

ECOS PFAS Coordinating Committee Call

September 24, 2018, 3 p.m. Eastern

State Partners - Aubrey White (AL, filling in for Lance Lefleur), Ann Lowery (MA, filling in for Marty Suuberg), Heidi Grether (MI), John Stine (MN), Amy Klei (OH), Scott Thompson (OK), Peter Walke (VT)

Federal Partners- Maureen Sullivan (DoD), Peter Grevatt (EPA OGWDW), Ellen Manges (EPA OLEM), Andy Gillespie (EPA ORD), Randall Lovell (FDA, filling in for Suzanne Fitzpatrick), Mary Ditto (FDA).

ECOS - Sam Sankar, Sarah Grace Longworth

Overall

State and federal partners first discussed PFAS topics covered at ECOS' 2018 Fall Meeting in Stowe, VT.

- a. The first was a session on emerging contaminants, on which Committee members Heidi Grether (MI) and Maureen Sullivan (DoD) were panelists. They discussed experiences with mercury and perchlorate, how that led to emerging contaminants programs and informs current chemical regulation with contaminants like PFAS, and how states are structuring their agencies and programs to deal with chemicals.
- b. The next session was on this Coordinating Committee and was led by Catherine McCabe (NJ) and Peter Grevatt (EPA OGWDW). They highlighted the Committee's efforts and discussed ECOS' workplan, talked about NJ's and EPA's actions on PFAS, and noted several challenges, including how to figure out where PFAS is entering water systems, how to avoid moving it elsewhere, how to regulate PFAS as a class, and how to incorporate the "why" into decision-making and risk communication.
- c. State attendees completed polls about PFAS throughout the meeting. Results [here](#).

ECOS then discussed its goals/plans for its new PFAS Caucus, which had its first call on Tuesday, September 25.

- a. The purpose of the ECOS PFAS Caucus is for state and federal agency staff, as well as media associations and NGOs, to share information and experiences on policy and regulation.
- b. The main goal of this Caucus is to figure out what needs to be done in the regulatory area of PFAS, and where there are still information gaps. The Caucus should serve as a place to find information and to coordinate work. What do we need to know to understand PFAS as a class of chemicals and is that even possible? Really focusing on the "what" as agnostic of outcomes before determining the "how" (i.e. MCLs, etc.), which states or groups are doing what work, how we make work additive or supplementary to others, and what areas of PFAS regulations are not yet being addressed.
- c. ECOS will form a steering committee comprised of no more than one participant from each state, as well as someone from the state media associations. Together, this steering group will help decide what the Caucus should be doing, and ensure that the Caucus serves as the

consolidated entity among organizations to avoid duplicative work and/or conversations. Specifically, the group will identify those gaps and areas that we need to work on, and recommend smaller workgroups that the ECOS PFAS Coordinating Committee can oversee.

The Coordinating Committee identified a few things the Caucus/Steering Committee should work on, including defining what DoD base communities can do to align priorities, biosolids/land application, and agricultural products/livestock.

State Updates

1. Alabama

- a. No new updates to share.

2. Massachusetts

- a. No new updates to share.

3. Michigan

- a. MI is halfway complete with [testing](#) its 1,841 public water systems and schools that operate their own wells. So far, only the Parchment water system has had a high hit. one
- b. MPART created a science advisory board that is examining information from EPA and ATSDR, as well as other literature, and will recommend to DEQ by October what they believe are safe and not safe PFAS exposures.
- c. MI is sending a witness (the Community Co-Chair of the Wurtsmith Restoration Advisory Board) to testify on Wednesday, September 26 at Senator Peters' [hearing](#), "The Federal Role in the Toxic PFAS Chemical Crisis."
- d. This week, MI [deployed](#) a drone over Lake Margrethe to locate springs that could be carrying PFAS from former firefighting activities at the nearby Camp Grayling military base. The DJI 210 drone is fitted with infrared cameras to find where cold springs enter the warmer lake. Identifying the flow of groundwater into the surface water will help DEQ target sampling sites for possible PFAS contamination, as well as assist in effective placement of treatment, if needed.

4. Minnesota

- a. MN is preparing a research proposal for EPA funding to study leachate in landfills.

5. Ohio

- a. OH's lab is preparing to run field samples.
- b. OH is working on a PFAS webpage, modeled after that of MI.
- c. OH's PFAS workgroup and subcommittees are working on several projects.

6. Oklahoma

- a. No new updates to share.

7. **Vermont**

- a. Working on collecting old firefighting foam for disposal (planning to incinerate it, as DoD is doing. Will pull together more information for states on this process).

Federal Updates

1. **DoD**

- a. Maureen is testifying at Senator Peters' hearing on Wednesday, and also testified at the September 6 U.S. House of Representatives' Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Environment Hearing titled "Perfluorinated Chemicals in the Environment: An Update on the Response to Contamination and Challenges Presented."
- b. DoD will see an increase in budget for FY19 and hopes the bill will be approved this week.

2. **EPA**

- a. ORD is conducting tiered toxicity testing of 75 PFAS compounds to inform hazard assessments using new methodologies, as well as characterizing the activity of the broader PFAS landscape. ORD just got funding approval for a second set of 75 PFAS compounds, with additional assays, to further understand these chemicals. The agency is soliciting input from states to inform the selection this next batch, and invites states to nominate 5-10 chemicals that may be of particular interest based on exposure or state concerns (one response per state). Contact Sarah Grace Longworth at slongworth@ecos.org for more information on how to submit a nomination if you have not received the information already.
- b. Peter Grevatt (OGWDW) will also testify on Wednesday and testified with Maureen on September 6.
- c. OW is close to completing its draft toxicity values for GenX and PFBS. Peer review from states was positive, and the agency is working with its other federal partners to finalize those for release.

3. **FDA**

- a. No new updates to share.