

Reporters Note: Based on conversations with EPA employees, current and former, I posed these questions to EPA spokesman Dale Kemery. The Agency responses are in bold. One question is omitted, because it was found to be factually incorrect.

1. I'm told administrators in the agency were notified of suspected high PFOA levels in Georgia's Conasauga river. My question is has the agency ever suspected high PFOA levels in the river?

We did from recent reports, but not historically.

2. I've been told that PFOA research is handled differently than other research, that it is vetted by both scientists AND administrators. Is this true?

PFOA research is handled the same way as all other research. EPA's goal is to develop and apply the best available science for addressing current and future environmental hazards.

3. Has the EPA ever DIRECTLY contacted Dalton Utilities about monitoring PFOA levels, and if so, what was the response?

EPA was not directly involved, but there were some discussions with local authorities and Telomer Research Program. They should be able to provide additional information.

Reporters Note: Those answers were followed up by these questions. Again, the agency answers are in bold.

1. How can the agency not suspect higher PFOA levels in the Conasauga until recent reports, when in 2004, a Plenary group was told the Telomere Research Program wanted to sample in the area?

2. And does ALL research get reviewed by both scientists AND administrators? If not, why is that the case with PFOA. Is it the case with PFOA?

My staff contact misunderstood and meant that the agency did not KNOW about the possible presence of PFOA.

We've already answered your second question.