# Secretary Michael Regan, NC Department of Environmental Quality

Michael Regan has served as Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality since 2017. Prior to that appointment from 2008-2016 Regan worked as an Associated Vice President and Senior Director for the Environmental Defense Fund where he worked on climate and energy. From 1998-2008 Regan worked various roles at the United States Environmental Protection Agency including: National Program Manager - Program Design, Office Of Air Quality Planning & Standards; Environmental Protection Specialist, Office Of Air Quality Planning & Standards; Special Assistant, Director of Radiation and Indoor Air; and Special Assistant, U.S. Assistant Administrator of Air and Radiation. While at the NCDEQ, Regan cited his work in helping develop and implement “North Carolina Governor’s 2018 Executive Order 80 to address climate change impacts and transition North Carolina’s energy economy” as his signature accomplishment. Regan also ended multiple lawsuits against the federal government including WOTUS and CPP. According to his LinkedIn profile, “Regan led negotiations of the historic coal ash settlement with Duke Energy, resulting in the largest coal ash clean-up in the United States. He led complex negotiations regarding the clean-up of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) water contamination and issued the largest civil penalty in North Carolina’s history against The Chemours Company.”

## Background

**Regan Named Secretary Of NC DEQ January 2017**. According to the NC DEQ, “Governor Roy Cooper named Michael S. Regan Secretary of the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality on Jan. 3, 2017.” [North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Leadership, accessed [12/14/20](https://deq.nc.gov/about/leadership/michael-s-regan)]

* **NCDEQ: “Regan Oversees The State Agency Whose Mission Is To Protect North Carolina’s Environment And Natural Resources.”** According to the NC DEQ, “As DEQ secretary, Regan oversees the state agency whose mission is to protect North Carolina’s environment and natural resources. The organization has offices from the mountains to the coast and administers regulatory and public assistance programs aimed at protecting the quality of North Carolina’s air, water and land, its coastal fisheries, and the public’s health.” [North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Leadership, accessed [12/14/20](https://deq.nc.gov/about/leadership/michael-s-regan)]
* **Regan “Oversees Approximately Two Billion Dollars In Assets, 1,600 Employees And Seven Regional Offices Across The State Of North Carolina.”** “Michael S. Regan has served as the 17th Cabinet Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality since 2017. As the chief executive officer, Regan oversees approximately two billion dollars in assets, 1,600 employees and seven regional offices across the state of North Carolina.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]
* **NCDEQ “Administers Regulatory Oversight To Businesses, State And Local Municipalities.”** According to his LinkedIn profile, “The Department administers regulatory oversight to businesses, state and local municipalities, creates strategic partnerships and implements public-private assistance programs to protect the state’s environment, economy and public health.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Regan Joined NCDEQ With “More Than 18 Years Of Professional Experience Focused On Overcoming Complex Challenges Through Environmental Advocacy And Regulation.”** According to the NC DEQ, “Regan joins the Cooper administration after more than 18 years of professional experience focused on overcoming complex challenges through environmental advocacy and regulation.” [North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Leadership, accessed [12/14/20](https://deq.nc.gov/about/leadership/michael-s-regan)]

**“Regan Worked With The Environmental Protection Agency’s Air Quality And Energy Programs For The Clinton And Bush Administrations”** According to the NC DEQ, “Regan worked with the Environmental Protection Agency’s air quality and energy programs for the Clinton and Bush administrations.” [North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Leadership, accessed [12/14/20](https://deq.nc.gov/about/leadership/michael-s-regan)]

* **“Regan Served As A National Program Manager Responsible For Designing Programs Aimed At Reducing Pollution, And Market-Based Solutions To Improve Energy Efficiency, Air Quality And Climate-Related Challenges” [**North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Leadership, accessed [12/14/20](https://deq.nc.gov/about/leadership/michael-s-regan)]

**Regan Led The Environmental Defense Fund’s Efforts To Reduce The Impacts Of Climate Change And Air Quality Pollution**. According to the NC DEQ, “Most recently, he served as the Associate Vice President of U.S. Climate and Energy and Southeast Regional Director of the Environmental Defense Fund. He led the Environmental Defense Fund’s efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change and air quality pollution.” [North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Leadership, accessed [12/14/20](https://deq.nc.gov/about/leadership/michael-s-regan)]

**Regan Has Served On Several Boards And Commissions Focused On The Environment**:

* UNC School of Law Center for Climate, Energy, Environment and Economics
* Green 2.0
* N.C. Commission on Global Climate Change
* N.C. Energy Policy Council and the Executive Steering Committee of Envision Charlotte.

