

Local Government Advisory Committee

- Meeting Materials
 - Agenda
 - Draft Recommendations: PFAS National Proposed Drinking Water Standard
 - Risk Communications Scenario and Tabletop Exercise
 - Charge: Cumulative Impacts
- Membership Documents
 - Member List
 - Member Bios
 - Workgroup Rosters
- Background Materials
 - Charge: Risk Communications
 - Charge: Climate and GHG

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Public Meeting

Location: EPA Ruckleshaus Conference Center, Oceans Auditorium
1200 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, D.C.

Virtual location: [Click here to join the meeting](#); Meeting ID: 238 803 303 257; Passcode: rJHGMY

MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023		10:30 AM – 5:30 PM EDT
10:30 AM	SMALL COMMUNITY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>LGAC members and members of the public are invited to observe</i>	
12:00 PM	CLIMATE MITIGATION WORKGROUP MEETING <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Any LGAC member interested in joining the workgroup is invited to attend</i> <p><i>Box lunches will be available for all members</i></p>	
1:00 PM	PUBLIC MEETING OPENING <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Paige Lieberman, EPA Designated Federal Officer</i> WELCOME <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>The Honorable Leirion Gaylor Baird, LGAC Chair</i><i>The Honorable Michael S. Regan, EPA Administrator</i>	
1:25 PM	ROLL CALL <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Paige Lieberman, EPA Designated Federal Officer</i>	
1:30 PM	UPDATES FROM SMALL COMMUNITY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Ann Mallek, SCAS Co-Chair</i><i>Lynzi Barnes, SCAS Designated Federal Officer</i>	
1:45 PM	DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS ON PFAS AND PROPOSED DRINKING WATER STANDARD <ul style="list-style-type: none">Presentation, <i>Miki Esposito, Workgroup Co-Chair</i>EPA Response, <i>Zach Schafer, Senior Advisor</i>Facilitate Discussion and Voting, <i>Gary Brown, Workgroup Co-Chair</i>	
2:30 PM	PREPARATORY MEETING: CLOSED TO PUBLIC RISK COMMUNICATIONS AND PFAS TABLETOP EXERCISE <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Only LGAC members and invited guests will be permitted</i><i>Facilitated by Secretary Jeff Witte, Workgroup Chair</i>	
5:00 PM	LGAC ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES: CLOSED TO PUBLIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Paige Lieberman, EPA Designated Federal Officer</i>	

5:30 PM	OPTIONAL SOCIAL HOUR, <i>The Hamilton, 600 14th St. NW</i>
TUESDAY, MAY 23, 2023 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM EDT	
8:30 AM	<p><i>Coffee and pastries will be available for all members</i></p> <p>PUBLIC MEETING OPENING AND ROLL CALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Paige Lieberman, EPA Designated Federal Officer</i>
8:40 AM	<p>WELCOME AND DISCUSSION ON 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Honorable Leirion Gaylor Baird, LGAC Chair</i> • <i>John Lucey, EPA Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations</i>
9:15 AM	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present Charge, <i>Marianne Engleman-Lado, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA Office of Environmental Justice and Civil Rights</i> • Facilitate Discussion, <i>Mayor Deana Holiday Ingraham, Workgroup Chair</i>
10:30 AM	<p>BREAK</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Refreshments provided</i>
10:45 AM	<p>CLIMATE MITIGATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on EPA Actions from Office of Air and Radiation, <i>Joe Goffman, EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation</i> • Update on Climate Pollution Reduction Grants, <i>Maria Laverdiere, EPA Senior Advisor for IRA Implementation</i> • Report Out on Workgroup Activities and Discussion, <i>Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway, Workgroup Chair</i>
11:45 AM	<p>PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilitated by The Honorable Lucy Vinis, LGAC Vice-Chair</i>
11:55 AM	<p>WRAP-UP AND MEETING CLOSED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Honorable Leirion Gaylor Baird, LGAC Chair</i> • <i>Paige Lieberman, EPA Designated Federal Officer</i>

DATE

Michael S. Regan, Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

The Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) appreciates the opportunity to provide meaningful public comment on the proposed Per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Rulemaking. Through its complex chemical makeup and ability to persist in drinking water sources and the broader environment, PFAS contamination has touched nearly every community. As local government officials, we take seriously our role in ensuring access to water that is both safe and affordable.

