



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>.

## Surface Water

### Penalties Assessed against Chemours for Violations

DEQ assessed a total of \$199,379.16 in penalties against Chemours for failing to meet conditions of the Consent Order along with permit and rule violations related to the construction and installation of the required treatment measures at Old Outfall 002 and Seep C. The treatment system at Old Outfall 002 is currently working as intended, and DEQ continues to monitor the system's performance to ensure ongoing compliance with the Consent Order. Read more: <https://bit.ly/325wIGl>.

### Reducing PFAS entering the Cape Fear River

As required by the Consent Order, Chemours is installing interim remediation treatment systems to reduce PFAS reaching the Cape Fear River from residual groundwater contamination. Treatment measures will be installed at four locations known as Seeps A, B, C and D.

### Removing PFAS from Stormwater

As required by the Consent Order, Chemours is designing and installing a capture-and-treatment system to separate stormwater from non-process wastewater at the Chemours Monomers/IXM area. These efforts are intended to remove and treat PFAS-containing stormwater that would be discharged into the river thereby reducing the amount of PFAS getting to the Cape Fear.

### Foam Investigation

The Division of Water Resources continues to investigate reports of foam on surface waters. While there is no certified method for testing foam, DWR staff have collected samples for analysis and will continue to investigate the makeup and potential sources of the foam. As with any unknown or unnatural substance, avoid contact with the foam and keep children and pets from coming into direct contact or ingesting the foam. To report a foam sighting, please contact DEQ's Fayetteville Regional Office at (919) 433-3300.

## Groundwater

### Private Well Water Sampling

Chemours' consultant Parsons continues to sample drinking

### Filtration Systems Decision Letters

Residents have up to a year to accept a filtration system before they lose the option to have the system installed by Chemours. You can view a presentation on filtration systems at: <https://bit.ly/3n68DZA>. Contact Chemours at (910) 678-1101 to accept a water treatment system. To find out if you are eligible, go to: <https://bit.ly/2JJP415>.

### Sediment Sampling

DEQ plans to collect sediment samples along the Cape Fear River as staff continue to review Chemours' sediment characterization report, which can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3vimgIF>.

### Onsite and Offsite Assessment

DEQ has informed Chemours that additional information is needed for the onsite and offsite assessment. This data will help with the development of the corrective action plan development to further reduce PFAS levels in the environment. Read more: <https://bit.ly/2PiyGQQ>.

### Groundwater Standards for PFOS and PFOA

DEQ is working with the Environmental Management Commission to set groundwater standards for PFOA and PFOS. The provisional health goal for GenX in drinking water remains at 140ppt.

### Research: Drinking bottled / treated water lowers PFAS in blood serum

Two water districts near a West Virginia DuPont chemical facility producing PFAS were found to have PFAS in the water, including PFOA. The districts began filtering their drinking water with GAC systems in 2007. Researchers found that PFOA levels in blood decreased each year at an average of 26 percent once the water filters were installed. [This research](#) shows the importance of stopping PFAS exposure in drinking water. If people have the opportunity, it is important to allow sampling of drinking water wells and installation of filtration systems to reduce exposure.

### Research: Compost lowers the PFAS concentrations in pore water and leaves

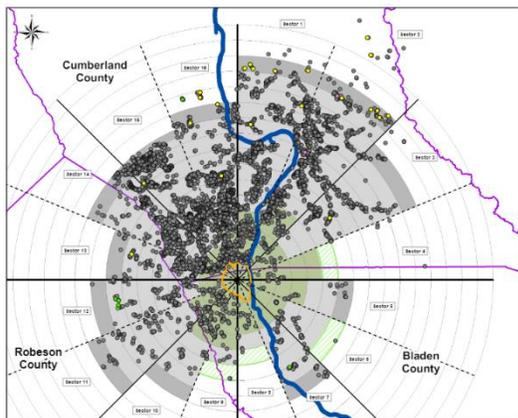
North Carolina State University researchers found that compost lowers the PFAS concentration in water contained in the pores of soil and rock (known as pore water) and leaves in



water wells near Chemours' Fayetteville Works facility. See the sampling map below to see if you are in the current sampling area and call (910) 678-1101 to request well sampling.