[North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Leadership, accessed [12/14/20](https://deq.nc.gov/about/leadership/michael-s-regan)]

**Regan Has A Bachelor’s Degree In Earth And Environmental Science From N.C. Agricultural And Technical State University**. According to the NC DEQ, “A native of Goldsboro, N.C., Regan has a bachelor’s degree in Earth and Environmental Science from N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University and a master’s degree in Public Administration from George Washington University.” [North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Leadership, accessed [12/14/20](https://deq.nc.gov/about/leadership/michael-s-regan)]

**Regan Has Master’s Degree In Public Administration From George Washington University**. According to the NC DEQ, “A native of Goldsboro, N.C., Regan has a bachelor’s degree in Earth and Environmental Science from N.C. Agricultural and Technical State University and a master’s degree in Public Administration from George Washington University.” [North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Leadership, accessed [12/14/20](https://deq.nc.gov/about/leadership/michael-s-regan)]

**Regan Is Married With A Child And Lives In Raleigh, North Carolina**. According to the NC DEQ, “Regan and his wife, Melvina, and their son, Matthew, live in Raleigh.” [North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, Leadership, accessed [12/14/20](https://deq.nc.gov/about/leadership/michael-s-regan)]

**Bloomberg: “Regan Spent Nearly A Decade Working Under Two Presidents At The EPA And Is Now The Secretary Of North Carolina’s Department Of Environmental Quality.”** According to Bloomberg, “Michael Regan is now among the top contenders to be Environmental Protection Agency administrator, according to three people familiar with the matter who asked not to be named. Regan spent nearly a decade working under two presidents at the EPA and is now the secretary of North Carolina’s Department of Environmental Quality.” [Bloomberg, [12/13/20](https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-14/biden-team-considering-north-carolina-official-to-lead-u-s-epa?sref=JN1HDH2Z)]

### Bio

**2016: Founded Regan And Associates**. [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

* **Regan And Associates “Dedicated To Helping Organizations Find Transformational Solutions For The Most Complex And Important Energy, Environmental And Economic Challenges.”** According to his LinkedIn profile, “Michael S. Regan, founder of M. Regan & Associates, is dedicated to helping organizations find transformational solutions for the most complex and important energy, environmental and economic challenges.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Sep 2015 – Jul 2016: Associate Vice President, U.S. Climate And Energy & Southeast Regional Director, Environmental Defense Fund**. “Provided overall vision, strategy and leadership for US Climate and Energy program implementation: rewriting outdated regulations, spurring energy services markets, and modernizing century-old electric grid “ [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Aug 2013 – Sep 2015: Senior Director, State Strategic Implementation - US Climate And Energy Program**. According to his LinkedIn profile, “The Senior Director of State Strategic Implementation is responsible for the day-to-day national leadership and management of specific policies, incentives, technologies, and legislation to decarbonize the grid across EDF's priority states. Specific initiatives will include alternative financing, new business models for utilities, demand response programs, energy efficiency programs, renewable energy, microgrids, grid upgrades for resiliency, and other environmental benefits.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Nov 2012 – Mar 2013: Interim Associate VP, US Climate And Energy Program, Environmental Defense Fund**. [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Feb 2008 – Aug 2013: Feb 2008 – Aug 2013, Environmental Defense Fund**. According to his LinkedIn profile, “Direct regional efforts to improve options for clean energy choices that create jobs, reduce climate change impacts and air pollution. Expertise includes a sound understanding of technologies and policies affecting traditional energy generation, energy efficiency business models, and renewable energy.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

