



DAVID HOWARD

PREVIOUSLY – BLADEN COUNTY HHS/PH DIRECTOR

DECEMBER 2017 – DEPUTY PH DIRECTOR, NEW HANOVER



**COUNTY LINES
&
EVOLVING SCOPE**

COUNTY LINES



- Inter-Dependency exists between counties across the state
- The Chemours property sits on the Bladen/Cumberland line
- About 90% of property and all of production facilities in Bladen
- Initial focus was on the “surface waters” of Cape Fear River
- Cape Fear provides drinking water to New Hanover, Brunswick, Pender Counties
- Encourage caution, if you can, to local leaders about initial reactions
- “Bladen County considering suing North Carolina to stop action against Chemours.”
- “We’ve got 500, 600 even 700 people we’ve got to protect, it’s their jobs we’re concerned about,” Peterson said.
- “We’ve got the same water as Brunswick County and New Hanover County, which all the state agencies have said — it is safe to drink,” Peterson said.
Port City Daily, Sep 8, 2017
(Bladen Public Water is from deep wells, not from Cape Fear River)

EVOLVING SCOPE



- ORIGINAL CONCERN – RIVER (SURFACE WATERS)
- GROUND WATER? RESIDENTIAL WELLS? AIR?
- THROUGHOUT 2017 AND INTO 2018 THE SCOPE OF THE CONTAMINATION ISSUES EVOLVED TO INCLUDE RESIDENTIAL WELLS AROUND PLANT, OTHER SURFACE WATERS, CROPS, HONEY...
- TAKE-AWAY: RESERVE JUDGEMENT ON SCOPE OF ISSUE AND WHETHER IT WILL HIT HOME EVEN WHEN INITIAL HEALTH CONCERNS ARE ELSEWHERE