

JOSH STEIN

Governor

D. REID WILSON

Secretary

RICHARD E. ROGERS, JR.

Director



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

March 27, 2025

Kathlene Butler, Director
Region 4 Water Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
61 Forsyth St, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303

Subject: City of Asheboro NPDES Permit
Permit NC0026123
Asheboro WWTP
Randolph County

Dear Ms. Butler:

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Resources (the "Division") is in receipt of EPA's January 3, 2025 specific objection to the Asheboro NPDES permit. EPA specifically objected to the removal of the 1,4-dioxane effluent limits from Asheboro's permit and required the Division to respond to this objection within 90 days. The Division's response is set forth below.

As reflected in the permit issued by the Division to Asheboro, the Division agrees with EPA that 1,4-dioxane limits are needed in Asheboro's permit to protect designated uses, especially for drinking water, and the Division understands that such protection of designated uses is one of its core responsibilities under the Clean Water Act and North Carolina's implementing regulations. Nevertheless, because the North Carolina Office of Administrative Hearings' September 12, 2024, Order struck the 1,4-dioxane limits from Asheboro's permit, the Division is currently unable to issue a permit for Asheboro that includes such limits. The Division is appealing the Order, and the litigation is ongoing. The Division will keep EPA apprised of the status of the pending litigation and will update this response based on any pertinent rulings by the North Carolina courts.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Michael Montebello, NPDES Branch Chief at 919-707-3624 or via email at: Michael.montebello@deq.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard E. Rogers, Jr.".

Richard E. Rogers, Jr., Director
Division of Water Resources

Cc: Central Office, Julie Grzyb at julie.grzyb@deq.nc.gov, Michael.montebello@deq.nc.gov
EPA Region IV at: R4NPDESPermits@epa.gov



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality | Division of Water Resources
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