From: Jessica and Domnique Merricks
To: 15ANCAC02B_SWTriRev_Comments_2021
Subject: [External] Public Comment spoken during Triennial Reivew
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Good evening,
As requested, I am provided a copy of my comments presented during the July 20, 2021 Triennial Review virtual meeting. Thank you.

"Good evening, my name is Dr. Jessica Merricks, I am an Assistant Professor of Biology at Elon University and cofounder of Clean Haw River- a local advocacy group dedicated to providing Pittsboro, NC with safe drinking water.

I have been a resident of Pittsboro, NC for two years- we chose to purchase our first home and raise our family here because we were drawn to this small and safe community that was surrounded by nature. When we arrived, no one told us about the high amounts of chemical contaminants in our water. No one told us that, on any given day, our daughter could be drinking a likely carcinogen at the dinner table, or that we'd have to second guess ordering water every time we patron a local restaurant. We are concerned about the health risks posed by cooking with tap water, bathing, swimming, and gardening at home. We are expecting our second child and are terrified about the potential harm we may be exposing our unborn child to. PFAS has been linked to significant pregnancy and developmental complications. I am here because, like any other parent, I want to protect my children from harm. We are trying our best to avoid the water, but to do so it is costly, inconvenient, and terribly unfair.

Many, many states are finally starting to grapple with PFAS contamination and are taking action. North Carolina must take action as well. I am shocked that PFAS is not included in this review process. I am requesting that PFAS be regulated as a CLASS because there are over 5000 types. The PFAS Class should not exceed 10 PPT in total. In addition, I am requesting 1,4 dioxane limits be set to 0.35ug/L to keep surface water cancer risks at 1:1,000,000 per the Clean Water Act. Our town is currently following 35 ug/L, which is an unacceptable cancer risk according OAH's Standard for Toxic Substances and Temperature (15A NCAC 02B .0208)

Finally, too many North Carolina communities like Pittsboro are forced to take on the burden of removing PFAS from their drinking water. This proposal presented to the EMC will allow dischargers upstream of drinking water supplies to release levels of 1,4-dioxane over 200 times higher than the proposed standard only miles downstream. The proposed standards protects polluters by allowing them to dump up to 80 ug/L in surface waters which flow downstream and pollute our drinking water. The EMC should ensure the burden rests on the polluters, not downstream water users. Our water bills are already much higher than the state average, and we can't even safely drink the water. 1,4-dioxane can only be adequately removed with UV Advanced Oxidation and the greatest number of PFAS compounds can only be removed with Reverse Osmosis. These treatment options are extremely costly, and it should not be our burden to cover those costs. Polluters must be held accountable for their actions.

Thank you for providing me this opportunity to speak."

Dr. Jessica Merricks
Co-Founder of Clean Haw River
Resident of Pittsboro, NC