

**STAND UP FOR PEOPLE  
OVER POLLUTERS**

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# Your Voice Matters

*Ask the Environmental  
Management Commission to  
protect community members  
from toxic 1,4-dioxane and PFAS!*

## How to make a comment:

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You do not need to be an expert to participate. What's most important is that the Environmental Management Commission hears from real people that want real protection from PFAS and 1,4-dioxane.

The Environmental Management Commission is running two concurrent comment periods covering similar rules: one for PFAS and one for 1,4-dioxane. We encourage you to focus on the topic assigned to the hearing location you'll be attending. If you'd like to address both topics, you may do so – in that case, please bring written copies of your comments with this note at the top: ["I request that this comment be included in the public record for both the proposed 1,4-dioxane and PFAS rules."](#)





# Hearing Information

<b>CITY</b>	<b>DATE/TYPE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>Asheville</b>	April 7th: PFAS public hearing	AB-Tech Community College, Ferguson Auditorium, 19 Tech Dr., Asheville, NC 28801
<b>Hickory</b>	April 9th: 1,4-Dioxane public hearing	Catawba County St. Stephens Branch Library, 3225 Springs Rd., Hickory, NC 28601
<b>Fayetteville</b>	April 14th: 1,4-Dioxane public hearing	Fayetteville Technical Community College, Tony Rand Student Center Multipurpose Room, 2220 Hull Rd. Fayetteville, NC, 28303
<b>Raleigh</b>	April 20th: PFAS public hearing	Archdale Building, Ground Floor Hearing Room, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, NC 27604
<b>Wilmington</b>	April 23rd: PFAS public hearing	Wilmington City Hall at Skyline Center, 1st Floor Conference Center, 929 North Front St., Wilmington, NC 28401
<b>Jamestown</b>	May 12th: 1,4-Dioxane public hearing	Guilford Technical Community College, Percy H. Sears Applied Technologies Building Auditorium, 1201 Bonner Dr., Jamestown, NC 27282

**\*All hearings start at 6pm, with speaker registration and sign in beginning at 5pm.**

# About the rules

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*The EMC plans to adopt a set of rules that were **influenced by polluters and would allow nearly 500 industrial facilities across our state to continue to dump toxic PFAS and 1,4-dioxane into our rivers and drinking water supplies.***

- Rather than require industries and wastewater plants to reduce their chemical pollution, these rules only tell dischargers to collect a handful of samples and to write a plan for how they could reduce pollution. There are no consequences or penalties if the polluter fails to cut its pollution—not even if the polluter increases its toxic discharges.
- How should the EMC move forward? North Carolinians deserve strong rules that protect people over polluters. Instead of pursuing toothless rules, the EMC should work toward health-based water quality standards for PFAS and 1,4-dioxane.

# About PFAS

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*PFAS — per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances — are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industrial and consumer products since the 1940s. They are found in nonstick cookware, water-resistant clothing, firefighting foam, and food packaging. PFAS are known as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down easily in the environment or the human body.*

- Exposure to PFAS has been linked to serious health effects, including:
  - Cancer, including kidney and testicular cancer
  - Thyroid disease and hormone disruption
  - Immune system damage, including reduced vaccine effectiveness
  - High cholesterol and cardiovascular disease
  - Developmental harm in children and infants
- North Carolina has been at the center of the national PFAS crisis. The Chemours chemical plant along the Cape Fear River has discharged PFAS into the river, which supplies drinking water to hundreds of thousands of residents in the Wilmington area and beyond.
- As more testing has been done across the state, we have found PFAS at dangerous levels in multiple drinking water systems. Despite years of community response, advocacy, and legal action, **more than 3.5 million North Carolinians drink water with unsafe levels of PFAS.**

# About 1,4-dioxane

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*1,4-dioxane is a clear industrial liquid used as a solvent and sometimes created as a byproduct of manufacturing PET plastics — the kind used in plastic bottles and polyester.*

- 1,4-dioxane is carcinogenic and long-term exposure can also damage the liver and kidneys.
- Conventional drinking water treatment systems do not remove 1,4-dioxane from water.
- North Carolina has some of the worst 1,4-dioxane pollution in the nation. North Carolinians may be exposed to concentrations more than double the national average.
- NC families have been exposed to high concentrations of 1,4-dioxane for at least ten years.
- Where is the pollution coming from?
  - A lot of 1,4-dioxane pollution in our state comes from the Asheboro Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant accepts industrial waste from StarPet, a large industrial facility that manufactures PET polymers used in plastic bottles and polyester. Asheboro's pollution is dumped into Hasketts Creek, which flows into the Deep and Cape Fear Rivers — threatening the drinking water of up to **900,000 North Carolinians in communities including Sanford, Fayetteville, Wilmington, Pittsboro, Holly Springs, and Fuquay-Varina.**
- *What has been done about Asheboro's pollution so far?* In 2023, the state tried to end Asheboro's 1,4-dioxane discharges. Unfortunately, Asheboro—along with the help of Greensboro and Reidsville—sued in response. The EPA supported the state's action in 2025 and just recently a court ruled in favor of the state. However, Asheboro, Greensboro, and Reidsville recently appealed that decision and the fight continues.
- In addition to Asheboro, wastewater treatment plants in Reidsville and High Point have had ongoing issues with 1,4-dioxane. Greensboro has had elevated discharges of 1,4-dioxane in the past but has made substantial improvements. **The polluter-influenced rules will not prevent current or future 1,4-dioxane pollution in the Cape Fear watershed or elsewhere. When it comes to toxic chemicals in our drinking water, North Carolinians deserve strong, health-based solutions.**