* **Gubernatorial Appointment: North Carolina Energy Policy Council**. [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]
* **Legislative Appointment: Legislative Commission On Global Climate Change**. [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]
* **Executive Steering Committee - Clinton Global Initiative: Envision Charlotte**. [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]
* **Department Of Natural Resources And Environmental Design Board, NC A&T State University**. [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Oct 2006 – Feb 2008:** **National Program Manager - Program Design, Office Of Air Quality Planning & Standards, United States Environmental Protection Agency**. According to his LinkedIn profile, “Designed viable regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms to implement multi-pollutant, sector based emission reduction strategies established upon comprehensive information regarding (key industrial sectors, regulated/non-regulated emissions, facility operations, economic and growth profiles, capital planning cycles, and market-based mechanisms to improve air quality).” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Jun 2003 – Oct 2006:** **Environmental Protection Specialist, Office Of Air Quality Planning & Standards, United States Environmental Protection Agency.** According to his LinkedIn profile, “Developed/coordinated special cross cutting projects and diverse teams, policy recommendations, planning initiatives and innovative mechanisms designed to meet and/or exceed program objectives for reducing air pollution and protecting human health. Required harmonization among various media offices within EPA, Federal Advisory Councils, State and Local air pollution control agencies, and other Federal and non-Federal agencies.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Sep 2001 – Jun 2003:** **Special Assistant, Director Of Radiation And Indoor Air, United States Environmental Protection Agency.** According to his LinkedIn profile, “Developed/coordinated special cross cutting projects, policy recommendations, initiatives and activities, which required harmonization among various media offices within EPA, Federal Advisory Councils, State and Local air pollution control agencies, and other Federal and non-Federal agencies.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Sep 1998 – Sep 2001:** **Special Assistant, U.S. Assistant Administrator Of Air And Radiation, United States Environmental Protection Agency**. According to his LinkedIn profile, “Coordinated/developed speeches and testimony, environmental justice policy research and development, and communication strategies for the U.S; Assisted teams in defining source toxics, improving EPA’s understanding of the risk of these toxics and strengthening partnerships with state and local government.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

### Philosophy and Critiques

**Regan Said He “Brings Transformational Leadership In Solving Complex Challenges Through Executive Management, Strategy, Performance Standards And Market-Based Solutions.”** According to his LinkedIn profile, “Regan’s national leadership is distinguished by a strategic and tactical focus on energy, water quality, sustainability and economic growth. He brings transformational leadership in solving complex challenges through executive management, strategy, performance standards and market-based solutions.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Regan “Established The State’s First Environmental Justice And Equity Advisory Board To Better Align Social Inequities, Environmental Protection And Community Engagement.”** According to his LinkedIn profile, “Regan also established the state’s first Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory board to better align social inequities, environmental protection and community engagement.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**NC Governor Roy Cooper: “Michael Regan Has The Environmental Background To Know That Protecting State Resources Is Vital To Our State’s Health And Economic Climate.”** According to EE News, “In an announcement yesterday, Cooper picked Michael Regan to head up the DEQ. During both the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations, Regan worked in several air offices at EPA, including as a national program manager in the agency’s Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards, according to his LinkedIn profile. ‘Michael Regan has the environmental background to know that protecting state resources is vital to our state’s health and economic climate,’ Cooper said in a statement.” [EE News, [1/4/17](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060047833)]

* **Cooper: “He Also Has The Government Experience And Diplomacy To Understand That Working Together Is The Way To Get Things Done.”** According to EE News, “The governor added, ‘He also has the government experience and diplomacy to understand that working together is the way to get things done.’” [EE News, [1/4/17](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060047833)]

**Conservative Civitas Institute Said Of Regan In 2017: “If Cooper Was Looking For A Very Well-Connected Player In The Worldwide Radical Environmental Movement — He Found Him In Michael Regan.”** According to EE News, “He previously worked for U.S. EPA and the Environmental Defense Fund. ‘If Cooper was looking for a very well-connected player in the worldwide radical environmental movement — he found him in Michael Regan,’ the conservative Civitas Institute said.” [EE News, [1/27/17](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060049101)]

