

HOW TO MAKE AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC COMMENT

You do not need to be an expert in order for your voice to matter! The NC Department of Environmental Quality needs to hear from people who care about the future of the Cape Fear River Basin.

START STRONG. FINISH STRONG.

Introduce yourself (name, location, connection to the river)

Share why clean water matters to you

Discuss some concerns to highlight

End with a clear request

Be respectful

Plan to offer comments for up to three minutes. Be aware of the time limit.
Questions to the moderators are typically NOT permitted at the hearings.

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS AND HOW TO USE IN YOUR OWN COMMENTS

The Cape Fear River is the Heart of North Carolina

The river connects communities from the Haw and Deep Rivers in the Piedmont to the lower Cape Fear in Wilmington. It sustains more than 1.5 million people who rely on it for drinking water and supports fisheries, recreation, agriculture and local economies.

Suggested use in comments:

“Where I live, the Cape Fear River is part of our daily life. Clean water is essential to my family, my work, and my community.” [Share one or two ways that you rely on the river.]

The River Faces Growing Threats, and Decisions Now Will Shape Its Future

The proposed PFAS and 1,4 Dioxane Monitoring and Minimization Rules were crafted by polluters. As written, they do nothing to protect our natural resources or reduce the potential health impacts of these dangerous chemicals. The state of NC - which already faces pollution in its waterways - needs stronger regulations on PFAS and 1,4 Dioxane
NOW!

Suggested use in comments:

“The Cape Fear River has suffered pollution for too long, and our residents are bearing the burdens of these chemicals. PFAS and 1,4 Dioxane rules without strong protections will only increase these burdens.” [Share a concern that affects your community.]

Include a Personal Story or Local Example

Suggested use in comments:

“We’ve seen firsthand how much our community depends on safe, clean, reliable water. It’s not abstract for us.” [Add a brief personal story, such as a boil water warning, a flood, extended drought, health impacts related to emerging contaminants]

Make a Clear Request to the Agencies

Suggested use in comments:

“I’m imploring the State to strengthen the PFAS and 1,4 Dioxane Monitoring and Minimization Rules by requiring more stringent water monitoring; enforcing minimization plans; pursuing health based water quality standards; incorporating penalties, fines and other punitive measures for industries that increase or fail to reduce discharges of these chemicals into our waterways; and incentivizing industries that proactively prevent water contamination.

Close With a Values-Based Statement

Suggested use in comments:

“The Cape Fear River sustains millions of us. Strong protections now mean healthier communities for generations.” [Choose what resonates most with you (better statewide rules, potential for higher concentration of emerging contaminants, utility availability and cost, potential for droughts.)]