

Statement from Town of Pittsboro Regarding Water Quality

On Sept. 27, N.C. State Professor Detlef Knappe made a presentation before the Pittsboro Board of Commissioners regarding the occurrence of a chemical called 1,4 Dioxane in the Haw River and Pittsboro drinking water.

Dioxane is a colorless liquid often used as a solvent. It is classified by the EPA as “likely to be carcinogenic to humans” but currently is not regulated.

Town of Pittsboro staff want to reassure citizens that Water Plant Supervisor Adam Pickett is aware of the concerns of dioxane in the water supply and is working with environmental officials and other municipalities to monitor the situation.

The Town is voluntarily participating in a study group with several entities – including the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (formerly Department of Environment and Natural Resources), Reidsville, Greensboro, Asheboro, Fayetteville and N.C. State – to take a closer look at the issue. Staff will report to the Board of Commissioners on specific actions we can take.

The EPA is monitoring more than 5,000 public water systems across the country for 30 different “unregulated” contaminants (Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3, or “UCMR3”) from January 2013 through December 2015 and will determine if a regulatory mandate is necessary.

The Town of Pittsboro is in no violation of any regulatory standard for dioxane, and our drinking water is in compliance with all acceptable best practices for water quality. Should dioxane become regulated, we will fully comply and take the necessary steps to further treat our water.

Any citizens with questions can direct their inquiries to Adam Pickett, Water Treatment Superintendent at (919) 542-3530.