

Stop the Polluter-written PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane Rules



Background:

The North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC) plans to adopt a set of rules that were written by polluters and would allow nearly 500 industrial facilities across North Carolina 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 make dischargers collect a handful of samples and write a plan for how they could reduce pollution. There are no consequences or penalties if the polluter fails to cut its pollution—even if the polluter increases its toxic discharges. The rules do nothing to prevent current or future pollution.

Put simply, the EMC rules protect polluter profits over the health of our communities.

Across North Carolina, more than 3.5 million people drink water with unsafe levels of PFAS, and over one million drink water laden with cancer-causing 1,4-dioxane. To address this crisis, the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality tried to adopt health-protective water quality standards for PFAS and 1,4-dioxane. Those standards would have set strict limits on the amount of toxic pollution industries and wastewater plants could dump into our rivers, creeks, and drinking water supplies. At the request of a group of wastewater plants, however, the EMC blocked the department's health-protective standards and instead ordered the agency to adopt weak polluter-written rules. [Here](#) is a timeline of how the rules came about.

Key Points:

- Under the EMC's polluter-written rules, there are no consequences if a polluter continues to dump (or even increases) toxic PFAS or 1,4-dioxane pollution into our drinking water.
- The EMC asks us to simply hope that industries will voluntarily reduce their pollution—they will not.
- PFAS and 1,4-dioxane are toxic, causing devastating health impacts at very low levels. Both chemicals are present in drinking water at unsafe levels across North Carolina.
- North Carolinians deserve strong rules that protect people over polluter profits.

What You Can Do:

The EMC needs to hear from you! By June 15, you can (1) submit written comments, (2) [join SELC in submitting comments](#), and/or (3) attend a public hearing. Information on how to submit comments or speak at a public hearing is available on the back of this sheet.

Written Comment Information:

By June 15, you can submit written comments to publiccomments@deg.nc.gov with the subject line “PFAS minimization” or “1,4-dioxane minimization” depending on which chemicals you discuss. If you would like to talk about both in your comments, you must send *two* emails. They can be identical, but one email must have with subject line “PFAS minimization” and one must have the subject line “1,4-dioxane minimization”. You can also [join SELC](#) in submitting comments.

Public Hearing Dates & Information:

The EMC is hosting three hearings about 1,4-dioxane and three hearings about PFAS. You can talk about both compounds at any hearing, but to ensure your comment is counted, you should at least mention the assigned chemical. For example, if you attend a PFAS hearing, you may talk about 1,4-dioxane, but you should mention PFAS too. If you would like to talk about both PFAS and 1,4-dioxane, we suggest you start your statement with the following language:

“I request that this comment be included in the public record for both the 1,4-dioxane and the PFAS monitoring and minimization rules.”

Speaker registration for each hearing begins at 5:00 PM and the hearing will begin at 6:00 PM.

Date & Time	Assigned Chemicals	Location
April 7 at 6:00PM	PFAS	AB-Tech Community College , Ferguson Auditorium, 19 Tech Drive, Asheville, NC 28801
April 9 at 6:00 PM	1,4-Dioxane	Catawba County St. Stephens Branch Library , 3225 Springs Road, Hickory, NC 28601
April 14 at 6:00 PM	1,4-Dioxane	Fayetteville Technical Community College , Tony Rand Student Center Multipurpose Room, 2220 Hull Rd. Fayetteville, N.C., 28303
April 20 at 6:00 PM	PFAS	Archdale Building , Ground Floor Hearing Room, 512 N. Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27604
April 23 at 6:00 PM	PFAS	Wilmington City Hall at Skyline Center , 1st Floor Conference Center, 929 North Front Street, Wilmington, 28401
May 12 at 6:00 PM	1,4-Dioxane	Guilford Technical Community College , Percy H. Sears Applied Technologies Building Auditorium, 1201 Bonner Dr., Jamestown, NC 27282