PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026
8:30 AM

Present:	Richard W. King, Chairman Ronna Rowe Garrett, Vice Chairman Donald L. Porter, Secretary Christopher G. Davis, Treasurer
Others Present:	Timothy L. Bryant, CEO/General Manager Kirk deViere, Cumberland County Commission Chairman/Liaison
Absent:	Derrick Thompson, Mayor Pro Tem/Liaison Jodi Phelps, Assistant City Manager Faith Phillips, Assistant Cumberland County Manager Chancer McLaughlin, Hope Mills Town Manager Media

I. REGULAR BUSINESS

Chairman Richard King called the meeting of September 23, 2026, to order at 8:30 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner King led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Ronna Rowe Garrett motioned to amend the agenda by moving Item IV (Design Build Contract Approval) to Item IX (Correction: moved to Item X) and renumber subsequent agenda items. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Christopher Davis and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Ronna Rowe Garrett motioned to approve the amended agenda. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Christopher Davis and unanimously approved.

II. CONSENT ITEMS

Upon motion by Commissioner Donald Porter, seconded by Commissioner Ronna Rowe Garrett, Consent Items were unanimously approved.

III. AWARD PRESENTATIONS

NORTH CAROLINA CITY & COUNTY COMMUNICATORS (NC3C) 2026 EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNICATIONS AWARD

Presented by: Tyler Patton, Chief Communications & Community Relations Officer

Mr. Tyler Patton recognized the Communication and Community Relations team for their outstanding accomplishments last year, when a proposed Inter Basin Transfer would have permanently removed more than 6 million gallons of water per day from the Cape Fear River. This team helped lead a regional public engagement effort and transformed a complex public policy issue into a community conversation that resonated across our region. Through the highly successful "Don't Drain our Future" and Put it Back strategic multi-platform communication and engagement campaign, the team generated significant public awareness and participation resulting in nearly 300 people and stakeholders attending the public hearings, far exceeding the traditional numbers from years past. Their work has now been recognized statewide.

Mr. Patton stated PWC received the 2026 North Carolina City and County Communicators Excellence in Communications Award, one of the highest honors in public sector communications in the state. The award reflects the talent, the professionalism, and the dedication of a remarkable team committed to serving PWC's customers, the community, and the larger region.

Mr. Patton recognized Nicole Stiff, Rebecca Wolfe, Maine Johnson, Lamont, Hinson, Katie and Lexi Hasapis.

IV. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approve Minutes of meeting of September 9, 2026_

END OF CONSENT

V. PO HOFFER/GLENVILLE LAKE GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON SYSTEM (GAC) DESIGN UPDATE

Presented by: Kevin Howell, WR Engineering Manager
Vance McGougan, Engineer III, WR Engineering
Cory Hopkins, PE, Hazen

Mr. Christopher Davis introduced Mr. Kevin Howell, Mr. Vance McGougan and Mr. Cory Hopkins, who provided the PO Hoffer/Glenville Lake Granular Activated Carbon System (GAC) Design Update.

Corey Hopkins stated he will discuss the following:

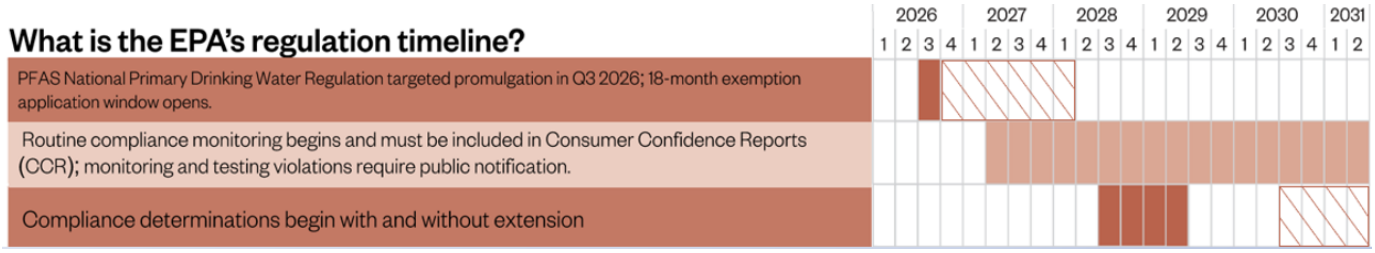
- Regulatory Update
- Project History
- Bidding
- Project Budget and Funding
- Schedule Moving Forward
- Next Steps

