

EPA PFAS Community Engagement Meeting

Community Panel Presentation:
North Carolina Nonprofit Environmental
Advocacy Groups

Fayetteville, NC
August 14, 2018

Thank you EPA

- To the regional office of research and development (ORD) for the support of our state and specifically our DEQ during this contamination crisis
- For providing communities a forum to learn and be heard on the impacts of PFAS contamination on people and the environment

Organizations Represented



The Cape Fear River



Credit: Alan Cradick

Wilmington Star News, June 7, 2017

Toxin taints CFPUA drinking water

WILMINGTON -- A chemical replacement for a key ingredient in Teflon linked to cancer and a host of other ailments has been found in the drinking water system of the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority (CFPUA), which cannot filter it.

History

- 1980 - Contamination begins with Dupont – GenX released as a byproduct
- Around 2000 - DuPont begins manufacture of Teflon using C8 (PFOA); GenX will be its replacement
- 2009 consent order requires all wastewater from GenX manufacture is captured; it's still being released as a byproduct



Credit: WUNC

“Discovery”

- 2012 - GenX first discovered in Cape Fear River, study published 2015
- 2016 - Sun et. al paper published, confirms GenX & 6 other PFAS in Cape Fear River
- 2017 - The public learns of near 40-year contamination of drinking water of 250,000 residents
- As of July 2018 - DEQ is analyzing 25 PFAS found in our water

ENVIRONMENTAL
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Letter
pubs.acs.org/journal/estlcu

Legacy and Emerging Perfluoroalkyl Substances Are Important Drinking Water Contaminants in the Cape Fear River Watershed of North Carolina

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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Long-chain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are being replaced by short-chain PFASs and fluorinated alternatives. For ten legacy PFASs and seven recently discovered perfluoroalkyl ether carboxylic acids (PFECAs), we report (1) their occurrence in the Cape Fear River (CFR) watershed, (2) their fate in water treatment processes, and (3) their adsorbability on powdered activated carbon (PAC). In the headwater region of the CFR basin, PFECAs were not detected in raw water of a drinking water treatment plant (DWTP), but concentrations of legacy PFASs were high. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's

Point & non-point sources

A B C

Legacy PFASs

PFPrOPrA ("GenX")

PFAS Concentration (ng/L)

Fluorochemical Manufacturer

PFPrOPrA ("GenX")

Widespread Impacts



Credit: Wilmington Star News

- Surface water discharge contaminated the drinking water supply for 250,000 people
- Airborne pollutants further impact surface water, groundwater, agriculture, fish, and even honey
- Well testing to date shows 763 private wells are contaminated
- Rainwater contaminated as far away as Wilmington (>70 miles)

Corporate Misconduct

- Long history of mismanagement by DuPont and spin-off, Chemours
- Long-term and ongoing inaccurate reporting of air and water discharge
- Failure to report spills, upsets, accidents, etc.
- Unwillingness to acknowledge impacted communities
- Corporate interference in federal and state policy making



Community Awareness



- Community forums including local scientists, utility representatives, DEQ / DHHS, academia, and public health experts
- Intensive media coverage, including state-wide and national attention
- Considerable interest by local, state, and national elected officials

