



Drinking Water PFAS Task Force

Oct 3, 2024; 11am
W&S Admin Bldg
3334 Abingdon Rd

Agenda

- Introductions
- Review Previous Minutes
- Inventory – EPA Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)
- Request Member Input
 - Purview/responsibility
 - Water quality status
 - Compliance plan
 - Communications plan
 - Input elements and reporting scheme
- Member Issues and Concerns
 - General
 - Near-term treatment solutions
 - Public funding
- Next Task Force Meeting

References:

- EPA Fact Sheet: PFAS NPDWR Monitoring and Reporting
https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-ndpwr_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>
- 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>

Minutes – Drinking Water PFAS Task Force Meeting

October 3, 2024 – Harford County Water & Sewer Administration Bldg.

Introduction were made. The following were present in the room:

- Bill Bettin – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Patti Jo Beard – Harford County Public Schools
- Mike Turner – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Dan Pazdersky – Harford County Water & Sewer
- Ronya Nassar – Harford County Health Department
- John Resline - Harford County Health Department
- Jeff Barton – Maryland America Water
- Cathy Boston – Harford Community College

The following participated via MS Teams call:

- Erin Schafer – Harford County Facilities and Ops
- Steve Klein – Bel Air DPW
- Rob McCord – Harford County Government
- Kelly Ryan – Maryland America Water
- Bill Smith – Harford County Water & Sewer
- John Ely – City of Aberdeen DPW
- EJ Millisor – Havre de Grace DPW
- Joe Siemek – Harford County DPW

Review minutes: Comments? None

Minutes are approved.

Opening remarks: Multiple jurisdictions represented here. Welcome! County Executive Task Force as a group to inform, advise, and share information for the good of all Harford County citizens and consumers. Strictly a volunteer group.

Inventory – EPA Safe Water Drinking Water Information System (SDWID)

Use asset management model – SDWID incorporated by reference, includes the following count of EPA - identified water systems:

- 17 community water systems (CWS)
- 46 non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWS), e.g. schools, rural offices
- 177 transient non-community water systems (TNCWS); e.g. libraries, rec centers

Discussion:

- Bill Bettin: Propose as a rule of thumb – all data, any value you get (derived from testing, etc.) we share as a group. All data is good data.
- Bill Smith: Suggest use of MDL report. It tracks trends. Method Detect Limit and Method Reporting Limit.
- Mike Turner: Are we discussing finished or untreated water? Do we want to track source water too? It might help to measure the effectiveness of a given treatment process.
- Bill: Again, all data is good data. Measure the 6 listed PFAs contaminants with as much detail as is possible.
- Patti Jo Beard (schools): Their regular testing includes for only a limited number of contaminants. Includes only chlorine, etc.
- John Resline: Are you measuring averages?
- Patti Jo Beard: Schools only report outliers because they don't test like we do. Sample is pulled by MDE only once a year. Community water systems: MDE has been back to take a couple more samples after the initial PFAS detection. No information from the state regarding any further action being taken.

Compliance Plans:

Discussion:

- Bill: This is looking ahead. Schools now included in this group (by 2027). Stated routine monitoring. We have time to set up a timeline for compliance action. LC-MS/MS Instrument purchased to conduct in-house testings.
- Bill Smith: Had meeting Sept 13th w MDE reps. Was communicated that beginning Jan, 2025 will accept applications for PFAS certification. All will need to be in compliance. HC W&S has already been in contact and expect to have their application ready and in the front of the line by then. Not sure of length of time from application to certification, hoping to be fully PFAS certified by next summer.
- Mike Turner: Certs for labs. HLAB certified. Will accept new lab certs. Suburban testing lab is certified to do PFAS testing.

Communication Plan

Discussion:

- Bill Bettin:
 - Drinking water PFAS TF Web Page Created; to be updated regularly
 - PFAS customer letter completed – posted on W&S home page; hard copy to all customers with billing Sep-Nov 2024.
 - Start required initial monitoring (quarterly, w/in 12 month period) in Fall 2025. Complete initial monitoring by Summer 2026, in advance of 2027 deadline.
 - Start required ongoing compliance monitoring in 2027.

Sharing expertise and suggestions will provide assistance to all entities to ready for compliance in 2027 and reporting as required. PFAS must be included in CCR's going forward.

Member Concerns and Questions

- Patti Jo Beard: There were 5 detects for PFAS, and 5 continue with bottled water. Next steps: Contracting and design to look at the systems to evaluate best application per situation. Seeking guidance and expertise from the group.
- Dan: Good rule of thumb when collecting data is to ensure it's valid and accurately reflected. One test per year for the school system may not be a good sampling to base a PFAS eradication plan around. Suggest several more samples be taken. STL (Suburban) is a good independent lab that is certified for PFAS sampling.
- Bill Smith: STL sampling for PFAS was quoted by them in previous meeting @ \$225 per sample. Will apply to schools and public entities. Contact information for STL is incorporated by reference.
- Mike Turner: Good idea to look at max GPM for design if any. Need flow rates to determine scale of the solution.
- Patti Jo Beard: MDE rep indicated grant money may become available in January, 2025 – will apply for grant money. The amount provided may/may not cover the costs for remediation depending on how it might fall in the budget cycle and amounts – other monies will come from Harford County.
- Cathy Boston: (Harford Community College): There are 5 primary wells at the college. PFAS results required taking one well out of service. Any PFAS design would need to apply to each of the 5 wells independently. Milbyco?? does their testing.
- Mike Turner: End of school year when samples were pulled.
- EJ Millisor: Any thoughts to partnering with the county – a new system partnership for sourcing. New pipeline so source less limited to Susquehanna. Side-note: Hydrant flushing helps flush stagnant water. Do the schools flush their systems?
- Patti Jo Beard: Custodians do let the water run. They did not do flushing before the samples that showed PFAS content were done. However, school were in-session so water was running.
- EJ Millisor: Flow does help clean up the system. Stagnant water can lead to false readings. Do a flush of your systems at least twice a year.
- Bill Smith: Cyclopure PFAS testing using dexsorb technology was a method shared with L. Slattery from previous meeting. Will get more information.
- Mike Turner: Replacement media (charcoal) can get very expensive.
- John Resline: Sent MDE PFAS map – data collected by the state. (incorporated by reference – see attached).
https://mddepartmentoftheenvironment.shinyapps.io/MDE_PFAS_PublicWaterSystemStudyMap/
- Bill Bettin: Attending meeting tomorrow - subject will be PFAS issue solutions. May suggest the presenters at tomorrow's meeting address our next PFAS Task Force meeting.
- Was also approached at Tri-Con (industry meeting last month) - was approached by multiple providers/vendors of various methods and systems to address current PFAS issues.

Public Funding:

Discuss more at the next meeting.

Jeff Fretwell from MDE Water Quality Financing may be a source of information.

Grant funding may already be available.

MDE has monies available. School system tested early so if remediation is necessary will be towards the front of the line for grant monies. Grant package being put together. Will share source of funding.

Next meeting will be in 4 weeks – Thursday, October 31st (tentative).

Final thoughts?

Around the room?

Meeting adjourned.