

TOWN OF



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PRESS RELEASE

FROM

PITTSBORO TOWN MANAGER CHRIS KENNEDY

UPDATE: CITY OF GREENSBORO 1,4 DIOXANE DISCHARGE, POTENTIALLY IMPACTING PITTSBORO'S PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

On July 1, 2021, the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) informed Town of Pittsboro officials that the City of Greensboro reported an excessive 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. 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, placing Greensboro 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.

Since the Town of Pittsboro's previous press release issued on Friday, July 2, 2021 notifying our customers of this potential contamination, Pittsboro staff has worked diligently to learn the latest and operate the water system in the safest and most mitigating manner it can understanding the concerns of 1,4 Dioxane. Initially, raw water draws were ceased to allow the "slug" of contaminants to pass our raw water intake on the Haw River. Since, the Town has reinstated the raw water draws, but only enough to meet minimal water demand. We are confident that the water is safe for consumption and use in both residential and commercial applications, but we urge precaution until test samples are returned. We continue to discuss the latest with Greensboro, NCDEQ and our downstream neighbors. The only sample results we have obtained since the weekend are samples taken in Fayetteville, NC through July 5, 2021 that had 1,4 Dioxane levels less than 2 ug/L, functionally non-detect. Until our samples are returned, it is yet to be determined if this sample taken in Fayetteville indicates quick passage or a pre-Greensboro contamination sample.

The Town is hopeful that results from our samples taken over the weekend will be returned tomorrow. As soon as the results become available, I will reissue a press release with the latest information and recommendations. We thank our customers for their patience and we share in your frustration over the initial cause of this concern and the inability to obtain sample results in a prompt manner. We strive to be open and candid with our information so that each of our customers can act accordingly.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Kennedy", is positioned above the printed name and title.

Chris Kennedy
Town of Pittsboro Town Manager