### Well Sampling Step-Out Plan

Under the Consent Order, Chemours must sample a quarter mile from the last known well with contamination from PFAS. Currently, this radius is approximately up to 14 miles. For more about the Step-Out Plan, go to: <https://bit.ly/3c07ePr>. A sample results map of GenX sampling in Cumberland, Bladen and Robeson counties can be found online at: <https://bit.ly/2MHY1Tm>. Chemours' most recent well sampling step-out and infill map (April 12, 2021) can be found online at: <https://bit.ly/3n7MzOz> or click the image below.



### Bottled Water Options

Residents who qualify have the option to have bottled water delivered to their home or receive a voucher card to purchase their own water at grocery stores or at online retailers. If you are interested in either option, contact Chemours at (910) 678-1101 and leave a message.

### Public Water Options

DEQ has made a feasibility determination, with input from local government representatives, for areas **west** of the Cape Fear River in Bladen County. To view this letter, go to: <https://bit.ly/31YNF4W>.

For areas **west** of the Cape Fear River in Cumberland County, the Public Water Feasibility Analysis is still under review. The county government is currently working to determine the cost and feasibility of bringing water to the Grays Creek Elementary School area. Additional information will be shared when it is available. Chemours will not be installing additional GAC filtration systems in Cumberland County west of the Cape Fear River until a final public water feasibility determination is made. Bottled water delivery will continue for those eligible either for public water or GAC filtration systems. Chemours will continue to install reverse osmosis systems for eligible homes.

recent research involving lettuce leaves. However, more work is needed to understand the behavior of other types of food plants. Read more: <https://bit.ly/3uR5oZQ>.

### Air Emissions

#### Air Quality Monitoring Data

DEQ staff were present for Chemours' latest round of stack testing on the thermal oxidizer/scrubber control system on the week of January 25. DEQ requires Chemours to test the system annually to ensure correct performance. The requirement is included as an enforceable condition in the air permit. Emissions tests results are being reviewed by agency staff.

More air quality monitoring information, including weekly rainwater results and weekly atmospheric deposition data, can be found at: <https://bit.ly/3bOUsrC>.

### Health

#### PFAS and COVID-19

The N.C. Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) understands that residents may be concerned about PFAS exposure and COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry recognizes that exposure to high levels of [PFAS may impact the immune system](#), but little is currently known about effects specific to COVID-19. Colleagues at NC State University are exploring this question – please follow the GenX Exposure Study on their website, <https://genxstudy.ncsu.edu/>, for more information.

#### Document repository

NCDHHS has established a repository of PFAS-related information at the Annie Hubbard McEachern Public Library located at 223 W Broad Street in St. Pauls. The library has reopened after closing for COVID-19 concerns, so hardcopy materials are again available in the document repository.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Very little PFAS exposure occurs during swimming, bathing, or showering in water contaminated with PFAS because only a very small amount of PFAS can get into your body through your skin.

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/exposure.html>

For areas **east** of the Cape Fear River in both 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>.

To submit a complaint about bottled water or filtration systems in English or Spanish, contact Mercedes Hernández at (919) 707-8712 or [Mercedes.Hernandez@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Mercedes.Hernandez@ncdenr.gov).

GenX Information for Residents Webpage: <https://bit.ly/3kjcSPD>.

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.LLeonard@ncdenr.gov](mailto:Laura.LLeonard@ncdenr.gov).

## Frequently Asked Questions About Filtration Systems

### **Q: Are filters effective at removing PFAS from the water?**

DEQ has conducted two studies of the effectiveness of Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) and Reverse Osmosis (RO) filtration systems. The studies showed that both systems are very effective at removing PFAS as long as the filtration system is properly maintained. Learn more at: <https://bit.ly/3dSXEP1>.

### **Q: Is there enough water pressure in a RO system?**

The overall water pressure can decrease slightly. There can be a water pressure loss when the three-gallon tank is recharging, which takes about an hour-and-a-half to recharge.

### **Q: Do they have to drill an additional hole on the countertop to install an RO filter's faucet? What if there isn't space?**

They are able to install a three-way faucet instead of having to drill another hole. This is typically harder to do in bathroom countertops because of limited counter space. If you do not have enough space under your sink, the filter installation specialists have a lot of experience installing these systems in different settings. They can provide alternative options.