Based on the proposed rulemaking, the LGAC developed the following recommendations, with input from its Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee. We recommend that EPA:

- **Use its authorities under the Toxic Substances Control Act to end the production and use of the most common and toxic PFAS chemicals**
- **Work across the federal family to investigate the sources of PFAS contamination and use its enforcement discretion to systems during this process; where manufacturing is not ceased, water treatment facilities should not be held accountable for PFAS within their systems**
- **Use its EJ Screen tool to ensure that water systems serving small and underserved communities have access to laboratory testing**
- **Provide technical assistance and/or workforce development funding for labs to increase capacity and obtain PFAS certification, especially in small and underserved communities**
- **Examine costs for disposing of filtered PFAS biosolids, provide additional resources when needed for proper disposal, and consult states and local governments throughout this process**
- **Work with federal partners to provide technical assistance regarding treatment technologies for PFAS removal, especially in smaller communities, and funding to test for PFAS in private wells**
- **Develop a standardized Polluter Pays model for managing PFAS contamination, and use all available statutory authority to ensure enforcement**
- **Where responsible parties can't be identified, work with states and local governments to find new sources of funding and ways to make efficient use of the funding available**
- **Provide plain language talking points, educational materials, adaptable toolkits, and risk communication plans that represent the most up-to-date information and best practices**
- **Invest in consumer education about PFAS and its sources**
- **Replace any use of the term "community water system" in the proposed rulemaking with "water treatment system," or provide a more robust definition**

More details are included below. In addition, the LGAC is working closely with EPA to develop recommendations specific to the risk communication of PFAS in drinking water. These will be a critical part of the nationwide effort to address PFAS. We look forward to continuing discussions on this important topic.

Sincerely,

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird
LGAC Chair

Gary Brown
LGAC Water and PFAS Workgroup Chair

Local Government Advisory Committee Recommendations on PFAS National Drinking Water Regulation Rulemaking

Ending PFAS Production and Use

In its review of the proposed rulemaking, the LGAC identified several overarching themes beyond the scope of the rulemaking. First and foremost, the federal government must address PFAS from a holistic perspective, and that starts with banning the use of PFAS chemicals, starting with the most common and most toxic ones. As long as PFAS is allowed in manufacturing and importation, it will continue to be present in our environment. **The LGAC recommends that EPA ultimately use its authorities under the Toxic Substances Control Act to end the production and use of PFAS chemicals.**

Additionally, **EPA should work across the federal family to investigate the sources of PFAS contamination and enforce fiscal responsibility of those polluters.** While investigating PFAS contamination sources and holding those polluters responsible will be expensive, such action will save money in the end, leading to lower costs for filtering the contaminants from drinking water. Moreover, the costs will be borne by those responsible for the contamination, rather than taxpayer-funded or rate-payer funded water treatment systems. Further, this approach would lessen the risk of future contamination for water systems for which PFAS has not yet been found in raw water sources.

We also recognize that PFAS found in raw water sources may not come from point sources with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits that can be tracked. For example, PFAS may be discharged from Brownfields sites, agricultural land on which biosolids have been deposited, or even air deposition. Investigating contamination sources and holding polluters accountable may take many different forms, depending on the results of the investigations. EPA should integrate PFAS remediation into any applicable remediation programs – including Brownfields and Superfund – and **EPA should consider using its enforcement discretion to systems** as these investigations are underway. **Where manufacturing is not ceased, water treatment facilities should not be held accountable for PFAS within their systems.**

Laboratory Testing Access

The current proposed regulation lays out assumptions to support the conclusion that there will be adequate laboratory capacity to meet testing needs, especially at the beginning of the rule's implementation period. Section 6, subsection A notes that because of the chosen MCL of 4.0 ppt, successful recruitment of 54 labs throughout the U.S., and the allowed use of current monitoring data at the outset of the rule, a bottleneck of testing is not anticipated. That said, the LGAC also recognizes that any number of testing access issues can occur after the rule becomes final. **As a precaution, the LGAC recommends that EPA use its EJ Screen tool to ensure that water systems serving small and underserved communities have access to laboratory testing.**

Further, EPA should **provide technical assistance and/or workforce development funding for labs to build capacity and obtain PFAS certification, especially in small and disadvantaged communities.** Additionally, EPA should explore its ability to ramp up testing centers through the structure of local, state and federal governments, as it has in the past – especially in the absence of robust private sector investment.