Proposed PFAS Rule Updates

There are now two rules: PFAS Recission Rule and PFOA/PFOS Compliance Extension Rule

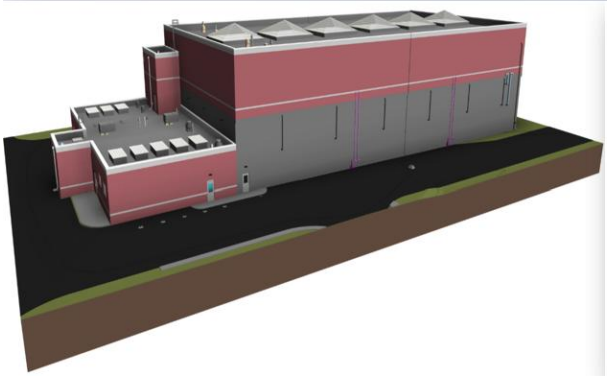
PFAS	April 2024 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	May 2026 MCL
PFOA	**4.0 ppt**	**4.0 ppt**
PFOS	**4.0 ppt**	**4.0 ppt**
PFNA	10 ppt	Rescinded
PFHxS	10 ppt	Rescinded
HFPO-DA (GenX)	10 ppt	Rescinded
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	Hazard Index (HI) of 1 (unitless)	Rescinded
Current EPA argues rescinded MCLs and HI were developed unlawfully.		

- Qualified utilities may apply for a 2-year compliance deadline extension (to Q2 2031)
- Routine compliance sampling and Consumer Confidence Report reporting still starts Q2 2027

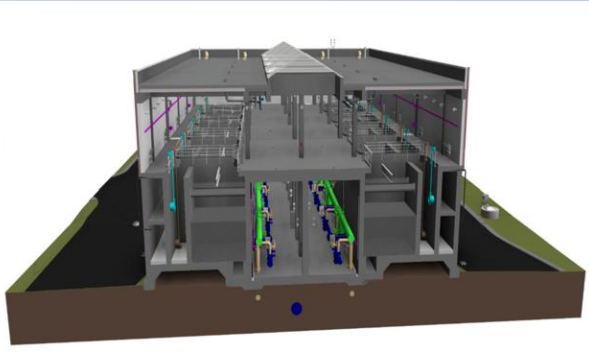


Selected Treatment: GAC Adsorption

- PWC is a passive receiver of PFAS and NOT a creator
- Implementing this technology effectively removes PFAS from the drinking water

