



Water Works

October 2022



Clearly Better Water is Here Today!

It was a moment five years in the making: This month, CFPUA announced that new Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters are online at the Sweeney Water Treatment Plant.

FIND OUT ABOUT:

[Sweeney Treatment Enhancements Project](#)

[CFPUA Online Accounts](#)

As of October 11, 100 percent of water leaving the Sweeney Plant is being treated by the GAC.

Testing has detected no PFAS, including GenX, in drinking water treated at the Sweeney Plant and distributed to customers. CFPUA will continue its ongoing program to monitor PFAS levels in raw (untreated) and finished (treated) water at Sweeney.

CFPUA staff and local leaders gathered this month at Sweeney to celebrate this major milestone for our community. See pictures from the event below, and read on for Frequently Asked Questions about the project:

[2021 Drinking Water Quality Report](#)



Click the icon above to sign up for news and alerts from CFPUA through [Notify Me](#).

CONTACT US

Customer Service: (910) 332-6550

Engineering: (910) 332-6560

Human Resources: (910) 332-6570

Water Conservation Hotline: (910) 332-6566

Water/Sewer Emergencies: (910) 332-6565

Email: communications@cfpua.org





Frequently Asked Questions: PFAS and Sweeney

How can I find out if my home is served by the Sweeney Plant?

Visit www.CFPUA.org/MyWaterSystem and enter your address.

What are the Sweeney Plant upgrades?

Eight new Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters have been added to Sweeney Water Treatment Plant. These deep-bed filters hold nearly 3,000,000 pounds of GAC combined and can treat up to 44 million gallons per day.

How do the GAC filters work?

GAC works through a process called adsorption, with a “d” as opposed to the more commonly known absorption, with a “b”.

Absorption is how a sponge works: Compounds you want to remove are distributed throughout the absorbing material. In adsorption, the compounds you want to remove bind to the surface molecules of the adsorbing material. And GAC offers an astounding amount of surface area: One pound of GAC has more than 35 acres of surface – almost 100 football fields’ worth.

How much PFAS is being removed by the GAC?

As of October 2022, 100 percent of the water leaving the Sweeney Plant is being treated by the new GAC filters. Testing detected no PFAS, including GenX, in drinking water treated at the Sweeney Plant and distributed to customers.

CFPUA will continue its ongoing program to monitor PFAS levels in raw (untreated) and finished (treated) water at Sweeney. [Results are posted regularly at CFPUA.org.](#)

Where can I learn more?

[Visit CFPUA.org/Sweeney](#) to learn more about the project, common PFAS terms, our latest water testing results, and CFPUA's lawsuit against Chemours and DuPont.

Water Art Contest Deadline Extended to 11/15



The deadline for the [CFPUA Value of Water Art Contest](#) has been extended until Tuesday, November 15!

Local K-12 students can submit an original drawing, painting, photograph, or other artwork that answers the question, “What Does Water Mean to You?” Winners will be featured in a 2023 calendar and on WECT, and receive a certificate and swag bag.

[Artworks can be submitted using this online form](#), emailed to Communications@CFPUA.org, or delivered in-person or mailed to: CFPUA Communications Department, [235 Government Center Drive, Wilmington, N.C. 28403](#).

CFPUA Deputy Director Joins EPA for Clean Water Act's 50th Anniversary Celebration



In 1972, one of our nation's most transformative pieces of environmental legislation became law: the Clean Water Act. On October 18, CFPUA Deputy Director for Environmental Management and Sustainability Beth Eckert joined US EPA Administrator Michael Regan, EPA Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox, and other water leaders to celebrate the law's 50th anniversary.

The celebration marking 50 years of the Clean Water Act took place on the banks of the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland. The burning of the highly polluted Cuyahoga in the 1960s was a major catalyst for the Clean Water Act and the establishment of the EPA.

Our nation's waterways have come a long way in 50 years, though there's more work to be done as we contend with emerging contaminants like PFAS and threats from climate change. Here's to another 50 years of progress for clean water!

[Watch the full celebration here.](#)

Customer Service Has a Can-Do Attitude!

Each year, CFPUA's Customer Service Department hosts a food drive culminating with Customer Service Week in October. This year's drive broke all records with an incredible 6,236 items!

CFPUA's donation to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina was so significant that the Food Bank sent a tractor-trailer to pick it up. The Food Bank tells us the total weighed in at 5,014 pounds, equating to 4,178 meals.

Thank you to our amazing staff for all they do to serve our community, on and off the clock.



Employee Spotlight

Each month we introduce you to one of the more than 300 employees at CFPUA who work to provide you with the best water and wastewater services.



Latasha Edney

Environmental Compliance Officer

Name: *Latasha Edney*

Birthplace: *Spindale, North Carolina*

Department/Division: *Environmental Management and Sustainability/Community Compliance*

Position: *Environmental Compliance Officer*

Length of employment: *9 years and 1 month*

Briefly describe your typical day at work: *My typical workday consists of: inspecting backflow prevention assemblies to ensure compliance with our cross-connection control*

regulations; reviewing and processing backflow permits, including coordinating with other departments to ensure meter sets; answering questions internally and externally about backflow prevention assemblies; and running the Special Water Use Hydrant Program.

What do you enjoy most about your job? *I enjoy working in the field as a change of scenery from the computer. I have some amazing coworkers that make it easy to enjoy my job. Our team supports one another, and our leadership is great.*

Tell us about one of your biggest accomplishments or challenges while working at CFPUA? *I recently passed the state exam to be a Backflow Cross-Connection Control ORC. That was a big accomplishment for me after studying for weeks and passing the hands-on practical.*

What advice would you give to recent new hires? *Learn everything you can. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Be a team player and work hard. Be motivated and set a goal for where you want to see yourself; CFPUA has so many opportunities.*

What's one thing you'd want customers to know about your department, position, or CFPUA in general? *I would want to let customers know that their Backflow Preventers need to be tested annually and the purpose of this requirement is to keep their drinking water safe.*

What do you like to do when you're not at work? *I am a mom to two awesome boys. I love to spend time with them. We spend a lot of our weekends at travel baseball tournaments. When I am not cheering at a baseball game, I enjoy spending time with friends that have become family.*

Copyright © 2022 CFPUA, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

SUBSCRIBE

Our mailing address is:

Cape Fear Public Utility Authority
[235 Government Center Dr](#)
[Wilmington, NC 28403-1670](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.