Addressing Current and Future Costs

It is important to note that public water systems, and local governments more broadly, are passive actors when it comes to PFAS contamination. PFAS contamination results from upstream actors. Lawsuits and resulting settlements have been somewhat successful in obtaining substantial amounts of money for clean-up projects. However, this process is largely reactive and takes time and resources to complete. **Therefore, the LGAC recommends that EPA develop a standardized Polluter Pays model for managing PFAS contamination and use all available statutory authority to ensure enforcement.**

Where responsible parties cannot be identified or held accountable, the LGAC understands that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides funding for PFAS filtration, especially for disadvantaged communities. This \$10 billion allotment will make strides in ensuring more access to healthy drinking water for millions of Americans. However,

this funding is unlikely to capture the entire scope of PFAS filtration needed across the country; some estimates put the total abatement cost at \$400 billion. In reality, long-term funding needs are currently unknown. **The LGAC recommends that EPA work with states and local governments to find new sources of funding and ways to make efficient use of the funding available.**

While the proposed rulemaking does not include wastewater treatment, it is important to highlight the cost of disposing filtered PFAS biosolids. Disposal of any potentially harmful or hazardous contaminant adds new costs and complications for waste handlers. The LGAC is also aware that EPA is considering new regulations to designate many of the same PFAS chemicals regulated in this rule through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). If this happens, the costs associated with the handling and disposal of waste may dramatically alter the ability of water treatment systems to afford adequate filtration and disposal. **Therefore, the LGAC recommends that EPA take a robust look at potential additional costs for disposing of filtered PFAS biosolids, provide additional resources when needed for proper disposal, and consult states and local governments throughout this process.**

Of further note are the unintended consequences associated with landfill capacity for accepting discarded media and the potential emissions from granulated activated carbon regenerative furnaces. Given the widespread adoption of these technologies by drinking water facilities across the country, such considerations become increasingly important.

The LGAC's Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee also **recommends that EPA work with federal partners to provide technical assistance regarding treatment technologies for PFAS removal**, noting that the treatment costs will be higher for small communities, and **funding to test for PFAS in private wells.**

Public Education and Notification of PFAS Contamination

Working with residents to maintain trust and accountability once PFAS is detected is crucial. Residents will want to know how they are affected, who is taking responsibility, and what actions are being taken to address the problem. While some of this will be based on unique local conditions, much of the messaging will be consistent from one community to the next. EPA can support the implementation of this rule – and the inevitable detection of PFAS in drinking water – **by providing plain language talking points, educational materials, adaptable toolkits, and risk communication plans that represent the most up-to-date information and best practices.** The LGAC is grateful for the opportunity to work on this with EPA in a parallel effort.

Outside the scope of this rulemaking, **EPA should also invest in consumer education about PFAS and its sources.** The Agency has had success with empowering consumers to make safe choices about what products they purchase and could replicate that approach with PFAS and appropriate notices on product labels.

Water Treatment Systems vs Community Water Systems

Finally, the LGAC recommends a small but important terminology change. As currently written, EPA's proposed regulation lists "community water systems" as potentially affected entities. Within the LGAC, there is some worry that this phrase will be interpreted to hold individual communities responsible for compliance, rather than larger organizations that provide drinking and wastewater services. If this were to happen, EPA would cast aside the many communities around the country that have formed comingled water service providers that allow for increased efficiency and cost-savings. For example, in Michigan, 122 communities have joined together to create the Great Lakes Water Authority. This water treatment system is now the sole water provider for these communities and has a much larger capacity to test for and remove PFAS than if the task were delegated to each community it serves. Moving away from this model, as the currently worded regulation may suggest, could result in much lower access to PFAS testing, slower delivery of test results, higher costs placed on communities, and ultimately longer exposures to PFAS contamination. **Therefore, the LGAC recommends replacing any use of the term "community water system" with "water treatment system" or providing a more robust definition that would include all appropriate entities.**

PFAS Predicament

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Headquarters
May 22-23, 2023

For Exercise Purposes Only

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	i
Exercise Overview.....	1
General Information	3
Exercise Objectives and Core Capabilities.....	3
Participant Roles and Responsibilities.....	3
Exercise Structure	4
Exercise Guidelines	4
Exercise Rules.....	4
Player Instructions.....	5
Exercise Assumptions and Artificialities	5
Exercise Evaluation	6
Exercise Location	6
Location Security	6
Scenario	7
Background	7
MODULE 1	9
MODULE 2	11
Plenary Discussion and Wrap Up	13
Appendix A: Exercise Schedule	14
Appendix B: Acronyms.....	15

