

BRUNSWICK COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

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June 14, 2017

Mr. Michael S. Regan
Secretary of the NC Department of Environmental Quality
1601 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601

Dear Mr. Regan:

Brunswick County Public Utilities receives the majority of its raw water, which is then distributed to both individual customers and wholesale customers across the county, from the Cape Fear River. As you may be aware, recent media reports have discussed studies showing the presence of GenX, a chemical used in the making of Teflon, in the Cape Fear River downstream from the Chemours Fayetteville Works facility where GenX is made. These media reports have also touched on the health risks of C8 and PFOS/PFOA, and their prior usage in the making of Teflon.

We understand that GenX is a relatively new compound which is being monitored by the EPA to determine if regulations or exposure limits are needed. The removal of GenX provides challenges to the water treatment methods that are traditionally used. Also, there are a limited number of commercially available testing facilities.

As you may be aware, there is increasing public concern about the presence of GenX and the unknowns associated with it and other emerging substances.

Along with New Hanover County, the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority, and the City of Wilmington, we ask that you consider joining representatives from those named agencies and Chemours in discussion about this issue. As this increasingly becomes an issue of concern, we encourage the DEQ to review and evaluate the decisions made regarding GenX, both to ensure the safety of our citizens and natural resources, and to inform us of additional information or steps to be taken regarding GenX. Specifically, we would like to request DEQ to evaluate whether the discharge of GenX into the Cape Fear River may be eliminated. We are eager to better understand this compound and look forward to additional insights and guidance that your agency, in concert with the EPA, may provide.

Sincerely,

Frank Williams
Chairman
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners



Mr. Michael S. Regan

Page two

June 14, 2017

cc: Governor Roy Cooper
Congressman David Rouzer
Senator Bill Rabon
Representative Deb Butler
Representative Frank Iler
Chairman Woody White, New Hanover County
Mayor Bill Saffo, City of Wilmington
Chairman Mike Brown, CFPUA Chairman