From: Deborah Milkowski (debmilkowski@centurylink.net) Sent You a Personal Message
To: 15ANCAC02B_SWTriRev_Comments_2021
Subject: [External] Surface Water Triennial Review
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 2:30:19 PM

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Dear NC DEQ-DWR Planning Section,

All people deserve clean water and air. It is ludicrous to me that communities are being burdened to clean up toxic waste in their water infrastructure. Polluting corporations need to be held accountable. They must be held to certain standards to include the financial responsibility of cleaning up their messes and they must be held accountable for inflicting harm on citizens when harm is done. For too long companies have gotten away with harming the environment and injuring people with absolutely no consequences. This is the reason they keep polluting. They are not forced to factor in the complete cost of doing business. If they are held accountable they will have not choice but to comply with reasonable but strict environmental standards.

The triennial review is an opportunity to tighten surface water standards to protect the health of North Carolinians. I appreciate the proposed updates to some standards, like cadmium and cyanide, but would like to see bolder action to protect our water quality.

For decades, industries have been allowed to release industrial toxins like PFAS and 1,4 dioxane into our waterways with little to no accountability for the contamination or the health of downstream communities.

I request the following changes to the proposed rules:

1. Require that DEQ hold polluters accountable for 1,4 dioxane discharges. DEQ has known about 1,4 dioxane pollution for years but has taken little meaningful action to address the threat. The 0.35 ug/L water quality standard for 1,4 dioxane is already North Carolina law. We support clarification of that in this rulemaking, but the EMC must ensure that DEQ pairs that with action designed to ensure that entities releasing 1,4 dioxane meet the standard.

2. Set protective standards for PFAS as a class. Too many North Carolina communities are forced to take on the burden of removing PFAS from their drinking water. Failure to set these standards will continue to favor polluters over downstream communities.

The EMC has a statutory responsibility to adopt rules for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air and water resources. That includes protecting communities from industrial contamination. We can do that by strengthening current standards, adding a PFAS discharge standard, and making sure that companies who violate these standards are held to account.

Sincerely,

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This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with NC Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Margaret Lillard at NC Sierra Club at margaret.lillard@sierraclub.org or (919) 833-8467.