Community Update

This community update includes the latest information that may be of interest to residents in the Cape Fear River Region and the communities near the Fayetteville Works facility.

The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) entered into a Consent Order with Chemours and Cape Fear River Watch in February 2019. The order requires Chemours to address all sources of PFAS at the facility to prevent further impacts to air, soil, groundwater and surface waters.

The full Consent Order and history of the GenX investigation can be found online at https://bit.ly/2Z7JHvA.

Air Emissions
Thermal Oxidizer Update
The thermal oxidizer is on location, and Chemours is finalizing some of its electrical work prior to the Dec. 31, 2019 consent order deadline begin operating the unit. The thermal oxidizer is designed to reduce PFAS air emissions routed through the control device by 99.99 percent.

Groundwater
Updated Well Sampling Map
The Division of Waste Management has updated the private well sampling map to include all well sampling conducted by both its staff and Chemours’ third-party consultant. To view the map, go to: https://bit.ly/2NNHVnK or click the image below.

Well Sampling Step-Out Plan
Under the Consent Order, Chemours must sample a quarter mile from the last known well with contamination from PFAS. This is called the Step-Out Plan, and it will be completed by the end of 2019. To learn more about the Step-Out Plan, go to: https://bit.ly/2YhV7o2.

Alternative Water / Filtration Systems
Under the consent order, Chemours is required to provide bottled water to eligible well users until such time as a filtration system or connection to a municipal water supply has been provided. If you are eligible for a filtration, you will have until Spring of 2020 to make a decision or lose the option. To find out if you are eligible to receive these filtration systems, go to: https://bit.ly/2YhV7o2.

DEQ has approved certain reverse osmosis and granular activated carbon filtration systems for affected residents. More information on those approvals is available here: https://bit.ly/2JM5PPD.

Public Water Options
For areas west of the Cape Fear River in Bladen and Cumberland Counties, the Public Water Feasibility Analysis is still under review. DEQ has requested feedback from representatives of Cumberland and Bladen counties. For areas east of the Cape Fear River in Bladen and Cumberland Counties, DEQ has made a feasibility determination, with input from local government representatives. To view this letter, go to: https://bit.ly/2LBRVlu.

Chemours will not be installing additional granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration systems in Cumberland and Bladen Counties west of the Cape Fear River until a final public water feasibility determination is made. Bottled water delivery will continue in the interim for residences in these areas that are eligible either for public water or granular activated carbon filtration systems. If DEQ determines that public water is feasible for residents on the west side of the Cape Fear River, then Chemours will pay for those public water connections even if the resident already has a GAC system installed.

Chemours will continue to install reverse osmosis systems for eligible homes.

Document Review
Staff are currently reviewing several submittals from Chemours about Paragraph 12 of the Consent Order (“Accelerated Reduction of PFAS Contamination in the Cape Fear River and Downstream Intakes”). Waste Management staff also are reviewing additional assessment data related to Paragraph 18 of the Consent Order (“On and Offsite Assessment”). The corrective action plan (Paragraph 16) will be reviewed and posted for public comment after it is received in December. To view submitted documents, go to: https://bit.ly/34AFnA7.

Boiling Water will not remove PFAS chemicals from the water. Use filtered water or an alternate water source instead to reduce exposure if you are concerned.
Health

Community survey
The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is currently reviewing more than 1,800 responses to the community survey collected from residents near the Chemours plant in spring 2019. Results will document community concerns about GenX and other PFAS chemicals and help DHHS and others tailor health education activities to better meet community needs. The final report is expected to be released in January 2020.

Research Engagement
DHHS continues work with researchers studying PFAS throughout the state. Staff work with the NC PFAS Testing Network (https://ncpfastnetwork.com/) to help reach local stakeholders and answer questions from the public about their findings.

Staff in DHHS serve on the Community Advisory Board for the GenX Exposure Study, led by Dr. Jane Hoppin from North Carolina State University. This study is assessing current exposure to GenX and related chemicals in people living in the Lower Cape Fear River Basin, including residents near the Fayetteville Works facility (https://genxstudy.ncsu.edu/).

For questions about the Consent Order and other DEQ work related to the GenX investigation, please call (877) 623-6748.

For questions about health effects related to GenX, PFAS or other chemicals, contact the DHHS staff at (919) 707-5900.

If you want be added to the mailing list to receive the Community Update, please email Laura Leonard at Laura.Leonard@ncdenr.gov.