



November 2022



Chemours drops appeal after CFPUA intervenes

CFPUA, Chemours, and the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality signed an agreement on November 14, under which Chemours pledged to dismiss its appeal of a discharge permit meant to reduce the amount of the company's PFAS

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contamination entering the Cape Fear River.

On September 15, NCDEQ issued a final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Treatment System (NPDES) permit for a treatment system to remove PFAS compounds in contaminated groundwater and stormwater and water from seeps at Chemours' Fayetteville Works chemical manufacturing site.

Chemours appealed the permit on October 14, citing "uncertainty" in meeting discharge limits. On November 10, an N.C. administrative law judge [granted CFPUA's motion to intervene](#) in Chemours' appeal.

[Read more about what this permit will accomplish and CFPUA's intervention here.](#)

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CFPUA Wins Gold Award for Exceptional Performance



CFPUA Deputy Executive Directors Beth Eckert (center left) and John McLean (center right) accepted the AMWA Gold Award October 31 in Savannah.

Cape Fear Public Utility Authority has been awarded the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies' (AMWA) 2022 [Gold Award for Exceptional Utility Performance](#).

Each year, AMWA honors high-performing public water systems from across the United States with its top utility management awards. CFPUA is one of eight public utilities recognized this year, and the only winner in the Southeast.

The awards were presented October 31 at AMWA's 2022 Executive Management Conference in Savannah, Ga.

The Gold Award honors AMWA members that exhibit high levels of performance in product quality, customer satisfaction, employee and leadership development, operational optimization, financial viability, community sustainability, enterprise resiliency, infrastructure strategy and performance, stakeholder understanding and support, and water resource sustainability.

"An AMWA award epitomizes the highest achievement in drinking water utility management and operations," said AMWA CEO Tom Dobbins, CAE.

"Congratulations to this year's winners, who have demonstrated a commitment to serving their communities by supplying high-quality and safe drinking water while keeping service affordable and supporting the environment through sustainable efforts."

Moldovan Delegation Tours CFPUA Plants



Officials from the Republic of Moldova toured two Cape Fear Public Utility Authority treatment plants this month as part of a diplomatic visit to North Carolina.

The tour was sponsored by the U.S. Congressional Office for International Leadership, the N.C. Secretary of State's Office, and the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ). The Moldovan delegation included elected leaders and utility officials from several municipalities.

During a week-long trip to North Carolina, the delegation visited government and cultural sites across the state, including water, wastewater, and solid waste treatment facilities. This month, the group toured CFPUA's Northside Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Richardson Water Treatment Plant, followed by a meeting with CFPUA leadership.

CFPUA staff detailed the many processes that go into water and wastewater treatment at our facilities. Delegates also had the chance to ask about treatment plant staffing and automation, water and wastewater treatment standards in the United States, and how utilities such as CFPUA are responding to emerging drinking water contaminants, including PFAS.

“It was an honor to meet some of our international peers in water and wastewater treatment,” said CFPUA Deputy Executive Director Carel Vandermeijden. “Our utilities may deal with different political, environmental, and economic circumstances, but the goal is the same: providing the highest quality services possible to our communities.”

[For more information about the North Carolina-Moldova Partnership, click here.](#)

Getting Your Backflow Device Winter-Ready



If your home or business has an irrigation system, it also has what's known as a "backflow preventer."

Backflow preventers (pictured above) keep your sprinklers from backflowing into the public water system in the event of low water pressure. This stops bacteria and other contaminants that may be present in your irrigation system from entering water mains.

Because these devices are located outdoors, they are especially vulnerable to damage from a freeze.

We recommend protecting your backflow device with a fiberglass cover. Ahead of a freeze, close the valves on your backflow device and drain the water from the assembly.

Just be sure to turn your device back on when you resume irrigation in the spring.

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.



Cori Stukes
Customer Service Advocate

Name: *Cori Stukes*

Birthplace: *Wilmington, North Carolina*

Department/Division: *Customer Service*

Position: *Customer Service Advocate*

Length of employment: *6 months*

Briefly describe your typical day at work: *My job is answering inbound calls made by CFPUA's customers regarding their accounts. Calls can be in reference to a range of matters, from setting up new service to the property demolition process and everything in between.*

What do you enjoy most about your job? *I enjoy being able to assist customers with their different needs when they call in.*

Tell us about one of your biggest accomplishments or challenges while working at CFPUA? *In my short time here, I have earned a few superlatives (Attaboys) from customers I have assisted. Another big accomplishment would be the fact that I made it out of my probationary period and successfully became a regular employee.*

What advice would you give to recent new hires? *Overall, be coachable. Be able to learn on the fly and accept constructive criticism and turn it into an advantage for yourself.*

What's one thing you'd want customers to know about your department, position, or CFPUA in general? *First and foremost, CFPUA is a customer service company that provides water.*

What do you like to do when you're not at work? *As Commissioner of Football for the Coastal Bengals, I enjoy being around all my players as much as possible, especially during season. As a player myself in a former life, of course I enjoy watching football (Go Deacs, Go Ravens), and being around the game as much as I can!*

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