

Cape Fear River Watch Community Forum on GenX and Water Quality Issues June 21st • Coastline Convention Center • Wilmington, North Carolina

UNCW Professor, Dr. Susanne Brander

- NCDHHS safe level for (perfluorinated compounds) is 70,909 nanograms/liter* EPA advises 70 nanograms/liter.
 - EPA does not have enough strength to regulate this compound right now.
- Looking at the structure of the chemical, it is probably not an issue to bathe in it. As long as you're not standing in the shower with your mouth open or anything like that. It is not lipophilic enough to get into your skin.
- Washing your food could potentially be an issue... but that's not as much of an issue as drinking it.

UNCW Marine Biology Professor, Dr. Lawrence Cahoon

- Dr. Knappe has conducted studies of 'emergent' contaminants for a number of years.
 - 1,4 Dioxane
 - C8
- Sampling of GenX took place from December 2013 through August 2014.
- There is a lot more in (the report) than has been brought out publicly... There is a cocktail of perfluorinated compounds.
 - It is important to understand that the other compounds are present at inherently higher concentrations than GenX. They are poorly known, to put it mildly, and GenX is relatively well studied compared to these. There is essentially nothing known about their human health effects. So, when you drink the tap water, you are drinking a cocktail of compounds. Not just one compound, a cocktail of them.
- It appears that Chemours and Kuraray do not have the capacity to quantify GenX or the other compounds in their Teflon adequately.
 - They do not know exactly how much is in their affluent either, and they are not required in their permit to measure it.

Cape Fear Riverkeeper, Kemp Burdette

- There are a lot of unknowns related to GenX and the Cape Fear River.
- Chemours is exploiting a hole in their discharge permit.
 - They were discharging through Kuraray in their waste discharge system.

Pediatrician at Kidz Care Pediatrics, Dr. David Hill

- When as a pediatrician I hear endocrine disruptor, I get a little anxious. Those words make me nervous. I don't know how much of an endocrine disruptor this particular chemical is. It sounds like for the 'cocktail' Kemp referred to even less is known. I do think that if I were pregnant right now... I would go out of my way to avoid the water until the situation is rectified.
- Children are the product of their environment. If we're thinking about the air, they breathe more than we do. They breathe several more times every minute than we do and that adds up.

They drink more, they play more, they're more active, things that deposit in their DNA and in their cells, grow into more and more cells. If you damage a kid's DNA that damage propagates.

- The younger the child the more concerning I find any contaminants that have these potential effects on livers and kidneys and endocrine systems.
- If you can, try and find a safer source of drinking water.
- Any chemical that serves as a potential endocrine disruptor certainly comes up on the list of suspects (for causing autism), however the science that would be needed to draw the conclusion that this particular chemical or 'cocktail' contributes to autism in New Hanover County has not been done and may never be done.

Water Expert, Robert Bowcock

- (When the water system settled on a way to filter out GenX), they would have to let a system run for a couple of days before the reservoirs become GenX free and then it is a question of how large the water distribution system is, where the storage reservoirs are located and how we flush the contaminated water out of the distribution system. That could take anywhere between 2-3 days or 2-3 weeks. Once it is flushed out of all the community reservoirs, then we have to identify if there are any dead ends within the distribution system. There will be parts of the community that the water will actually sit in longer.
- I would not drink water with a chemical in it that has absolutely this many unknowns, at any levels.
- Drinking Water regulations and Clean Water Act regulations are at conflict in this country. It is illegal to flush in a toilet water that meets quality standards for you to drink. It is a quagmire of regulations out of sync with each other.

*Based on a single study done in Europe.