



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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November 6, 2023

Michael S. Regan, Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator, 1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

We write to you to express our concern with reports that Chemours intends to import up to 4 million pounds of GenX from the Netherlands to be recycled at its Fayetteville Works facility in North Carolina.

As you are aware from your time as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, New Hanover County was shocked and dismayed to discover in 2017 that Chemours had, for decades, been polluting the Cape Fear River – the region’s primary source of drinking water. Some of our Commissioners discussed this with you at length at the NACo Legislative Conference in 2022. You made clear that this issue was of the highest importance to you and your team.

Indeed, your commitment to establishing enforceable health standards for GenX and other PFAS is commendable and appreciated. We further support and value the work being done through the NCDEQ’s Consent Order with Chemours, to include testing and remediation of private wells impacted by PFAS and the construction of a barrier wall near the Fayetteville Works facility.

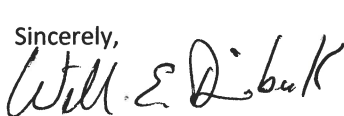
However, these measures were forced upon Chemours only after decades of polluting the river. Meanwhile, the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority spent more than \$50 million to install filtering systems and sue Chemours for the cost, which otherwise will be borne by ratepayers in New Hanover County.

Given this recent history, we remain deeply concerned with the company’s ability to safely manage new imports of GenX. The company has done little to voluntarily address its long-term pollution without direct action by New Hanover County, the city of Wilmington, Cape Fear River Watch, NCDEQ and EPA.

New Hanover County’s citizens are entitled to clean drinking water without the threat of this company – or any other company – polluting our primary drinking water source. We ask that the EPA ensure Chemours establishes adequate controls through these new imports to prevent further pollution of the Cape Fear River.

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to express our concerns about allowing a known polluter to import such a significant amount of GenX to its North Carolina facility. We request that you take our concerns into consideration while ensuring that Chemours does not impact our community’s health any further.

Sincerely,


William E. Rivenbark, Chair


LeAnn Pierce, Vice Chair


Dane Scalise, Commissioner


Jonathan Barfield, Jr., Commissioner


Rob Zapple, Commissioner