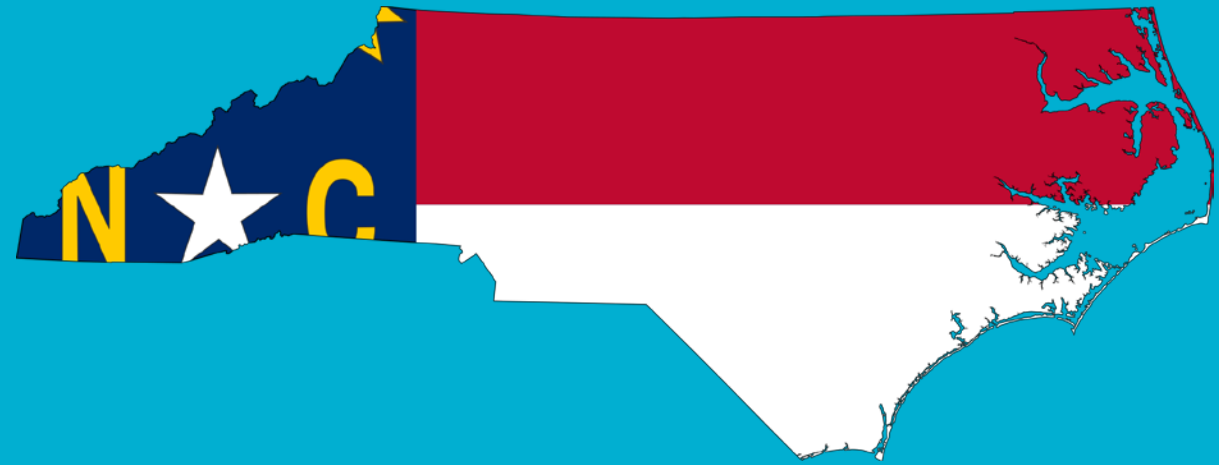
Community Action



- Multiple community action groups form in Wilmington and Fayetteville areas
- Several lawsuits filed
- Environmental advocates lobby for legislative support of underfunded DEQ and for DEQ action
- Numerous community meetings and rallies held
- Hundreds of stories published in local, national media
- Participation in human health exposure study

What NC Needs from the EPA

1. Provide interim support to states
2. Require industry accountability
3. Prevent PFAS use in military and civilian firefighting foam and gear
4. Apply the Precautionary Principal



So what does that mean?

Provide Interim Support to States

- Consider all compounds in PFAS family as a class when determining regulatory action
- Provide states with standardized PFAS test methods for surface and wastewater
- Lower the standard detection level to 10 ppt in accordance with health protective levels recommended by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the EPA

Provide Interim Support to States

- Fully disclose extent of the PFAS problem to the public and state regulatory bodies, including:
 - Sources of known or potential PFAS contamination, including waste water treatment sludge
 - Potential health effects of PFAS contamination
 - PFAS prevalence in the environment
 - Industrial processes that may create PFAS as a byproduct
- Conduct a national PFAS health study

Provide Interim Support to States

- Ban any new PFAS manufacturing requests
- Add PFAS chemicals to the Toxics Release Inventory
- List PFAS as hazardous substances under the Clean Water Act
- Make TSCA conditions on manufacture of a PFAS applicable to byproducts

Demand Industry Accountability

- History shows voluntary compliance is not realistic or effective
- Require FULL disclosure of ANY and ALL PFAS discharges into the environment
- Require full disclosure of all animal and human toxicological studies conducted/contracted by industry
- Eliminate the ability of industry to substitute one PFAS with another PFAS in production



Polluter Pays

- Industry must be held financially responsible for environmental contamination, including:
 - Remediation on and off site
 - Effective filtration systems at individual or utility scale when drinking water impacted
 - Human health studies
 - Environmental sampling
 - Ongoing monitoring



Protect Firefighters and Families

- Halt use of all PFAS in Aqueous Film Forming Foam and firefighting gear for military and civilian use
- Adopt the safe, effective alternatives used abroad
- Remediate contaminated practice facilities where PFAS contamination threatens communities
- Eliminate industry influence in selection of firefighting materials



Implement the Internationally Recognized Precautionary Principle

“When an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment, precautionary measures should be taken even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In this context the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof.”

--Wingspread Conference Statement on the Precautionary Principle, Jan. 1998



CAPE FEAR SURFRIDER PRESENTS

What's in Our Water?



DANA SARGENT
Cape Fear River Watch
Campaign Head



JIM FLECHTNER
Executive Director of Cape Fear
Public Utility Authority



DR. JANE HOPPIN
NC State Biological
Sciences Professor



DR. JAMIE DEWITT
ECU Pharmacology &
Toxicology Professor



DR. SUSANNE BRANDER
OSU Environmental Toxicology
& Chemistry Professor



DR. LARRY CAHOON
UNCW Biology &
Marine Biology Professor

A panel discussion at CFCC Union Station Auditorium, 6.7, 6:30pm

