From: Cathy Cole (cathycole0@icloud.com) Sent You a Personal Message
To: 15ANCAC02B_SWTriRev_Comments_2021
Subject: [External] Surface Water Triennial Review
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021 9:19:02 AM

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Dear NC DEQ-DWR Planning Section,

This is also an environmental justice issue as economically disadvantaged communities which in NC translate into Black, Latinx, and Indigenous communities invariably have the most harm from lax regulations.

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.