



Environmental
Quality

June 9, 2017

ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

Mr. James Flechtner, PE
Executive Director
Cape Fear Public Utility Authority
235 Government Center Drive
Wilmington, N.C. 28403

Dear Mr. Flechtner:

Thank you for your June 7 letter regarding the presence of poly-fluoroalkyl substances present in the Lower Cape Fear River. We certainly understand the public concerns surrounding this issue and are working with the EPA and others to better understand the chemical compound and any potential impacts it may have.

It is important that people know that drinking water from the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority and other utilities supplying consumers in the Lower Cape Fear Region meets all state and federal drinking water standards. Thank you for reinforcing that message with your customers and the media in the recent articles on this topic.

The EPA is the sole agency responsible for establishing drinking water standards nationwide. The federal agency has extensive resources necessary to determine the nature, extent and potential impacts of chemicals such as GenX. As such, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality is awaiting guidance from the EPA that will provide our agency with the information needed to begin developing regulatory limits for GenX.

We recognize that the regulatory process can sometimes take considerable time. While we are awaiting guidance from the EPA, staff in DEQ will be working with Chemours to assess waste streams containing GenX and determine if the company can reduce the amount of the chemical compound being discharged to the river. I am also working closely with staff and health experts at the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services to stay abreast of any new developments from the numerous interested stakeholders so we will be able to take swift action to address public health concerns.

Our No. 1 priority in DEQ is to protect public health and the environment. That is the mission that guides us. Please feel free to reach out to me at Sheila.Holman@ncdenr.gov or 919-707-8619 if you have questions, concerns or suggestions. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sheila Holman'.

Sheila Holman
Assistant Secretary for the Environment