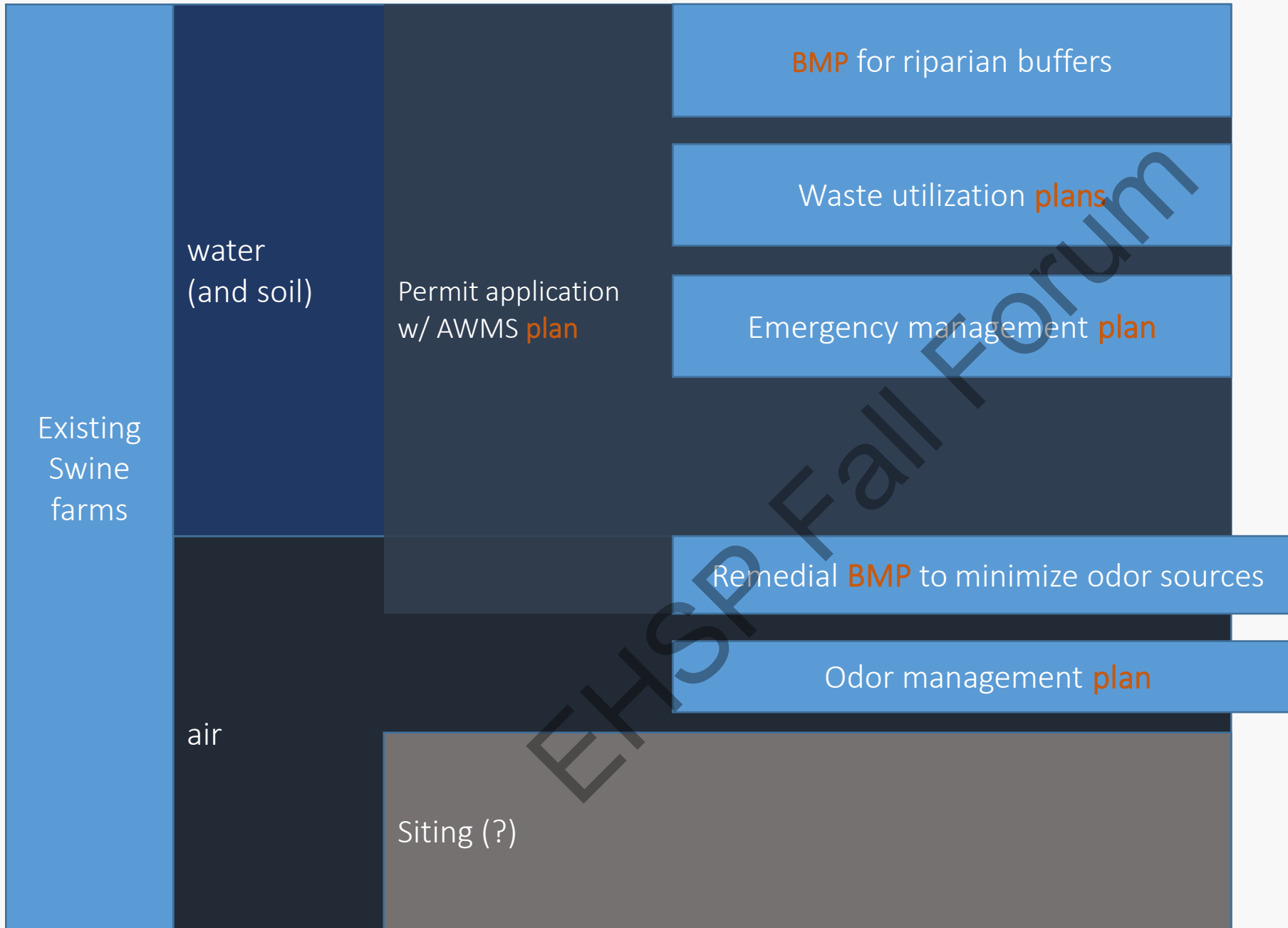
EIA only for actions involving **public money** or affecting **public land**

RIA for proposed rules with substantial **economic impact** (costs)

Regulatory **oversight** body: OSBM

Periodic “review” of existing rules

Environmental regulation of swine farms in North Carolina



If complaint + finding of objectionable odor: **Best management plan**

If plan failure: [Economically feasible] **Odor control technology proposal**

AFOs and access to information



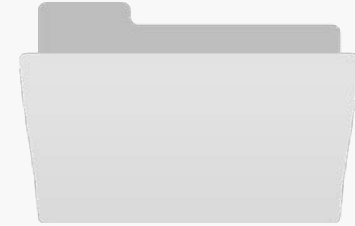
Implementation
plans



Complaints,
responses, and
enforcement
actions



Annual
inspection
reports



Stats and info on
enforcement
actions;
cumulative
impacts

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Improving the NC IA system and – indirectly – the
environmental regulation of hog farms

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Reforming and expanding IA

Expand **triggers**, **integrate**, and adopt detailed **guidelines**

Better **reporting** by oversight bodies

Adopt **ex post IA** (or even better, continual-adaptive IA)

Implement **open government** principles

Challenges: depend on **political** will, new institutional **culture**, **training**, risk perception of “ossification” and deregulatory bias

Building a network of continual-adaptive policy knowledge

The transformative force of IA: **contrast** with **information**

Overcoming fragmentation of analysis

Exploring **networks** of information and Web 2.0 technologies

Policy oriented: **combining** new **tools** with **IA framework**

Proposal

Build a collaborative, continual, and adaptive network of scientific, policy, and legal knowledge, combining Web 2.0 tools (a Wiki platform) and the framework of IA.

Thank you

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