## North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

**Regan Cited 2018 Climate Change Executive Order 80 As His Signature Accomplishment**. According to his LinkedIn profile, “Regan’s signature accomplishments as Secretary include the development and implementation of North Carolina Governor’s 2018 Executive Order 80 to address climate change impacts and transition North Carolina’s energy economy.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]

**Regan On 2017 Decision To Drop State Lawsuit Against Clean Power Plan: “We Feel That Pursuing This Potentially Expensive Legal Challenge Is Not A Good Use Of State Resources.”** According to EE News, “DEQ Secretary Michael Regan, appointed in January by new Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, said the agency will no longer prioritize the ‘expensive legal challenge.’ ‘We are working to assess our agency and its challenges so we can better position ourselves to meet our greatest priorities going forward,’ he said in a statement. ‘We feel that pursuing this potentially expensive legal challenge is not a good use of state resources, would not be in line with our agency’s mission to protect the environment, and would not serve the best interest of taxpayers.’” [EE News, [2/24/17](https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1060050506)]

**NC Dropped Lawsuit Over Methane While Regan Was NCDEQ Secretary**. According to EE News, “The state of North Carolina wants to drop its challenge to Obama-era regulations for methane emissions from the oil and gas industry. Attorney General Josh Stein (D) made the request today to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, asking the court to allow North Carolina’s Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to voluntarily withdraw from sprawling litigation over U.S. EPA’s New Source Performance Standards for oil and gas facilities.” [EE News, [3/6/17](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060051010)]

**NC DEQ Filed Motion To Withdraw From WOTUS Lawsuit**. According to EE News, “North Carolina is continuing to retreat from litigation against Obama administration regulations, asking a federal court today for permission to leave a lawsuit over the Clean Water Rule. The Department of Environmental Quality filed a motion to withdraw from litigation over the rule — which is also known as Waters of the U.S., or WOTUS — in the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Over the past few months, North Carolina has also left lawsuits challenging the Clean Power Plan and U.S. EPA’s methane limits for new oil and gas operations, two key pieces of President Obama’s climate agenda.” [EE News, [4/20/17]](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060053365)

**Regan And NCDEQ Did Not Support Appointment Of Former DEQ Secretary Donald van der Vaart To EPA Scientific Advisory Board.** According to EE News, “After being on paid administrative leave for almost a month, the former secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has resigned from the agency. Donald van der Vaart was recently appointed to U.S. EPA’s Scientific Advisory Board as part of a shakeup by Administrator Scott Pruitt (E&E News PM, Oct. 31). He was on leave from his DEQ position for unspecified reasons. A memo addressed to van der Vaart had said the leave would be used to ‘investigate concerns regarding your conduct and recent actions that may have compromised the Division of Air Quality and the Department of Environmental Quality.’ The memo said the step was not a disciplinary action. When van der Vaart was appointed to EPA’s board, his successor as secretary, Michael Regan, said DEQ did not support his participation on the EPA board.” [EE News, [11/29/17](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1060067593)]

* **NC Governor Suspended van der Vaart; Regan Said NCDEQ Did Not Support His Role At EPA**. According to EE News, “EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt appointed van der Vaart as part of his ongoing effort to remake the Science Advisory Board, removing scientists and adding industry-friendly researchers and officials (E&E News PM, Oct. 31). New North Carolina DEQ Secretary Michael Regan said the state agency does not support van der Vaart’s role at EPA, adding that he is barred from doing any advisory work on state time. However, Regan did not say why van der Vaart and Evans were put on leave.” [EE News, [11/13/17](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060066349/)]

**Regan Levied Largest State Penalty Against Polluter**. According to EE News, “The largest penalty a polluter has paid North Carolina should change the way one of the country’s biggest chemical companies makes compounds that EPA said appear dangerous even in small amounts, the state’s top environmental official said Friday. A deal announced late Wednesday requires the Chemours Co. to pay the state a $12 million penalty, add $1 million for investigative costs, sharply reduce air emissions of the nonstick compound known as GenX and spend millions of dollars to provide permanent replacement drinking water supplies to neighbors with contaminated water wells. ‘It will change the way this company operates in the state of North Carolina if they are serious about remaining operational here,’ state Department of Environmental Quality Michael Regan said Friday. Further enforcement action is possible if scientists find health effects for GenX at levels lower than what the state now estimates is safe, he said. The penalty outstrips the $7 million Duke Energy Corp. agreed to pay in 2015 for persistent groundwater contamination at its 14 coal-burning power plants in North Carolina.” [EE News, [11/26/18](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060107315)]

