From: Becky Smith
To: 15ANCAC02B_SWTriRev_Comments_2021
Subject: [External] Triennial Review Comments
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To: Chris Ventaloro

I am writing as a citizen of Pittsboro who has done a great deal of reading on the 4 contaminants that affect Pittsboro's DRINKING water due to the fact that our source water is the Haw River and our intake is downstream of the Greensboro WWTP. I have attended several presentations OF Dr. Detlef Knappe (NCSU) who has advocated for higher restrictions on the limits of 1,4,-Dioxane, PFAS, PFOS, and Bromide.

What I have found very interesting is that the recommended EPA exposure limits, particularly for 1,4 – Dioxane, are exceeded in such high numbers. For example, the recommended limit may be 0.35ug/L but the amount measured at the Pittsboro intake will be in the hundreds – 500 ug/L, 600ug/L, 700 ug/L.

What I have also noticed about his research was that the data collection of these samples only occurs about once a month. There could be high exposure levels on other days during the month, but without testing, this is an unknown. While a recent Consent Decree requires Greensboro to report this contamination, their lack of cooperation in the past does not make anyone downstream feel reliably comfortable.

Last month Pittsboro experienced another high exposure to 1,4 -Dioxane and many of my neighbors asked me about the effectiveness of their water filters. Some use the built-in-refrigerator kind, the pitcher style, and a few even have reverse osmoses (RO) filters under their kitchen sink. While the PFAS & PFOS can be removed with RO – 1,4 -Dioxane CANNOT. Many people feel "safe" because they use filters, but that is not the case with 1,4 -Dioxane.

This is the important point I really want to share with you – Pittsboro citizens cannot do anything to remove 1,4 -Dioxane. We cannot buy expensive RO filters to fix the problem - we must buy bottled water from somewhere else. And, because it is unregulated, we must rely on Facebook posts to even be notified of our exposure.

To add insult to injury, this year Pittsboro citizens experienced a 45% increase in water rates in order to finance a new filtration system at our WTP and yet it cannot remove 1,4 – Dioxane – again, because it CANNOT be removed. I would ask that the State consider the effect of not setting a lower limit for 1,4 -Dioxane, particularly on the Town of Pittsboro.

Thank you,
Becky Smith

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