

ECOS PFAS Coordinating Committee Call

October 31, 2018, 2 p.m. Eastern

State Partners - Ross Caton (AL), Heidi Grether, Steve Sliver, and Chelsea Dickerson (MI), John Stine and Sandeep Burman (MN), Catherine McCabe (NJ), Peter Walke (VT)

Federal Partners- Trisha Underwood (DoD), Peter Grevatt and Hannah Holsinger (EPA OGWDW), Andy Gillespie (EPA ORD), Ellen Manges (EPA OLEM), Chris Weis (NIEHS), Rachel Worley (CDC/ATSDR)

ECOS - Sarah Grace Longworth, Tadbir Singh

[Chris Weis Presentation on NIEHS PFAS Research Coordination](#)

Chris Weis gave a [presentation](#) on NIEHS' coordination efforts on PFAS. Some highlights include:

- NIEHS is exploring PIGE as a possible tool to screen materials for fluorine (used for food packaging only, as water has added fluorine already).
- Chris highlighted study predicting increased PFOA blood levels with increased contamination in drinking water. They mapped mean water ingestion vs. accumulation of PFOA in serum.
- NIEHS PFAS Grants Portfolio (43 awards via various NIH funding mechanisms):
 - Investigator-initiated basic research
 - SBIR grants
 - NIEHS/EPA Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research Centers
 - Breast Cancer and The Environment Research Program
 - Superfund Research Centers
 - E.g. developing energy efficient nanoreceptors capable of breaking C-F bond, combining biological and chemical treatment options to degrade and destroy AFFF, assessing PFAS exposure (STEEP project), workshops for federal and state officials
 - Conference Support
 - Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) Program Awards
 - ** Time-sensitive Awards on PFAS (R21)
 - North Carolina State University- Assessing impact of drinking water exposure to GenX
 - University of Colorado- Exposure and health effects from PFAS in Colorado water
- Human cohort PFAS studies in progress
 - Health outcomes and measures of the environment (HOME) study on developmental and behavioral outcomes
 - Healthy heart study on metabolic and behavioral factors during pregnancy
 - Markers of autism risk in babies-learning early signs (MARBLES) on environmental exposures and risk factors that may contribute to development of autism

- Study of women's health across the nation (SWAN) on women in middle years
- Faroe Islands birth cohorts on postnatal development, neurobehavioral functions, metabolic outcomes, and immune system responses of births in the Faroe Islands
- Project Viva on prenatal and child health, diet, neurodevelopment, metabolic outcomes, and immune system responses of births in Eastern, MA
- NIEHS is conducting project analyses within CHEAR, allowing them to look at 1 health outcome (e.g. obesity) across a variety of chemicals, or 1 chemical (e.g. one PFAS compound) across a variety of health outcomes.
- National Toxicology Program Immunotoxicity Studies-- assessing the ability of PFAS to alter the effectiveness of childhood vaccinations and immune systems (the agency is currently expanding this study to other compounds beyond PFOA/PFOS, REACT project, 28-day toxicity studies comparing 7 PFAS, etc.
- NIEHS is assisting ATSDR with H.R. 5515 (National Defense Authorization Act for FY19) to get funding for the study and assessment of health implications of PFAS in drinking water. NIEHS also participated in congressional hearings on PFAS.

Participants discussed the benefits of a summer conference for ECOS members and lead federal agency sponsors on planning for the end research and how it will be compared, assembled, etc. in the future (as the use of data/state authorities are different so we need to share information about how to best organize and communicate results.

State Updates

1. Alabama

- a. Nothing new to report.

2. Michigan

- a. MI is continuing to [test](#) its 1,841 public water systems and schools that operate their own wells. They've completed testing of almost 1,600 systems (about 90%). 90% of those tested are non-detect. Less than 0.2 percent have tested samples at greater than 70 ppt.
- b. MI is continuing work on industrial pretreatment in recovery.
- c. MI retrofit a GAC in a western MI community that has proven very successful.
- d. MI is installing cameras at a lake with foam to monitor as it has been challenging to get staff to the lake and have not yet been able to remove the foam.

3. Minnesota

- a. Nothing new to report. MN is still working with the 10-12 East Metropolitan groups to decide how to spend the 3M settlement money to get rid of PFAS in their communities. They have an [interactive map](#) to track the wells and sampling areas.

4. **New Jersey**

- a. Nothing new to report in NJ. Since it passed its MCL for PFNA this fall, the state is awaiting testing results in the next year. The MCL should be in effect January 1, and the state is working on a proposal on estimating impacts of PFNA using testing to date.

5. **Vermont**

- a. VT has run into a challenge in its collection of old firefighting foam from fire departments. The state has a contract with a consultant to ship it to be incinerated but now the compliance record of incinerators has proven an issue (they all have problems with the temperature of operation and the state doesn't want to create more problems for communities). VT is seeking input on successful strategies for what to do with the collected foams.

Federal Updates

1. **DoD**

- a. Nothing new to report.

2. **EPA**

- a. EPA [posted](#) its draft toxicity assessments for GenX and PFBS in the Federal Register. The assessments are available until January 22 for public review and comment.
- b. EPA released its updated method 537 ([537.1](#)), which added 4 new PFAS compounds.
- c. EPA's draft National PFAS Management Plan is currently with the Administrator and will go to OMB soon. The agency hopes to release the final Plan in early 2019.
- d. EPA has been working on developing a GIS-based data repository of GIS dashboards. More to come as they seek state and federal input/involvement.
- e. Peter Grevatt's final day with the agency is December 12. Despite leadership change in the OGWDW, EPA is still highly committed to keeping PFAS as one of its top priorities.

3. **CDC/ATSDR**

- a. ATSDR is preparing its health effects/exposure assessment study at 8 communities. The agency will soon share the sites and method in which they were selected.
- b. ATSDR's extended 30-day notice on its toxicological studies was published this week. They are working to revise and respond to all of the comments.

4. **NIEHS**

- a. Nothing new to report beyond what was in Chris' presentation. If anyone is interested in grant funding, please contact him to learn more.