

Chatham County Response to Water Concerns

The Town of Cary owns and operates the raw water intake on Jordan Lake just north of the Highway 64 bridge. Chatham County purchases raw water from Cary through a connection to their raw water transmission line. Chatham County relies heavily on the raw water testing that the Town of Cary does to stay ahead of the ever changing water quality at Jordan Lake.

There has been recent media coverage of 1-4 Dioxane being discharged by industry upstream of Jordan Lake and the Lower Haw River near the City of Greensboro. The Town of Cary as well as Chatham County and many other water purveyors nationwide have been testing for 1-4 Dioxane for some time now.

In 2014 as part of the EPA's 3rd Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3), Chatham County tested for 1-4 Dioxane along with various other unregulated emerging contaminants. These were finished (treated) water samples that were taken. The results show a detection level for 1-4 Dioxane to be 0.50 parts per billion (ppb) which was very similar to the results that the Town of Cary showed.

In December of 2018, the Town of Cary tested again for 1-4 Dioxane as part of a bio-filtration effectiveness study they were conducting during one of their water treatment plant upgrades. These results showed a level of 0.42 parts per billion (ppb).

As part of their quarterly PFAS testing Cary plans to include testing for 1-4 Dioxane moving forward.

Raw water testing has and continues to take place as part of the Triangle Area Water Supply Monitoring Project (TAWSSMP) 1-4 Dioxane is being tested for bi-monthly at Jordan Lake near the USGS site along Hwy 64. The results are being published on the USGS data site (see link below).

https://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nc/nwis/qwdata/?site_no=0209799150&agency_cd=USGS&inventory_output=0&rdb_inventory_output=value&begin_date=2018-01-01&end_date=2019-10-16&TZoutput=0&pm_cd_compare=Greater%20than&radio_parm_cds=parm_cd_list&radio_multiple_parm_cds=81582&format=html_table&qw_attributes=0&qw_sample_wide=wide&rdb_qw_attributes=0&date_format=YYYY-MM-DD&rdb_compression=file&submitted_form=brief_list

Results from much of the testing that the Town of Cary is performing for these emerging contaminants can be found on their website using the following link:

<https://www.townofcary.org/services-publications/water-sewer-stormwater/water/water-treatment/emerging-contaminants>

Since November of 2017, the Town of Cary, from whom Chatham County purchases its raw water, has been utilizing an independent lab to test the water at their raw water intake. This initial testing detected the presence of PFCs. While these perfluorinated compounds were detected, the levels of these compounds in the raw water was and continues to be well below the health advisory level for PFOS and PFOA which the EPA has set at 70 parts per trillion. Since the initial testing started in November of 2017 (weekly testing initially and is currently done monthly) concentrations of PFOA and PFOS have never exceeded 50 parts per trillion and have routinely stayed in the 20-30 parts per trillion in the raw water at the intake on Jordan Lake.

Despite these levels being below the EPA's health advisory level, Chatham County in conjunction with the Town of Cary decided to take a proactive approach to lower the PFC levels even further. The Town

of Cary increased their powder-activated carbon (PAC) treatment at the raw water intake and Chatham County increased theirs as well at their water treatment facility. What we have determined through Cary's testing and Chatham County's testing is that PAC has shown to be effective at decreasing perfluorinated compounds including PFOA and PFOS. The current levels of PFOA and PFOS in our treated water (the water distributed to our customers) are less than 2 parts per trillion and have routinely stayed in the 5-10 parts per trillion concentration level range. We continue to monitor PFC (PFOA and PFOS included) concentrations on a monthly basis to ensure that our drinking water meets and exceeds EPA and NCDEQ drinking water standards and we are in constant communication with these agencies discussing what can be done to identify and stop the release of these compounds into the water supply.