

Newsletter

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A North Carolina research study assessing exposure to GenX and related chemicals in people living in the Cape Fear River Basin.

From the Principal Investigator

Dear GenX Exposure Study Members,

Thank you for being a part of the GenX Exposure Study. Whether you enrolled in Wilmington or Fayetteville, you are contributing to the first study to understand human exposure to GenX and other PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances). We know that study results are taking longer than you had hoped, and we appreciate your patience in the process.



To keep you updated on our study activities, we'll be sharing this newsletter with you on a regular basis. We also have updated our website (genxstudy.ncsu.edu) and hope you will visit to learn more about what's happening with the study. Check out Page 2 for some highlights.

Since we first received funding in November 2017, we have been busy. We enrolled 344 people in Wilmington and another 153 people in Fayetteville. We collected blood, urine, and tap water samples. In Fayetteville, we also collected well water, house dust, and wrist band samples. We've shared the results for PFAS in water and blood in Wilmington. We're currently analyzing the water and blood samples from Fayetteville. Hurricanes, government shutdowns, and laboratory instrument problems have slowed us down. But we keep going and will continue to share results once we are confident that they are as accurate as possible.

Most importantly, we are pursuing additional funds to keep the study going and expand to more participants. Hopefully we'll have news about this in 2020.

My very best wishes to you in the new year,

Jane Hoppin

Visit our new website for information: GenXStudy.ncsu.edu

Our summer research team includes undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and study staff.



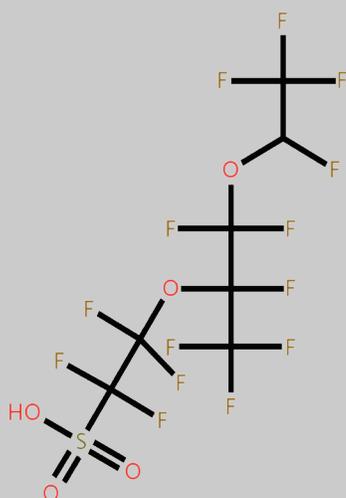
If you know any students interested in working with us, please send us an email.

What is Nafion byproduct 2?

We measured Nafion byproduct 2 in water and blood samples from people in Wilmington, so we wanted to tell you what we know about this chemical.

Nafion is a product made at the Chemours Facility — Fayetteville Works — and is used to make things such as renewable energy storage and fuel cells.

Nafion byproduct 2 is made during the creation of Nafion. To our knowledge, Nafion byproduct 2 is not currently meant for commercial use. Because it was a byproduct and not an active ingredient, no toxicity testing was originally required. Since its detection, toxicity testing of Nafion byproduct 2 (and other new PFAS) is ongoing. This testing will help us understand its potential impacts on human health.



Resources

To learn more about **PFAS** in general, visit [epa.gov/pfas](https://www.epa.gov/pfas).

To learn more about the work to address **PFAS in NC**, visit ncpfastnetwork.com.

NC DEQ started its GenX Investigation in 2017, which led to the Consent Order in 2019. Learn more here: deq.nc.gov/news/key-issues/genx-investigation.

Cape Fear River Watch answers questions the Consent Order here: capefearriverwatch.org/clean-water-matters/chemours-consent-order.

Fayetteville Residents can visit co.cumberland.nc.us/departments/public-health-group/public-health/environmental/genx-information.

Wilmington Residents can visit cfpua.org/761/Emerging-Compounds and can direct questions to Cape Fear Public Utility Authority at communications@cfpua.org.

Contact Us | 855-854-2641 | genx-exposure-study@ncsu.edu