



US EPA New England PFAS Community Engagement

June 25, 2018 4:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.

June 26, 2018 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Listening Session

Exeter High School

1 Blue Hawk Dr.

Exeter, NH 03833

Day 1: Listening Session Summary

Listening Session Welcome and Introduction

Alexandra Dunn, Administrator, EPA Region 1, welcomed and thanked community members, state and local officials, and state congressional staff for their attendance and participation. Ms. Dunn articulated that the purpose of the meeting was to engage with communities and receive input to develop EPA's National PFAS Management Plan.

Dr. Peter Grevatt, Director, EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, recognized the widespread use of PFAS and emphasized EPA's commitment to finding solutions by working across the entire Agency. Dr. Grevatt thanked participants for coming to this event to share perspectives. Dr. Grevatt briefly described the ongoing work at EPA on PFAS including:

- EPA's commitments on PFAS
- Ongoing work to develop clean water tools to address the contamination
- EPA's work on coordinating federal efforts
- EPA's need to listen and learn from impacted communities
- EPA's intent to develop a National PFAS Management Plan

Dr. William (Bill) Cibulas, Director, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), Division of Toxicology and Human Health Sciences, emphasized the importance of listening and acting on community needs. Dr. Cibulas indicated that there is still much more data to gather on PFAS and many new studies are being conducted and completed. Dr. Cibulas indicated that ATSDR is planning a multi-site epidemiologic study and is currently in the process of writing study protocols.

Community Presentations

This session provided an opportunity for community groups to share their experiences with PFAS. Six communities from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont shared their perspectives on PFAS. The presentations are available at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-06/documents/master_combined_exeterpresentationsjun26v.pdf (27mb). The following individuals shared their communities' experience:

- Alayna Davis, Dover, NH
- Stephen Seymour, Barnstable, MA
- Jillian Lane, Greenland, NH
- Kristen Mello, Westfield, MA
- Laurene Allen, Merrimack, NH
- David Bond, Bennington, VT

Community Listening Session

The following elected officials participated in the community listening session:

- United States Senator Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire presented a recorded video for community listening session attendees.
- William Hinkle spoke on behalf of U.S Senator Margaret Hassen of New Hampshire.
- Attendees were read a letter from Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter from New Hampshire's First Congressional District.

Citizen Public Comments

Over 40 citizens shared input during the community listening session. The following is a synthesis list of themes and points from the input shared during the listening session:

Risk Characterization

Citizens identified risk characterization as a critical challenge and gap to identifying and addressing PFAS in their communities. Citizens acknowledged that while the lack of information regarding the long-term impact of PFOA/PFOS remains a challenge, they recommended that EPA move quickly on distributing existing research, processing information, and setting deadlines for ongoing work. Citizens also recommended EPA take proactive and cautious measures to protect public health, including increased stringency of chemical review before approval and a greater emphasis on source water protection.

Standards/Guidance

Citizens outlined several recommendations for EPA to streamline the chemical review process, provide greater clarity for state agencies, and facilitate ease of collaboration across state and local departments. These recommendations included the grouping of PFAS as a chemical family in review processes and the development of PFAS specific MCL(s) rather than health advisories, which commenters felt did not adequately protect human health. Citizens suggested that EPA take the lead on setting performance standards on uniform analytical methods and establishing an evaluation program to improve confidence that values are accurate.

Cost Impacts

Citizen comments also focused on cost considerations associated with PFAS identification, treatment, and communication. Citizens acknowledged that new regulatory guidance will likely be costly for water systems. Commenters identified the need for additional funding for states to support health monitoring and treatment solutions and stated that they were fearful of their exposure and for the potential for future medical problems. Commenters noted that firefighters have distinct exposure pathways and requested that firefighters be included in addition to military and veterans in the upcoming ATSDR multi-site study and that improved risk information be provided on products and equipment.

Remediation

Citizens spoke about their requests for remediation efforts in their communities to avoid exposure in the future. Specific communities/locations for remediation efforts were suggested including: Berry Brook, Coakley Landfill, Litchfield, and Merrimack as sites. Several commenters requested testing of PFAS in surface waters and fish tissue to be able to ensure safety for tourism as well as subsistence fishing for local tribes.