**NC DEQ Ordered Excavation Of Duke Energy Coal Ash**. According to EE News, “Duke Energy Corp. is predicting billions of dollars in additional cleanup expenses after North Carolina regulators yesterday ordered the company to excavate nine coal ash storage ponds at power plants around the state. The Charlotte-based utility had previously projected the cost of meeting government requirements at $5.6 billion for its coal ash storage sites in North and South Carolina, according to a company statement… The ash will eventually have to be moved to lined landfills; Duke now must turn in final closure plans by the beginning of August that meet the requirements of the law, known as the Coal Ash Management Act, according to the release. The state DEQ ‘rigorously reviewed the proposals, and the science points us clearly to excavation as the only way to protect public health and the environment,’ said Secretary Michael Regan.” [EE News, [4/2/19](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060140347)]

* **Regan Cited His Negotiations With Duke Energy On Coal Ash And Led Negotiations On PFAS Clean Up**. According to his LinkedIn profile, “In addition, Regan led negotiations of the historic coal ash settlement with Duke Energy, resulting in the largest coal ash clean-up in the United States. He led complex negotiations regarding the clean-up of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) water contamination and issued the largest civil penalty in North Carolina’s history against The Chemours Company.” [LinkedIn, Michael Regan, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.linkedin.com/in/michaelreg/)]
* **Regan Praised 2012 Settlement With Duke Energy: “This Settlement Ends Another Chapter In The History Of Polluting Coal Generation That Jeopardizes Our Health, Air And Water.”** According to EE News, “Environmental groups announced a settlement today with Duke Energy Corp. that requires the company to phase out coal-fired power plants in North Carolina…‘This settlement ends another chapter in the history of polluting coal generation that jeopardizes our health, air and water,’ said Michael Regan, director of energy efficiency for the Environmental Defense Fund. ‘In the future, energy conservation and new technologies will provide North Carolina with reliable energy while protecting our families and economy.’” [EE News, [1/17/12](https://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1059958571)]

**Regan Took Over NCDEQ That Was Under Investigation By US EPA “Over Concerns The State Hasn’t Done Enough To Protect Minorities And Poor Residents From The Effects Of Hog Farms**.” According to a letter to the editor written by Michael Regan in the News and Observer, “As the new secretary of the state Department of Environmental Quality, I want our residents to understand we take seriously the concerns outlined in The News & Observer’s Jan. 18 news article ‘EPA faults N.C. over health of residents near hog farms.’ The article discussed a Jan. 12 letter the EPA’s External Civil Rights Compliance Office sent to DEQ about the federal agency’s investigation over concerns the state hasn’t done enough to protect minorities and poor residents from the effects of hog farms. Let me start by saying we take seriously our legal and moral obligation to protect the environment as well as the health and well-being of all North Carolina residents. While the Cooper administration was not involved in these issues or the investigation that dates back to 2014, we will take this opportunity to thoroughly explore this matter with an open mind and a fresh set of eyes.” [News and Observer, accessed [12/14/20](https://www.newsobserver.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor/article129094944.html)]

**Regan And NC DEQ Approved Permits For Atlantic Coast Pipeline**. According to EE News, “Regulators in North Carolina granted permits for the Atlantic Coast pipeline on Friday, bringing Dominion Energy Inc.’s $5.1 billion, 600-mile natural gas pipeline closer to construction. North Carolina’s Department of Environmental Quality issued a state water quality certification for the project, a so-called Section 401 permit that represents one of a state’s few gatekeeping opportunities in interstate pipeline permitting. The permit is the first major approval in North Carolina and came after extended back-and-forth with Dominion over aspects of the company’s plans… ‘DEQ left no stone unturned in our exhaustive eight-month review of every aspect of the 401 application,’ said DEQ Secretary Michael Regan in a statement.” [EE News, [1/29/18](https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1060072195)]

