

Threatt, Linnetta

From: Myra Beasley <jrbmrb@gotricounty.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 30, 2018 6:30 PM
To: Statements
Subject: EPA on GenX

Emp-93 subO

Regarding GenX and Wilkinson Solar

Dear Commissioners:

Attached is an article that appeared in the August Carolina Journal that may be of interest to you. It confirms that toxic materials like GenX and related compounds (called PFAS) are used in solar panels. These compounds may pose serious risks to our environment and that of future generations.

GenX is known to be in Teflon film that is used to coat and protect solar panels. EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water in Washington, DC indicates that GenX solar concerns are part of a much broader set of research challenges. This is a serious problem for the solar industry because there are thousands of these PFAS compounds and EPA has yet to develop methods to measure most of them.

This potential health problem is complicated by the fact that North Carolina doesn't have rules for the decommissioning of solar electric generating plants and for disposing of old used panels. Thus, we must add GenX to Cadmium Telluride as another potential solar panel toxic material to deal with. The list of potential health concerns related to the Solar Power Industry continues to grow. And coupled to the relatively short life span of solar power systems, our landfills will become filled with millions of pounds of toxic waste affecting the future of millions of North Carolinians. In a sense, it is analogous to the coal ash problem, except worse because we don't know how to measure the PFAS.

This issue is of particular concern to North Carolina because we have the second highest concentration of solar megawatts in the nation. Furthermore, it also creates potential liability problems for traditional power companies like Duke Energy and Dominion Power, since they own and operate their own solar power plants. Finally, the GenX question creates difficult problems for the North Carolina Utilities Commission since they can't really approve solar electric power stations without knowing the toxic materials contained within them.

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<https://www.carolinajournal.com/news-article/epa-confirms-genx-related-compounds-used-in-solar-panels/>