Health Communications

Citizens focused their comments on the need for more effective communications and expressed frustration with the lack of cohesive, top down guidance and information.

Personal Stories

Citizens provided their individual experiences and stressed to EPA the personal nature of this issue. Parents discussed the health and economic impacts to their families. Citizens also expressed their concerns for their communities and their futures.

Day Two: Working Session Summary

Welcome and Recap of PFAS Summit

Alexandra Dunn, Administrator, EPA Region 1, reiterated that the purpose of the meeting was to engage with communities and receive their feedback as EPA develops a National PFAS Management Plan.

Dr. Peter Grevatt, Director, EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, reiterated the commitment of the EPA to take the lead of PFAS in the environment. Dr. Grevatt recognized the need to hear community perspectives as part of developing a robust response.

EPA New England PFAS Activity

Meghan Cassidy, Chief, EPA Region 1, Superfund Technical & Enforcement Support Section, provided an overview of the work Region 1 is doing related to PFAS. Ms. Cassidy mentioned the role that UCMR 3 played in identifying sites and helped target efforts. Ms. Cassidy identified challenges the region faces in addressing PFAS, including risk communication, incomplete toxicity information, and limited methods.

State Panel

The state panel provided an opportunity for state officials to highlight activities and initiatives within the New England states around PFAS. The presentations are available at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-06/documents/master_combined_exeterpresentationsjun26v.pdf (27mb). The following individuals shared their state's experience:

- **Robert Kaliszewski**, Deputy Commissioner, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- **Gary Moran**, Deputy Commissioner, MA Department of Environmental Protection
- **Melanie Loyzim**, Deputy Commissioner, ME Department of Environmental Protection

- **Clark Freise**, Assistant Commissioner, NH Department of Environmental Services
- **Nick Noons**, Project Manager, RI Department of Environmental Management
- **Peter Walke**, Deputy Secretary, VT Agency of Natural Resources
- **George Heitzman**, NY Department of Environmental Conservation

Community Panel

The following presentations shared the experiences of communities from New Hampshire. The presentations are available at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-06/documents/master_combined_exeterpresentationsjun26v.pdf (27mb). The following individuals shared experiences and identified recommended actions:

- **Andrea Amico**, Portsmouth, NH
- **Michelle Dalton**, Durham, NH

Identifying PFAS in Your Community—Lesson Learned

The following presentations highlighted experiences in New England regarding PFAS sources and how PFAS have been identified. The presentations are available at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-06/documents/master_combined_exeterpresentationsjun26v.pdf (27mb). The following individuals shared experiences and lessons learned:

- **Brian Goetz**, Deputy Director of Public Works, City of Portsmouth, NH
- **Tom Cambareri**, Water Resources Technical Services Director, Cape Cod Commission, MA
- **Nick Noons**, Project Manager, RI Department of Environmental Management

Communicating Around PFAS

This discussion focused on experiences of New England state officials in discussing PFAS issues in a variety of settings. The presentations are available at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-06/documents/master_combined_exeterpresentationsjun26v.pdf (27mb). The following individuals shared experience and lessons learned:

- **Lori Mathieu**, Public Health Section Chief, CT Department of Public Health
- **John Schmeltzer**, Hazardous Site Manager, VT Department of Environmental Conservation
- **Karen Craver**, Epidemiologist, NH Department of Health & Human Services

Identifying Solutions for PFAS—Lessons Learned

This session provided an opportunity to recap the event’s conversations and summarize key suggestions from participants.

Sean Dixon, Senior Policy Advisor, EPA Region 1, summarized comments from citizens that were provided to EPA throughout the two-day event. Many of the comments reiterated the current challenges in addressing PFAS. Finally, Mr. Dixon underscored that EPA has heard community concerns and is working toward greater collaboration and continued efforts to address PFAS.

Peter Grevatt, Director, EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, stated that the feedback received at the meeting reinforced the importance of EPA’s ongoing work on PFAS. Dr. Grevatt stressed

the importance of engaging communities as the agency works toward meaningful actions to address PFAS.

Alexandra Dunn, Administrator, EPA Region 1, highlighted the important role that community groups played in bringing visibility to the experiences of their communities. This forum was both to learn about needed next steps, but also to demonstrate that EPA is committed to addressing PFAS by working alongside the community.