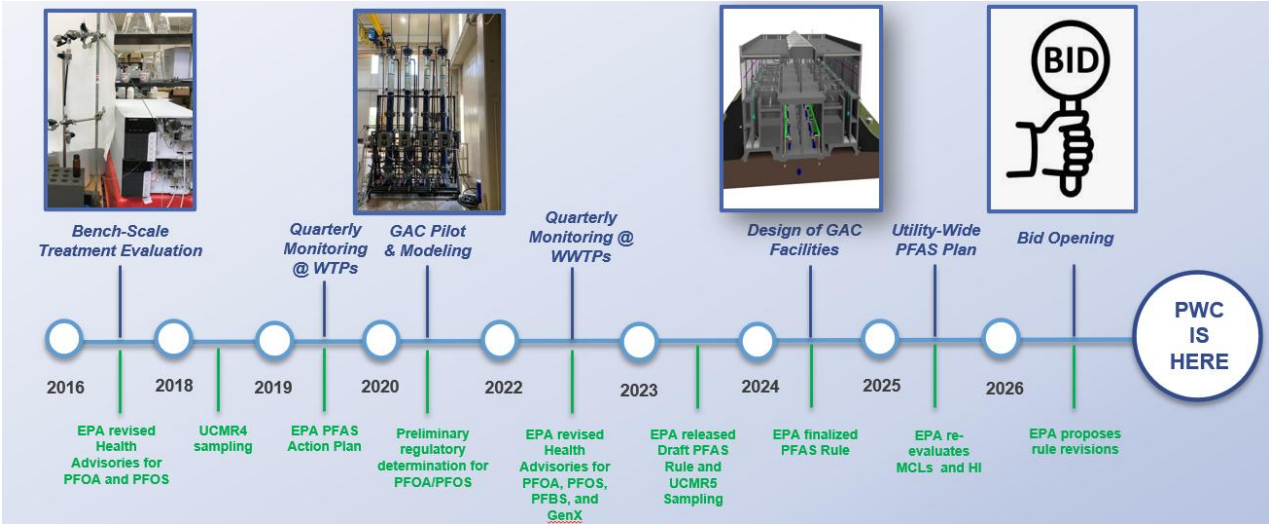


Exterior



Interior

Mr. Hopkins provided a timeline of the Project History which spanned from 2016 to the present.



Bidding

Mr. Hopkins stated bidding opened in February 26, 2026. Below are the bids received.

Contractor	Bid Total
Harper General Contractors, Inc	**$133,653,000**
T.A. Loving Company	$164,118,982
M.B. Kahn Waterworks, LLC	$169,628,225

General Contractor

Harper is headquartered in Greenville, SC with offices in SC, NC, VA and TN. It is family owned and founded in 1950. Harper has commercial, industrial, and environmental systems division. The company has worked for the City of Greensboro and Charlotte Water.

Project Budget

Source	Amount
Construction Contract	$133,653,000
Contingency (5%)	$6,682,650
Engineering (Design & Construction)	$13,058,000
Closing Costs	$1,710,000
Total Project Budget	**$155,103,650**

