



James R. Flechtner, PE  
Executive Director  
235 Government Center Drive  
Wilmington, NC 28403  
910-332-6542  
jim.flechtner@cfpua.org

June 7, 2017

Ms. Sheila Holman  
State of North Carolina  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Assistant Secretary for Environment  
1601 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601

Dear Ms. Holman:

Cape Fear Public Utility Authority provides water and sewer service to nearly 200,000 customers in New Hanover County and the City of Wilmington. In addition to obtaining raw water from groundwater sources, the Authority uses surface water from the Cape Fear River, just upstream of Lock & Dam # 1 in Bladen County for treatment at the Sweeney Water Treatment Plant and distribution to customers. The Sweeney Water Treatment Plant uses advanced treatment processes such as advanced coagulation/flocculation/sedimentation, ozone and UV, and BAC filtration.

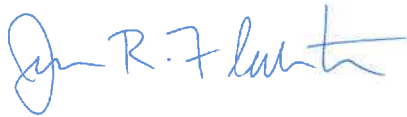
Recent research through N. C. State University shows that, since the year 2000 per and poly-fluoroalkyl substances have been introduced onto the market to replace long chain perfluoroalkyl acids (e.g. perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and their respective precursors). This research indicates these poly-fluoroalkyl substances are present in the Lower Cape Fear River source water. These compounds are currently not regulated at the state or federal levels for discharge into the river. Due to the persistence of these compounds and the ineffectiveness of existing water treatment technologies in removing these compounds, these substances should be regulated at the point of discharge into the river to ensure they do not compromise public water supplies.

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Enclosed is a publication titled "Legacy and Emerging Perfluoroalkyl Substances Are Important Drinking Water Contaminates in the Cape Fear River Watershed of North Carolina" for your reference. As this is newly available information, we would welcome your assistance in evaluating implications for the area's source water. We would support actions identified by NCDEQ to ensure proper regulation and management of the dischargers for the protection of the river and its users. If additional information or assistance is needed, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim R. Flechtner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James R. Flechtner, PE  
Executive Director

Copy: Jay Zimmerman, Director NCDWR  
Julie Grzyb, NPDES Permitting Supervisor  
Jessica Godreau, PWS Section Chief

Enclosure