

DEQ to Hold Public Hearing Dec. 17 on Lear Corp. Wastewater Permit Renewal



DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES PERMIT OVERVIEW

Lear Corp. operates an industrial facility near Kenansville involved in motor vehicle seating and interior trim manufacturing. The facility is responsible for the knitting, weaving, dyeing and finishing properties of synthetic fibers.

Lear is requesting renewal of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, or NPDES permit, that regulates pollutants discharged from the

facility's wastewater treatment plant into the Northeast Cape Fear River. Based on public input received during the initial comment period held between Feb. 9 and March 28, 2024, the draft permit has been revised.

The draft permit includes a requirement to monitor per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) upstream and downstream of the facility, in its discharge and in groundwater wells on the site.

The draft permit also includes a PFAS compliance schedule to characterize PFAS compounds used, processed and released from the site. The compliance schedule will require a study of best available technology (BAT) for controlling PFAS and a study related to best management practices (BMPs). Lastly, the draft includes a reopener clause that would allow PFAS limits to be imposed. Details of the permit conditions are available online in the draft permit and technical fact sheet.

PUBLIC HEARING ON TUESDAY, DEC. 17

Submit comments using any of the following options:

In-person: 6 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 17, James Sprunt Community College, Monk Auditorium, Hoffer Building, 133 James Sprunt Drive, Kenansville, N.C., 28349. Speaker registration opens at 5:30 p.m.

Email: Comments sent to publiccomments@deq.nc.gov with the subject "Lear Corp." will be accepted through 5 p.m. Dec. 18.

Mail: Comments mailed to: Attn: Fenton Brown, Jr., NPDES Wastewater Permitting, Attn: Lear Corp. Permit, 1617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N.C., 27699-1617, must be post-marked no later than Dec. 18.

For more information, visit deq.nc.gov, or contact Laura Oleniacz at laura.oleniacz@deq.nc.gov or 919-707-8604.