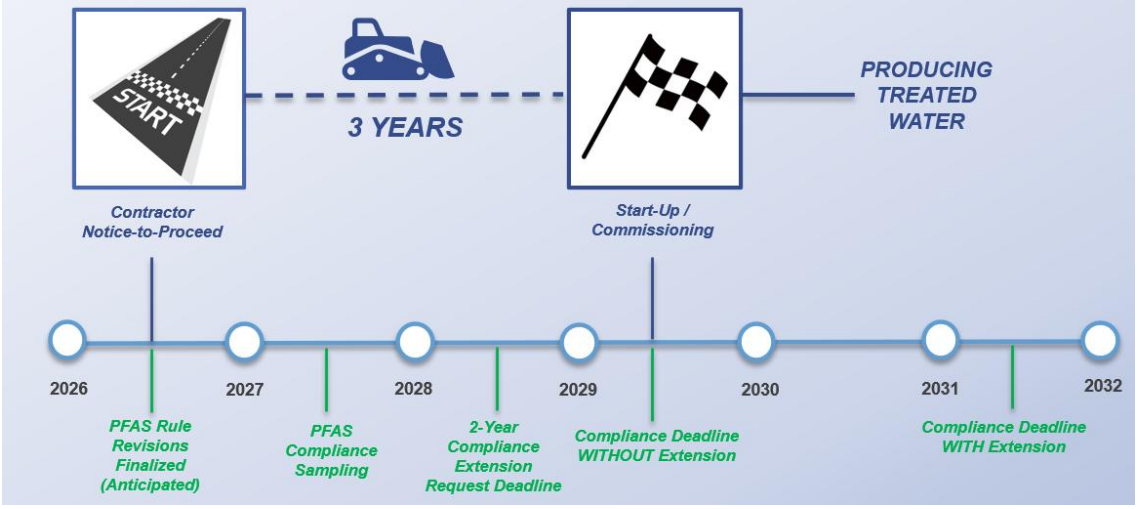
Project Funding

Source	Interest Rate	Amount
Drinking Water SRF Loans	1.04%	$54,500,000
Drinking Water SRF Grants	Forgiven	26,500,000
Safe Drinking Water Reserve Fund	2.45%	$3,000,000
Additional SRF Loan Amount	1.04%	$5,000,000
Revenue Bonds	---	$66,103,650
	Total Funding	**$155,103,650**

Legend
SRF = State Revolving Fund

~ 57% of project funded with grants and low-interest loans

Schedule Going Forward



Next Steps

- Issue Notice-to-Proceed
- Contractor Mobilization
- Begin Site Clearing at P.O. Hoffer
- Construction of the GAC Facilities

Mr. Hopkins thanked PWC for allowing Hazen to support them through this process and reaffirmed their commitment to continue that support.

Kevin Howell thanked the Commission for their support to this project. He stated this project has crossed every division throughout the organization. With all providing excellent support to ensure this project was successful.

He stated we have completed the monumental task of the bidding process, then we will go through construction. Updates will be provided along away. This is an EPA mandate affecting everyone.

Vance McGougan also lauded the teamwork of the PWC employees, including Shauna Haslem (Corporate Development), who assisted with the SRF Loan and Grant Funding of $89M. He stated the bidding portion of the project was done completely internally by our Procurement Department. Once the project was bid, there is an Authorization to Award Process that the State requires for SRF loans that is very complicated. The entire financing package has to go to the LGC and Finance helped tremendously in getting the package approved.

Commissioner Porter stated he appreciates the update and the work that is being done.

Commissioner Davis stated this is something we targeted to do years ago and it is interesting to see us push through in spite of changing political dynamics and differing interests. He asked how many organizations are pressing through the changing requirements to affect change for their communities. Mr. Howell responded that we are part of the PFAS Coalition throughout the state, and we are seeing other municipalities leaning toward the deadline extension process that has been given. Though PWC with our management here stated we will proceed on with our original deadline that was given.

Mr. Bryant stated everyone throughout the country is dealing with this. PWC was proactive years ago and began testing to understand what our PFAS conditions and challenges were well before others. Even with the changes in administration, the Commission has offered me and this leadership team to press forward because we know the EPA rules could and will most likely change again when there's another administration and the rules may be more stringent. We appreciate the support of the Commission in allowing us to press forward and meet this 2029 target in advance of the rest of the industry.

Commissioner Garrett pointed out that PWC is not a creator of this PFAS but a passive receiver of it and taking care of it. The public often is not educated on this. She likes to know what the public thinks.

She asked if PWC is required to share the budget estimate in the Procurement process. Staff responded no. She asked if PWC did share the estimate. Ms. Graham stated staff did not share the engineer's estimate with the bidders.

Commissioner King commended Mr. Hopkins, Mr. Howell and Mr. McGougan. He asked if both sites will be constructed simultaneously. Staff responded yes. He also asked where we are getting the rest of the money from. Staff responded from revenue bonds. He asked why it will take three years to complete the project. Is it lead times for the equipment? Mr. Hopkins stated they work with a contractor to identify lead times that will impact on the critical pattern. Additional discussion ensued.

VI. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

Safety

Mr. Bryant recognized the PWC team for continuing to make safety visible, personal and actionable across the organization. Actual injuries continue to remain flat month over month, however, as we know, one injury is still one too many. As we move through September, our focus remains on distracted driving, situational awareness, heat illness prevention, and storm readiness especially for employees working outdoors and teams operating around increased public traffic areas.