EXERCISE OVERVIEW

Exercise Name	PFAS Predicament
Exercise Date	May 22, 2023
Location and Scope	This is a tabletop exercise, planned for approximately 2 hours. The exercise will be conducted in person and virtually during the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Local Government Advisory Council (LGAC) meeting. Exercise play includes local, state, and federal representatives.
Mission Area(s)	Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, Recovery
Core Capabilities	Public Information and Warning and Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities.
Goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss actions taken by local government in response to regulatory thresholds for PFAS established by the EPA.2. Assess applicable plans and policies in place for risk communications in response to a water system testing above regulatory levels and a water system testing below regulatory levels.3. Identify planning and resource needs (i.e. message maps, response plans, etc.) for local jurisdictions to aid in risk management.
Threat or Hazard	PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1940s. They have been used to make nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, some firefighting foams, and products that resist grease, water, and oil.
Scenario	The scenario involves developing risk communication strategies related to the proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) at different thresholds.
Sponsor	Environmental Protection Agency
Participating Organizations	Local, State, and Federal entities affiliated with the EPA LGAC

**Points
Contact**

of

Jeff M. Witte 575-646-3007

Marshal Wilson 575-646-7243

GENERAL INFORMATION

Exercise Objectives and Core Capabilities

The exercise objectives shown in Table 1 describe the expected outcomes for the exercise. The objectives are linked to core capabilities, which are distinct critical elements of the specific mission area being exercised.

The objectives and aligned core capabilities were selected by the Exercise Planning Team.

Table 1 Exercise Objectives and Associated Core Capabilities

Objective No.	Exercise Objective	Core Capability
1	Identify, assess, and prioritize risk communication strategies regarding PFAS detections in public water systems.	Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities
2	Identify and discuss potential needs by local government in terms of technical assistance, analytical methods, and treatment technologies regarding PFAS detections.	Risk Management for Protection Programs and Activities
3	Assess the ability to deliver coordinated, prompt, reliable, and actionable information to the whole community in the event of a water system testing above regulatory thresholds for PFAS.	Public Information and Warning

Participant Roles and Responsibilities

The term *participant* encompasses many groups of people, not just those playing in this exercise. Groups of participants involved in the exercise and their respective roles and responsibilities are as follows:

Players. Players are personnel who have an active role discussing or performing their regular duties and responsibilities during the exercise. Players discuss or initiate actions in response to the simulated emergency (scenario).

Controller/Facilitator. The Controller/Facilitator introduces the exercise, facilitates exercise discussions, and moderates the hot wash. They also provide additional information or resolve questions as required. It is desirable to have a Controller/Facilitator who is not directly connected with any participating agency.

Evaluator. An Evaluator observes and documents exercise play, relative to objectives. Their primary role is to document player discussions, including how and if those discussions conform to applicable plans, policies, and procedures. In some cases, the Evaluator will be responsible for developing the After-Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IP).

Observers. Observers do not directly participate in the exercise. However, they may support the development of player responses to the exercise scenario by providing subject matter expertise if requested by the players.

Exercise Structure

The exercise is structured as a facilitated interactive discussion covering two modules and a plenary session. It is designed to take approximately two hours.

Exercise Guidelines

- This exercise will be held in an open, low-stress, no-fault environment. Varying viewpoints, even disagreements, are expected.
- Respond to the scenario using your knowledge of applicable plans, policies, and procedures. Your play should be tempered by your jurisdiction's actual capabilities (i.e., you may use only existing assets) and insights derived from past training or actual related response.
- Decisions are not precedent-setting and may not reflect your organization's final position on a given issue. This exercise is an opportunity to discuss and present multiple options and possible solutions.
- Issue identification is not as valuable as suggestions and recommended actions that could improve the response.
- Problem-solving efforts should be the focus.

Exercise Rules

The following general rules govern exercise play:

- Real-world emergencies take priority over exercise play.
- Exercise players will comply with real-world emergency procedures, unless otherwise directed by the exercise staff.
- All communication outside the immediate exercise area (including written, radio, telephone, and email) during the exercise will begin and end with the statement, **"This is an exercise."**

Player Instructions

Players should follow certain guidelines before, during, and after the exercise to ensure a safe and effective exercise.

