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CHARTERED 1787

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PRESS RELEASE

FROM

PITTSBORO TOWN MANAGER CHRIS KENNEDY

NCDEQ ANNOUNCES THAT CITY OF GREENSBORO REPORTS ELEVATED LEVELS OF 1,4 DIOXANE DISCHARGE, POTENTIALLY IMPACTING PITTSBORO'S PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) issued a press release on July 1, 2021, reporting a City of Greensboro discharge of 1,4 dioxane into South Buffalo Creek in the effluent from the T.Z. Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant that may impact downstream water intakes within the next few days. EPA has identified 1,4 dioxane as a likely human carcinogen. 1,4 dioxane is a clear liquid that is highly miscible in water. It has historically been used as a solvent stabilizer and is currently used for a wide variety of industrial purposes.

Preliminary results of the grab sample show levels from 543 ug/L (micrograms per liter) to 687 ug/L in the T.Z. Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant effluent. Greensboro's discharge is in violation of the Special Order by Consent (SOC) between the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission and the City of Greensboro, established earlier this year, which set a daily maximum of 45 ug/L. Municipalities with drinking water intakes downstream, including Pittsboro, have been notified and additional sampling is underway. Official sampling results may not be available until the end of next week, July 9, 2021.

Based on the level of contamination and the current stream flow data, the Town of Pittsboro wishes to inform our citizens, residents and water customers that levels of 1,4 dioxane in the Pittsboro drinking water source may exceed the EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisory Level of 35 ug/L based on a 1 in 10,000 cancer risk for lifetime exposure.

The Town is very much aware of the situation and continues to work with NCDEQ, the Haw River Assembly and the City of Greensboro to sample and inform the public. After being notified of the excessive contamination in Greensboro, Pittsboro staff shut down draws of raw water out of the Haw River to allow potentially contaminated water to flow downstream beyond the entry point of the Pittsboro's raw water intake. The Town will need to restore its raw water draw from the Haw River to meet the daily demands for potable water, and when we do so, in addition to the sampling conducted at the Pittsboro raw water intake on the Haw River, Town staff will also conduct sampling of finished water each hour during plant operation through Tuesday, July 6, 2021. If 1,4 Dioxane levels continue to exceed the EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisory Level of 35 ug/L,

after July 6, 2021, the Town will continue its sampling efforts until levels diminish below this threshold.

The Town of Pittsboro is continually monitoring the situation and is working intimately with NCDEQ and other entities to ensure proper levels are restored. The Town will issue regular updates as they become available. Please contact NCDEQ or the Town with questions or concerns.

Town of Pittsboro Representatives:

- Chris Kennedy, Town Manager – ckennedy@pittsboronc.gov
- Kent Jackson, Engineering Director – kjackson@pittsboronc.gov
- Adam Pickett, Public Utilities Director & Water Treatment Plant ORC – apickett@pittsboronc.gov



Chris Kennedy
Town of Pittsboro Town Manager