Safety also extends beyond PPE job briefings and slips, trips, and faults. It includes checking in on one another, making sure that NO team member feels that they have to put their personal health at risk in executing work activities. Let's continue to ensure that each of us is physically and mentally ready to perform each day and every task. We must avoid mental auto pilot by following established procedures using proper protective equipment, removing reporting concerns, keeping work areas secure, and looking out for one another. When we work safely, we live PWC's core values we protect our co-workers, customers and community.

People

Mr. Bryant stated, at our core, we appreciate and respect all people. That includes caring for our team members and paying attention to their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing.

September is National Suicide Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and remind one another that support is available and that NO one should feel personal or professional challenges alone. The work performed by utility professionals is demanding. Our teams respond to emergencies, work long hours and challenging conditions, operate in high-risk environments and often put the needs of customers and the community first. As leaders and coworkers who have a responsibility to notice when someone maybe struggling to check in with compassion and to connect them with help when needed. Asking for support is a sign of strength and we're committed to fostering a workplace where people feel seen, valued, and supported. One caring conversation, one intentional check-in or one act of compassion can make all the difference for a team member.

Community Engagement / Customer Engagement

PWC continues to reflect our role as a reliable utility provider, good neighbor and community partner. In addition to ongoing outreach through customer education, facility tours and community event participation, PWC continues to show up in this community through employee presence, visibility and resources, including supporting events such as this weekend's Fayetteville Next Advisory Commission's 910 Future Festival.

Running the Business

Mr. Bryant stated over the last six weeks, before and after PWC's Online Account Manager upgrade, PWC has experienced an unprecedented increase in calls to our customer call center with daily volumes five to ten times higher than typical daily call volume. In reviewing historical data, several factors contribute to the high volumes. The Fayetteville area experienced one of the hottest Augusts on the record with the average high temperature of 92 degrees this year compared to 86 degrees in August of 2025. As a result, higher temperatures have contributed to increased service usage and correspondingly bills. Additionally, a higher than usual number of customers have relocated into and out of the PWC service area also prompting calls. Another observation was customer uncertainty about the new online account manager's self-service options such as moving services, payment extensions, and chat features resulting from them conducting transactions through the online manager but then calling into the customer call center to verify an action that they took through a self-service option. As a result of all these factors among others, customers inundated the PWC call center resulting in longer than typical hold times when contacting PWC.

To ensure PWC customer service representatives are available for the most challenging situations, customers are continuing to be encouraged to use their new online account manager to access account details. The online account manager provides in depth detailed usage and billing of 24 hours a day, and it is accurate and they can trust it. Additionally, the online account manager offers

customers the fastest service for routines requests such as payment extensions, account starts, stops, and transfers. Additionally, the PWC website live chat option remains a great alternative for customers still wishing to contact PWC customer service to manage their accounts.

For customers who must call PWC, beginning September 25, 2026, customers will also have the ability to schedule a call with the representative through the PWC website www.faypwc.com. Lastly, since the online account managing implementation several weeks ago, more than 80,000 customers have used the new online account manager portal. Twenty-three thousand have used the new mobile apps and PWC has taken over 120,000 payments to process more than 4,000 move service, bill extensions and related requests through the online portal. PWC will continue to share tips and resources to help customers manage their accounts using the self-service options as well as sharing conservation measures to lower consumption and customer bills.

Commissioner King asked what the present hold time for customers is. Ms. Justice-Hinson stated it is 30 minutes.

VII. COMMISSIONER/LIAISON COMMENTS

County Chairman / Liaison Kirk deViere

Commissioner deViere stated the historic settlement with Chemours in $161.5M has been completed. The County is excited to have that case behind them. And excited that they are using those dollars to continue to invest in the infrastructure and the contaminated areas.

He also stated on Monday evening, they approved $1.3M of funding to go to a preliminary PR engineering report for our Cedar Creek area to assess the ground and public water connections accessibility in those areas as they continue in their regionalization approach.

Commission deViere commended PWC on the update on our filtration system.

