From: Nathan McTigue
To: 15ANCAC02B_SWTriRev_Comments_2021
Subject: [External] letter for EMC
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:16:39 AM

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Dear Hearing Officer Chris Venteloro and members of the Environmental Management Commission,

My name is Nathan McTigue. My wife Kathryn and I have a son named Samuel who will be two years old next month. Seven months ago we moved to Pittsboro, NC from rural Alaska to give our son resources for education and healthcare that were not possible where we previously lived. Here in Pittsboro, our main source of drinking water is surface water drawn from the Haw River, which has a long history of being polluted by upstream textile industries and sludge land application from Greensboro, Burlington and Reidsville.

For seven months my family and I have been ingesting 1,4 dioxane and PFAS via our drinking water supply, both of which regularly exceed health advisory limits, completely unbeknownst to us until a few weeks ago. This is immensely troubling since we moved here to advocate for our son's health. Moreover, my wife is 14 weeks pregnant and has been exposing our unborn child to these toxins during an extremely sensitive developmental window.

To keep my family safe they should have been drinking water with a limit of 0.35 ug/L for 1,4-dioxane, putting them at a risk of 1:1,000,000 of developing cancer per the Clean Water Act. Instead they fall between 1:10,000 and 1:1000 risk categories. They have been exposed to this carcinogen due to the lack of drinking water regulations North Carolina so desperately needs.

This July the Pittsboro water supply battled, yet again, another chemical dump of 1,4-dioxane into our drinking water supply by way of the Greensboro region where preliminary sampling results showed levels of the likely carcinogen ranged from 543 ug/L to 687 ug/L in the wastewater discharge into the Haw River. These concentrations moved downstream to Pittsboro where we were forced to turn off our supply. It has been over three weeks since this incident and the concentrations have yet to reach safe levels. In the meantime our entire town is being exposed to 1,4-dioxane and we have no idea what health effects this will have on us.

We need all surface water in North Carolina to be set to the same standards in order to eliminate the threat of industries discharging high concentrations upstream of water users like us. To reiterate, I am demanding that the 0.35ug/L limit apply to all surface waters.

Secondly, I am shocked that the EMC has left off PFAS for this review process. I want to encourage you to set PFAS limits we desperately need as a contaminated community. For years, our water samples have been used as a positive control in research studies and it has to stop now. We are a community suffering from many health complications that range from infertility, thyroid disease to rare cancers.

In a recent study, Pittsboro residents' blood serum samples maintained higher than the national average and showed a direct correlation to the Haw river water concentrations. In 2018, NC

state sampling revealed our collective PFAS levels were 1000 ppt. Currently, the EPA health advisory limit of 70 ppt for PFOS and PFOA does not apply to our population when any given day our water exceeds those limits and includes multiple PFAS chemicals, not just PFOS and PFOA. PFAS is a family of Flourinated compounds that range from 5000-8000 different types. Many of the PFAS compounds behave similarly, pose the same risk as PFOS and PFOA, and bioaccumulate. PFAS regulations should be managed at the class level to safeguard our water. We are a community overexposed to this toxin and our risks of developing cancer and other health risks are increasing. I desperately urge the EMC for PFAS to be regulated collectively as a class and to not exceed 10 ppt.

We urge you to consider our community, who has experienced decades of exceeding minimal exposure limits, and are at risk of overexposure multiple times every day. Your "lifetime of minimal exposure limit" does not apply to us. We are a vulnerable population. We deserve the safest standards possible. Set the standards with the most vulnerable communities in mind.

In closing, the cost to remove these compounds is far more than our small town can handle- 1,4 dioxane can only be eliminated with UV advanced oxidation and PFAS compounds are only completely removed with reverse osmosis. These systems are costly to install and maintain, and should not be the burden of our small town and its taxpayers. We needed action years ago. This is our call to action for your agency to set standards that will protect us, our town, and our state by preventing industry from dumping volatile organic carcinogens into our waterway. Please help protect my children.

Sincerely,
Dr. Nathan McTigue
Concerned and Contaminated Pittsboro Resident