

Minutes – Drinking Water PFAS Task Force Meeting

December 5, 2024 – Harford County Water & Sewer Administration Bldg.

Present in the room:

- Bill Bettin – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Larry Slattery – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Dan Pazdersky – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Pamela Simper – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Jeff Schoenberger – Bureau of Solid Waste Management
- Rich Hanzevack – Harford County Public Schools
- Chris Morton – Harford County Public Schools
- Michelle Poulin – Kemira
- Frank Cassou – Cyclopure
- Ri Wang – Cyclopure

Participating via Teams:

- Mike Turner – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Bill Smith – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Joe Siemek – Harford County DPW
- Johnathon Ely – City of Aberdeen DPW
- Hayden Anthony – Harford County Facilities and Ops
- Rob McCord – Harford County Government
- John Resline – Harford County Health Department
- Jeffrey Barton – Maryland America Water
- Kelly Ryan – Maryland America Water
- Catherine Boston - HCC
- Steve Klein – Bel Air DPW
- Jeffrey Fretwell – Maryland Water Quality Financing
- Matthew Lapinsky – Maryland Environmental Service
- Ezgi Kurdoglu – Maryland Environmental Service

Welcome all.

Purpose and why we're here:

- 1) Coordinate to align efforts of PFAS response
- 2) Share knowledge and expertise
- 3) Foster public information
- 4) Identify public funding to help our efforts

This task force is looking to assist the

- (17) Community water systems
- (46) Non-transient non-community water systems – not connected to public water.
- (177) Transient non-community water systems

Technology Presentation – Cyclopure Absorbent

Frank Cassou

*(Slide presentation will be shared to all)

- Technology to remove 100% of PFAS.
- Company founded in 2016.
- Dexsorb® is a plant-based adsorbent that revolutionizes water treatment with molecular selectivity for PFAS. It is used in a single-step treatment process to remove PFAS in drinking water and non-drinking water applications. It provides superior capacity and waste concentration for environmentally safe disposal of PFAS.
- Started with testing with home filtration products and has been in pilot-scale for four years.
- Full-scale WTP installations in Nikiski, AK, Holbrook, MA, and Huntsville, AL. Also working with the Department of Defense and other municipalities.
- Dexsorb® end to end; remove, concentrate, and destroy.
- Reviewed the operational details of how the process works (see separate slide presentation).
- Design/Install time frame is within (6) months,
- Pilot program install within (2-3) weeks.
- Provides analytical services at no additional charge.
- Proprietary product, no other company is providing the same chemical composition.

Questions:

- (Dan) Do they remove VOCs? No, not impacted by VOCs, the VOCs are removed separately from this process.
- What is the cost? Cost of removal is \$0.25 per thousand gallons.
- (Mike) Does it affect the EBCT rate? No, Pressurized or gravity is the same.
- Are you providing sampling, installation, removal, and destruction? Yes, price is inclusive of transportation, removal, destruction, and analytics.

Update from MDE Water Quality Financing Administration

Jeff Fretwell

- The Maryland Water Quality Financing group manages loans and grants
- Review of funding available – bipartisan infrastructure law funding
 - Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) – no need to repay, 100% loan forgiveness
 - Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) – no need to repay, 100% loan forgiveness
- EPA awards federal funds to MDE.
- MDE reviews applications for funding of projects for emerging contaminants/PFAS
- The Maryland Water Quality also funds schools and municipalities.
- Selected projects have 100% loan forgiveness.
- Next solicitation opens December 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025 for FY25.
- The main hangup with funding is that the submitted plans are not consistent with the County W&S master plan. However, there is an exception committee that can review plans that do not align with the W&S master plan.

- Another potential problem is that the wells serving rural schools are not cataloged on the W&S master plan. Wells might need to be added to the W&S master plan to get the MDE PFAS funding.
- There are administrative steps that need to happen in order to get the wells added to the W&S master plan.
- There is technical assistance available for the application process. Jeff to provide the specific contact information via email.

Question:

- Is the funding for the schools or large municipalities? The funding is for those who apply. Prioritization is due to the level of PFAS in the water. Funding is not based on the size of the municipality or school system.

Member Issues and Concerns:

HCPS: Didn't realize about the waiver program. Also didn't realize that they have to be included in the W&S master plan; concerned about the time line to get added and the loan forgiveness program.

City of Aberdeen: Nothing to add
 Town of Bel Air: Nothing to add.
 Havre de Grace: Nothing to add
 Harford Comm Coll: Nothing
 MD American: Nothing

Any further comments from around the room?

(Ezgi Kutodogulo) – Received an application for Darlington. Currently getting estimates and information on the system. Already received loan for one system and is able to assist Harford Co.

(Bill) Should we hear about local capabilities, plumbing, small solutions? Are we interested in this as a task force?

(Bill to the Department of Health) Have you started a list of local contractors for installation and treatment? The Department of Health is not currently getting questions on testing or treatment; it has not been a “hot topic”. We need to be careful about a list of contractors. Department of Health recommends NFS certification of removal rather than recommending a particular company or contractor.

(Rich HCPS) What would be helpful for the school system would be a consultant with grant writing experience to help with getting a proprietary system approved through the procurement process. Need help the managing grant as well as an understanding the water systems.

(Rich HCPS) Shared that requested \$5m in capital funding for the five schools (Fallston High, Harford Academy, Harford Tech, Norrisville Elementary, Prospect Mill Elementary)

Next meeting date scheduled for
 Thursday, January 9th @ 10:00 am.

Meeting is adjourned.

Thanks for joining the meeting and have a good rest of the day.

References:

- EPA Fact Sheet: PFAS NPDWR Monitoring and Reporting
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-npdwr_fact-sheet_monitoring_4.8.24_0.pdf
- MDE: PFAS in Private Drinking Water Wells
https://mde.maryland.gov/PublicHealth/Documents/PFAS%20Private%20Well%20Factsheet_March2023.pdf
- EPA SDWIS Search <https://enviro.epa.gov/envirofacts/sdwis/search>
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- MDE – Consumer Confidence Reports, Harford County
https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/water/water_supply/ConsumerConfidenceReports/Pages/harford.aspx
- Harford County Task Force Site <https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/3781/Drinking-Water-PFAS-Task-Force>
- Harford County PFAS letter to customers
<https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/26650/PFAS-letter-to-Harford-Co-water-customers>