There were no comments from the Commissioners.

VIII. REPORTS AND INFORMATION

The Commission acknowledges receipt of the following reports and information.

A. Monthly Cash Flow Report - August 2026
B. Investment Report – August 2026
C. Recap of Uncollectible Accounts – August 2026
D. Purchase Orders – August 2026
E. Utility Payments by Payment Type – August 2026
F. Personnel Report – August 2026
G. Career Opportunities
H. Approved N.C. Department of Transportation Encroachment Agreement(s):
   - Encr. 19983 – install 4" SDR-21 CERT A-LOK SS Lateral @ NC59/SR1596 (Hope Mills Road)

IX. CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTES 143-318.11(A)(3) FOR LEGAL MATTERS

Commissioner Donald Porter motioned to enter closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11(A)(3) for Legal Matters. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Christopher Davis and unanimously approved.

There being no further discussion, upon motion by Commissioner Donald Porter, seconded by Commissioner Christopher Davis and unanimously approved the meeting returned to open session at 10:10 am.

X. DESIGN BUILD CONTRACT APPROVAL

Commissioner Christopher Davis motioned to approve the below Design Build Contract. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Donald Porter and approved (3-1). Commissioner Richard King in opposition.

Proposed Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) – 5 MW Sally Hill design-build contract, budgeted in FY2027 CIP, CPR1000599, with an estimated budget of $12,000,000.00 to Arcadis' Construction Services and Arcadis G&M of North Carolina, Inc., and forward to City Council for approval.

PWC Staff determined that a design-build approach combining the design and construction phases into a single contract would result in faster project delivery, greater cost savings and greater accountability, in accordance with Resolution No. PWC2022.019 – Resolution Establishing Design-Build Criteria, including the pre-approval of a design-build approach by the Chief Executive Officer pursuant to that certain Memorandum dated March 25, 2026. As the cost of the project is expected to exceed $500,000.00, approval of the Commission is required.

Bid Date: May 22, 2026

DESIGN-BUILD BID RESPONDENTS

CONTRACTOR	ENGINEERING FIRM
Arcadis' Construction Services Raleigh, NC	Arcadis G&M of North Carolina Inc. Raleigh, NC
Ameresco, Inc. Charlotte, NC	Pure Power Engineering Hoboken, NJ
Oral Contracting, Inc. Maxton, NC	Sidebotham Substations Fayetteville, NC
Florida Electric & Solar Tampa, FL	RLC Engineering, PLLC Augusta, MN
Southern View Energy Lula, GA	ELM Microgrid Batteries The Colony, TX
	Biren Patel Engineering Macon, GA

COMMENTS: A notice of a request for statements of qualifications (RFQs) was advertised through PWC's normal channels on April 30, 2026, with a response deadline of May 22, 2026. PWC received five (5) responses to the RFQ.

After evaluation of the responses, and their prior performances by PWC staff, the design-build team of Arcadis' Construction Services and Arcadis G&M of North Carolina, Inc. was determined to be the most qualified respondent to the RFQ. The recommended firm demonstrated significant experience in utility-scale battery energy storage projects and a strong understanding of PWC's objectives. Their multidisciplinary team brings expertise in engineering, utility systems, permitting, financial analysis, SCADA integration, and project management, supported by a well-qualified consultant team with successful experience delivering projects of similar scope and complexity. Following Commission and City Council approval, PWC staff will negotiate terms and finalize the Design-Build Contract with the selected design-build team, subject to legal review and execution in accordance with PWC policies. **SDBE/Local Participation:** Arcadis G&M of North Carolina, Inc.is not a small nor local supplier. The estimated $12 million project is projected to generate approximately $18 million in regional economic impact using a 1.50 economic multiplier. Actual impact is subject to final contract value and local participation.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, upon motion by Commissioner Ronna Rowe Garrett, seconded by Commissioner Donald Porter, and unanimously approved, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.