**Regan: “The Risk And Resilience Plan Takes The Experience And Knowledge Of The Experts And Leaders From Across The State To Ensure A Comprehensive Approach To Address The Risks To Our Infrastructure And Economy.”** According to EE News, “The new climate analysis, submitted to Cooper last week by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, says warming impacts would be felt in every part of the state. Those include broad temperature and precipitation shifts, more severe drought and fire conditions, and a reshaped coastal zone wrought by sea-level rise, storm surges and destructive hurricanes. ‘As we begin another hurricane season with even greater challenges facing North Carolina this year, the administration’s leadership has better positioned our state to prepare our most vulnerable communities,’ said Michael Regan, North Carolina’s secretary of environmental quality and chairman of the state’s Climate Change Interagency Council, in a statement. ‘The risk and resilience plan takes the experience and knowledge of the experts and leaders from across the state to ensure a comprehensive approach to address the risks to our infrastructure and economy.’” [EE News, [6/8/20](https://www.eenews.net/climatewire/stories/1063350821)]

**EE News: “North Carolina Department Of Environmental Quality And Cape Fear River Watch Yesterday Reached An Agreement With The Chemours Co. — A Dupont Spinoff — To Stop 99% Of Water Pollution From GenX Chemicals.”** According to EE News, “A chemical company has agreed to significantly curb and clean up almost all contamination from a cancer-causing chemical polluting drinking water sources for several North Carolina communities. The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and Cape Fear River Watch yesterday reached an agreement with the Chemours Co. — a DuPont spinoff — to stop 99% of water pollution from GenX chemicals, which are types of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The river is the source of drinking water for Wilmington, Brunswick County and Pender County. ‘Today’s actions lay out exactly how Chemours will clean up the residual contamination they’ve caused that continues to impact communities along the Cape Fear River,’ DEQ Secretary Michael Regan said in a statement.” [EE News, [8/14/20](https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1063711725)]

### Climate Change

**Regan: “Climate Change Is The Biggest Challenge Of Our Generation.”** According to EE News, “‘Climate change is the biggest challenge of our generation,’ said DEQ Secretary Michael Regan, who presented the plan to Cooper at a public meeting Friday.” [EE News, [9/30/19](https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1061181961)]

**EE News: “Regan And Cooper Tied Together Reducing Carbon Emissions With Boosting The State’s Economy, Protecting The Environment And Improving Public Health.”** According to EE News, “Regan and Cooper tied together reducing carbon emissions with boosting the state’s economy, protecting the environment and improving public health. North Carolina has been battered by back-to-back hurricanes that have come with catastrophic flooding. Cooper set new climate goals for the state in the wake of Hurricane Florence, which dumped more than 30 inches of rain in the southeastern part of the state last year and contributed to 40 deaths. More recently, Hurricane Dorian scraped North Carolina’s coast as a Category 2 storm earlier this month (Greenwire, Sept. 5). ‘[These storms] are wreaking havoc on our infrastructure, our economy, and are disrupting our way of life,’ Regan said.” [EE News, [9/30/19](https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1061181961)]

**NCDEQ Rejected Mountain Valley Extension Pipeline Over Climate Change Concerns**. According to EE News, “The North Carolina agency cited concerns about climate change and water quality in rejecting the 75-mile Mountain Valley extension, or MVP Southgate. DEQ Secretary Michael Regan also pointed to uncertainties regarding the fate of the 300-mile mainline project, which is being built to move natural gas from northwestern West Virginia to southern Virginia. ‘This has always been an unnecessary project that poses unnecessary risks to our environment and given the uncertain future of the MVP Mainline, North Carolinians should not be exposed to the risk of another incomplete pipeline project,’ Regan said in a statement. Regan said projects like MVP Southgate will slow the state's goal to zero out greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.” [EE News, [8/12/20](https://www.eenews.net/energywire/stories/1063711479)]