

#### Emerging Compounds Update – Division of Air Quality Mike Abraczinskas, Director August 14, 2018



DAQ's investigation involving GenX and other PFAS from Chemours

- GenX emissions data
  - Started with only estimates
  - Required stack tests
  - Method development
  - First of its kind measurements



Air Emissions Testing or "Stack Testing" at Chemours

- 10 weeks of stack testing (so far) this year.
- Sources, control systems, room air.
- Focused primarily on C<sub>3</sub> Dimer Acid (GenX)
  - Also tested HFPO & E1





### **Emerging Compounds** Ambient Air Quality - Atmospheric Deposition

## **Needed information immediately**

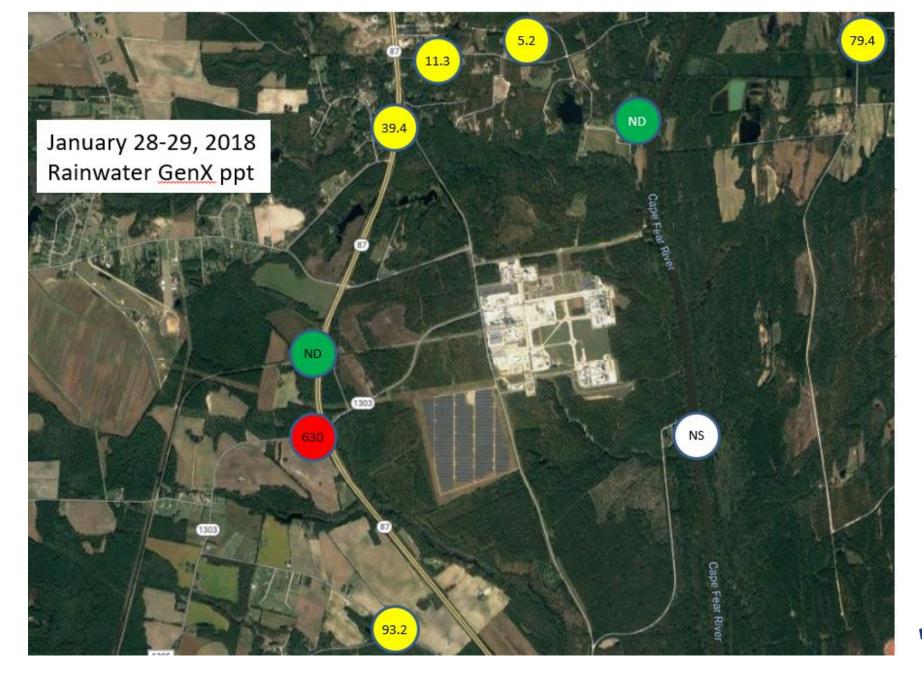
- Purchased temporary rain collection equipment.
- Used lab protocols to prepare equipment.
- Split the samples... sent to EPA for full PFAS analysis.



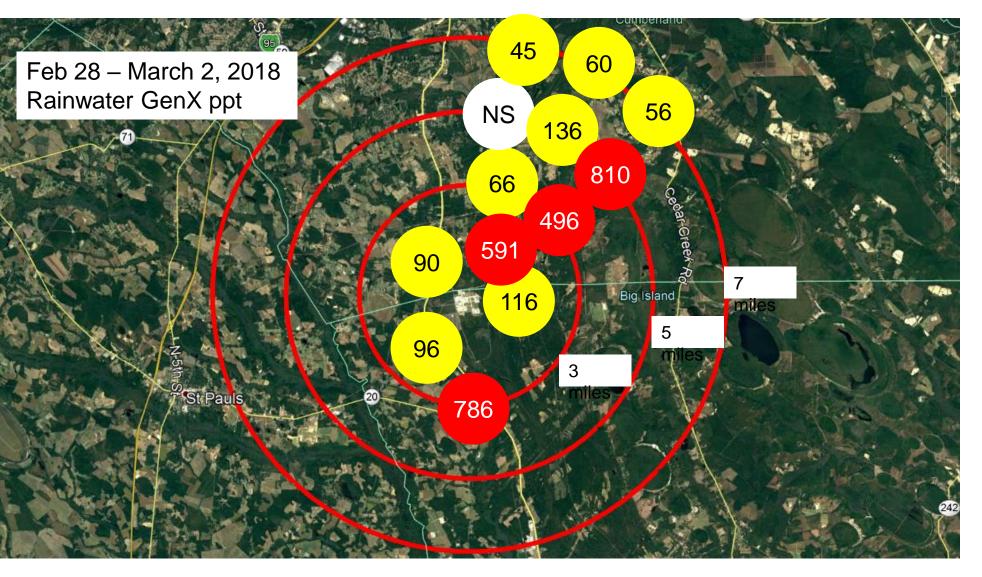














DAQ's investigation involving GenX and other PFAS from Chemours

### **Summary of facts:**

- The measured air emissions of GenX compounds are significantly higher than previously understood and reported.
- DAQ has measured GenX deposition through rainfall as far as 20 miles from the facility.
- The evidence of atmospheric deposition of GenX shows a geographic footprint that is similar to the detection of GenX in groundwater samples.





## April 6, 2018:

- 60 day notice of intent to modify Chemours' air permit:
  - Requires demonstration that emissions of GenX compounds do not or will not cause or contribute to violations of groundwater rules.

The science and data collected informed this action.





## April 27, 2018:

- Chemours response to 60 day notice
  - Chemours committed to:
  - Install & operate a Regenerative Thermal Oxidizer by 2020
    - Expected 99% reduction of GenX emissions



#### Emerging Compounds GenX - Recent Actions

GenX - Recent Actions Carbon Adsorbers in place – late May 2018







#### June 11, 2018:

- DEQ proposed a court order to require reductions of air emissions due to groundwater impacts
- 30 day comment period ended 7/11/18
- Reduce facility-wide air emissions of GenX compounds by at least 97% by August 31, 2018 with a 99% reduction by December 31, 2019







June 5 – June 12, 2018 Rainwater GenX ppt

ND

W

ND

D

ND

ND

W – Wet Deposition D - Dry Deposition, 600ml PFAS free water added



ND

W

ND

D

ND

ape Fear Rive



Permit application received from Chemours on July 2, 2018 for the construction and operation of the RTO control device.

- RTO will achieve 99% reduction in GenX air emissions.
- DAQ has 90 days to act on the application.



#### Take home message for:

- EPA: We need each other!
  - Emissions stack test method development
    - Source attribution starts with good emissions data
  - Ambient air monitoring
    - Does EPA have capabilities that states don't?
  - How to prioritize emerging compounds?
    - Prevalence, concentrations, toxicity.
- Industry: Know what is in your waste streams!
- **State:** Monitoring and surveillance is a must!
  - Get the resources in place!
  - Must look beyond GenX... What are the possible needs?
  - Do we have the lab and field equipment that we need?



# **Thank you!**

#### Mike Abraczinskas, EIT, CPM Director NC Division of Air Quality 919-707-8447 Michael.Abraczinskas@ncdenr.gov

Twitter: @airmikeab

http://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/air-quality

Michael Pjetraj, P.E. Deputy Director NC Division of Air Quality 919-707-8497 Michael.Pjetraj@ncdenr.gov

