

County of Brunswick
Office of the County Commissioners



RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO PREVENT DISCHARGES OF CONTAMINANTS NOT PROVEN TO BE SAFE INTO THE CAPE FEAR RIVER AND TO REVIEW ALL CAPE FEAR RIVER CURRENT AND PENDING DISCHARGE PERMITS

WHEREAS, in June 2017, Brunswick County learned that Chemours, an affiliate company formed by DuPont, was discharging a potentially harmful chemical known as GenX (used in the manufacture of Teflon and other non-stick products) into the Cape Fear River some 70 miles upstream of the County's water intake; and

WHEREAS, GenX is not filtered out by standard water treatment methods; and

WHEREAS, there are hundreds of existing emerging contaminants and chemicals in development, the safety of which have not been fully determined on human health or environmental health; and

WHEREAS, no public drinking water treatment process can guarantee complete removal of all existing and potential future contaminants, and all treatment processes result in filtering of substances that must then be safely removed, neutralized, or otherwise rendered safe to be discharged back into the river or upon the land; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Brunswick County's drinking water supply comes from the Cape Fear River, and other sources such as ground water supplies have limitations on their ability to meet raw water demands as a sole source, and are also subject to contamination by the same contaminants that surface waters are subject to; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly confers authority upon the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NC DEQ) to administer a complete program of water and air conservation and pollution abatement, and directs it to implement standards of water and air purity designed to protect human health and prevent injury to plant and animal life; and

WHEREAS, NC DEQ is responsible for administering the permit program regulating discharges into waters of the state and may not allow discharges of harmful substances or other wastes in amounts that would render the waters injurious to public health.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners calls upon NC DEQ to do the following:


1. Take a more active leadership role in monitoring, enforcing, and protecting our drinking water sources from harmful discharges.
2. Review all existing, future, and proposed discharges into the Cape Fear River Basin and to ensure that the waters are not injurious to the public health as raw water or as finished drinking water once subjected to traditional treatment processes.
3. Sample and monitor drinking water sources on a regular and long-term basis.
4. Work with entities that discharge chemicals into the waters of the state to prove their safety before allowing them into our water sources by prohibiting the discharge of contaminants where the health and environmental effects of a contaminant are not known, or there is insufficient information to establish a drinking water Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL).

This the 21st day of August, 2017.



Frank L. Williams, Chair
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:


Andrea White, Clerk

