

NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE EXPANSION OF THE CHEMOURS FAYETTEVILLE WORKS FACILITY

WHEREAS, the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners recognizes that safe, clean, and reliable drinking water is essential to the health and well-being of County residents and to the long-term environmental and economic vitality of our region; and

WHEREAS, the Cape Fear River serves as the primary drinking water source for residents of New Hanover County and neighboring communities, supporting approximately 500,000 North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, since at least 1980, Chemours and its predecessor, DuPont, have released per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including GenX, into the Cape Fear River from the Fayetteville Works facility located upstream from New Hanover County; and

WHEREAS, these discharges have resulted in widespread PFAS contamination throughout the Cape Fear River Basin, creating serious concerns about public health, environmental quality, and the financial burden placed on local utilities and ratepayers to provide safe drinking water, as peer-reviewed studies have identified potential associations between long-term PFAS exposure and certain adverse health effects, including increased risks of some cancers, thyroid and liver conditions, and developmental or immune system impacts; and

WHEREAS, the ratepayers of Cape Fear Public Utility Authority and its regional partners have invested tens of millions of dollars in treatment upgrades, including the installation of a Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) Filtration System, and continue to bear significant annual operating costs to remove PFAS compounds from the water supply; and

WHEREAS, Chemours has applied to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a permit to expand operations at its Fayetteville Works facility, which would substantially increase production and has the potential to increase PFAS emissions and discharges; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and other regulatory agencies have the authority and responsibility to deny permit applications that may endanger public health or violate federal or state environmental laws; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners strongly supports continued oversight by the EPA and DEQ to ensure Chemours achieves full compliance with existing consent orders and implements proven and verifiable controls to prevent additional PFAS contamination.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners formally opposes any expansion of the Chemours Fayetteville Works Facility that would result in increased PFAS emissions or discharges into the Cape Fear River Basin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board respectfully requests the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality to deny Chemours' current expansion permit unless and until the company has:

1. Fully remediated existing contamination; and
2. Demonstrated sustained compliance with all applicable environmental laws, consent orders, and permit conditions; and
3. Provided independent, verifiable data confirming that proposed operations will not increase PFAS releases to air or water; and
4. Provide documentation of financial compensation to local governments and public utility organizations for treatment systems and remediation measures implemented as a result of PFAS contamination in the public water supply.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board urges Chemours to engage transparently with local governments, utilities, and affected communities to share environmental data, adopt best available control technologies, and prioritize the protection of North Carolina residents and natural resources.

ADOPTED this 17th day of November, 2025.



NEW HANOVER COUNTY

William E. Rivenbark
William E. Rivenbark, Chair

ATTEST:

Kymberleigh G. Crowell
Kymberleigh G. Crowell, Clerk to the Board