

Local News Coverage, WHQR Public Radio – Jan. 1 – March 31st

1st quarterly report

In addition to the twice-weekly hour-long public affairs show, CoastLine, WHQR also produces local news coverage – primarily through one full-time general assignment reporter.

Here is a listing of feature-length reports from WHQR Reporter Vince Winkel: (List does not include shorter wraps and spots)

Jan. 8, 2018: A North Carolina state committee plans to address the growing threat of GenX and other “emerging contaminants” in the Cape Fear River through legislation on Wednesday. The legislation does not include any additional funding, and that isn’t sitting well with the environmental community.

Jan. 18, 2018: Thousands of people face deportation if the U.S. Congress does not approve funding to continue the DACA program. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as DACA, protects more than 700,000 people who came to the U.S. as children of undocumented immigrants. They are also undocumented. Thousands of those people are in the Cape Fear Region.

Jan. 28, 2018: 1,4-Dioxane is in the Cape Fear River and in the drinking water supply. It's also classified by the Environmental Protection Agency as "likely to be carcinogenic to humans" by all routes of exposure. As part of our continuing coverage of local water contamination, WHQR takes a look at 1,4-Dioxane in this edition of *What's in the Water?*

Feb. 2, 2018: Residents who live near Chemours' Bladen County plant are angry. North Carolina state officials held their fourth community meeting last week at Bladen Community College in Dublin. More than 150 people showed up. At issue are contaminated wells owned by those in the area, showing high levels of contamination.

Feb. 16, 2018: WAVE Transit, the Cape Fear region's public transportation system, is looking toward growth – much like the region it serves. But financing that growth is a steep road to climb. Without additional funds, some underserved areas will remain underserved.

Feb. 23, 2018: Duke Energy operated the coal-powered Sutton Plant off U.S. 421 from 1954 until 2013. They then replaced it with a natural gas facility. But coal ash still has a place at the plant. It gets stored there. Now the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality is looking into re-writing the rules for coal ash disposal.

Feb. 28, 2018: The Trump Administration has a continental shelf oil exploration plan that covers most of the coastal U.S. – including North Carolina. Federal officials only held one informational meeting was held in the state, and that was in

Raleigh on Monday. Hundreds of North Carolinians made the trip. The buses from Wilmington were sold-out.

Mar. 7, 2018: The Wilmington City Council is throwing its support behind Cape Fear Public Utility Authority's request to stop production at Chemours' Fayetteville Works plant. The resolution, directed to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, asks regulators to require the company to stop all operations that produce perfluorinated compounds like GenX. The resolution is not binding, but does send a message.

Mar. 21, 2018: *March For Our Lives*, an event to push for gun law reform, is Saturday in Wilmington. Across the country, hundreds of thousands of students are expected to march to demand that their lives and safety become a priority, and that there is an end to gun violence in the nation's schools and communities.

Mar. 29, 2018: Sunnyvale Drive in Wilmington, between River and Carolina Beach Roads, has become a sort of Ground Zero for air emissions. Two companies, neighbors actually, are looking to open facilities that will release tons of formaldehyde and methyl bromide into the atmosphere. Area residents are very concerned.