From: Howard Ferguson
To: 15ANCAC02B_SWTriRev_Comments_2021
Subject: [External] DEC needs to strengthen the proposed changes made in this year"s Triennial Review
Date: Monday, July 19, 2021 5:52:24 PM

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It is my opinion that the NC Department of Environmental Quality needs to strengthen the proposed changes made in this year's Triennial Review process with concern in the following three areas:

1. Bacteria: NC standards should be updated so that all waters North Carolinians swim and boat in are tested and kept safe by limiting e. coli levels. The EMC eeds to expand the proposed e. coli limits to the entire state which should include all of the state's low income and minority residents as well.

2. PFAS (also known as "forever chemicals"): The proposal fails to address this class of toxics that has circulated for decades in our environment, even as health impacts have been tied to increasingly small exposures. Too many North Carolina communities are forced to take on the burden of removing PFAS from their drinking water; the Environmental Management Commission should ensure this burden rests on the polluters. It is very important that EMC control PFAS BECAUSE

- These synthetic chemicals have been linked to increased risks of certain cancers, reduced birth weight, and reduced hormone levels.
- PFAS contamination is widespread across North Carolina and control technology exists to keep it out of our water. The EMC should make sure that these technologies are implemented.
- Too many North Carolina communities are forced to take on the burden of removing PFAS from their drinking water; the EMC should ensure that this burden rests on the polluters, not the downstream utilities, or even worse on NC citizens, like myself. I have had to first buy bottled water and now I am using an expensive filter that I have to replace every 4-6 months.

3. 1,4-dioxane: The proposed standard allows high concentrations of 1,4-dioxane, which is toxic at very low concentrations. The proposed standard is more than 200 times higher than what DEQ has deemed safe for people to drink. Further, a strong standard should apply in all waters, rather than only river segments designated for drinking water. 1,4 dioxane is difficult to treat and readily contaminates downstream segments in addition to the stretch of the river where it is discharged. 1,4-dioxane pollution has been a problem for years and stronger action is long overdue.

Thank you.
Howard L. Ferguson

Sent from Howard's iPad