

TOWN OF



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CHARTERED 1787

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PRESS RELEASE
FROM
PITTSBORO TOWN MANAGER CHRIS KENNEDY
**CITY OF GREENSBORO 1,4 DIOXANE DISCHARGE,
IMPACTING PITTSBORO'S
PUBLIC DRINKING WATER SYSTEM**

The Town of Pittsboro has received notice that the City of Greensboro has once again exceeded their Special Order by Consent (SOC) Year One maximum of 45 ug/L with a release of 1,4 dioxane at concentration level of 767 ug/L. The initial notification to the Town stated that the City of Greensboro received laboratory data on Monday, November 8 at 11:20 a.m. that indicated the T. Z. Osborne (TZO) effluent grab sample taken on Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 8:40 a.m. had a 1,4-dioxane concentration of 767 ug/L, a value that exceeds the Year One SOC Compliance Value of 45 ug/L included in EMC SOC WQ S19-010. Municipalities with drinking water intakes downstream, including Pittsboro, were notified by the City of Greensboro at 2:33 p.m. via email on Monday, November 8, 2021.

After being notified of the excessive release of 1,4 dioxane by the City of 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 and commenced to grab samples from our raw water intake, from the finished water exiting the water treatment plant and each tank on the Town system. The Town of Pittsboro is now in receipt of the results from the raw water and finished water samples taken by Town staff on November 8-9, 2021, please see below. For reference purposes, the EPA's Drinking Water Health Advisory Level of 35 ug/L based on a 1 in 10,000 cancer risk for lifetime exposure.

Pittsboro Sample Location	Date	1,4 Dioxane Result
Raw Grab	November 8, 2021	<1.00 ug/L
Raw Grab	November 9, 2021	1.11 ug/L
Raw Composite	November 3 - 8, 2021	1.07 ug/L
Finished (At Plant)	November 8, 2021	<1.00 ug/L
Finished (At Plant)	November 9, 2021	1.02 ug/L
Finish – Chatham Forest Grab	November 8, 2021	1.30 ug/L
Finish – Horton Tank Grab	November 8, 2021	2.09 ug/L
Finish – 1.0M Tank Grab	November 8, 2021	1.61 ug/L

Based on the level of contamination seen in our sampling, it appears the Town has “dodged the bullet” with this release event. Town staff believes that the 1,4 dioxane slug has passed by the Town's raw water intake without incident to the Town as our raw composite grab between November 3 – 8, 2021 indicates a nearly non-detect level of 1,4 dioxane and the tanks, which hold water for days after treatment, show no alarming amounts of 1,4 dioxane. As we experienced with the June 30, 2021 1,4 dioxane release event from the City of Greensboro, a release of this scale would persist in our system for weeks if pulled into the system via

our raw water intake. Therefore, staff is of the opinion that these sample levels suggest that the 1,4 dioxane slug passed by our intake during our dormant raw water draw hours, which fortunately are less during the winter months with less daily demand. While this news is a relief, it does not discount the fact that an excessive release of 1,4 dioxane could have contaminated our drinking water supply. Frankly, the Town was simply lucky this time. The Town will continue to sample until it is abundantly clear that the 1,4 dioxane release has passed our raw water intake. The Town will also impress the seriousness and the significance of this exceedance with State and Greensboro officials as we continue to seek action that alleviates our simple request for better water.

We remain confident that our water is safe for consumption and use in both residential and commercial applications. The Town will continue to monitor the situation with additional precautionary sampling, and we will continue to discuss remedies with NCDEQ and the City of Greensboro. We thank our customers for their attention to this matter and their support as the Town continues to work their behalf.



Chris Kennedy
Town of Pittsboro Town Manager