During the Exercise

- Respond to exercise events and information as if the emergency were real, unless otherwise directed by your Facilitator.
- The Facilitator will give you only information they are specifically directed to disseminate. You are expected to obtain other necessary information through existing emergency information channels.
- If you do not understand the scope of the exercise or the scenario, or if you are uncertain about an organization's participation in an exercise, ask the Facilitator.
- All exercise communications with persons outside the exercise conduct area will begin and end with the statement, **"This is an exercise."** This precaution is taken so that anyone who overhears the conversation will not mistake exercise play for a real-world emergency.

After the Exercise

- Participate in the hot wash.
- Complete the Participant Feedback Form. This form allows you to comment candidly on your group's exercise play and exercise effectiveness. Give the completed form to your Evaluator.
- Provide any notes or materials generated from the exercise to your Evaluator for review and inclusion in the AAR.

Exercise Assumptions and Artificialities

In any exercise, assumptions and artificialities may be necessary to complete play in the time allotted and/or account for logistical limitations. Exercise participants should accept that assumptions and artificialities are inherent in any exercise and should not allow these considerations to negatively impact their participation.

During this exercise, the following tenets apply:

- Excessive detail is not necessary to drive planning, policy, or procedural discussion.
- Players will react to the scenario in the same manner as if this were a real event.
- Players will consider "typical" response conditions, as well as "worse-case" situations.

- The exercise is conducted in a no-fault, learning environment, wherein capabilities, plans, systems, and processes will be evaluated.
- The exercise scenario is plausible, and events occur as they are presented.

Exercise Evaluation

Evaluation of the exercise is based on the exercise objectives and aligned core capabilities. Players will be asked to complete participant feedback forms. These documents, coupled with Facilitator observations and discussion notes, will be used to evaluate the exercise and compile the AAR and next steps.

Exercise Location

Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) Public Meeting, Washington DC.

Location Security

Access is limited to invited participants.

SCENARIO

Background

(15 Minutes)

Pertinent Facts

On March 29, the EPA published a proposed rule that aims to protect public health by proposing a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) to establish legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for six PFAS known to occur in drinking water. The six PFAS are **PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX Chemicals**. Proposed Maximum Containment Level Goals (MCLG) and MCLs are below.

EPA's Proposed Action for the PFAS NPDWR

Compound	Proposed MCLG	Proposed MCL (enforceable levels)
PFOA	0 ppt*	4.0 ppt*
PFOS	0 ppt*	4.0 ppt*
PFNA		
PFHxS	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index
PFBS		
HFPO-DA (commonly referred to as GenX Chemicals)		

The Hazard Index is a tool used to evaluate potential health risks from exposure to chemical mixtures.

*ppt = parts per trillion (also expressed as ng/L)

The EPA expects to promulgate the final rule in late 2023. However, the EPA makes clear that following the final rule, public water system responsibilities will be as follows:

- Monitor for these PFAS;
- Notify the public of the levels of these PFAS; and
- Reduce the levels of these PFAS in drinking water if they exceed the proposed standards.

Key Issues

- What happens at the local government level when PFAS is detected?
- What steps has your agency taken to address potential PFAS contaminants?
- Has your agency prepared a public information strategy in the event of a PFAS detection?

----- Discussion -----

- What messaging aids and strategies has your entity developed in response to the EPA NPDWR rulemaking?
- Who are the targeted stakeholders?
- How can EPA support effective partnership of local, state and federal governments on this issue?

SCAN OR CLICK THIS QR CODE FOR PRE-MEETING PREPARATION



MODULE 1

(15 minute discussion, 10 minute report out)

This is an interactive discussion. Please select group representative to open the following worksheet to build a message house related to following module.

SCAN OR CLICK THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE WORKSHEET.



Pertinent Scenario Facts

During initial compliance monitoring, a local water authority in northern Liberty County detected the presence of PFOA at an estimated concentration level of 2.7 ppt which is below the regulatory threshold.

Knowing that the agency in Liberty County that has jurisdiction for water quality in the state, a local community action group called Citizens Against Forever Chemicals in Liberty County, otherwise known as Forever Free Liberty (FFL) immediately submits a request through the Freedom of Information Act asking for any data on PFOA testing in any water source (public and private). Simultaneously, FFL begins a media campaign targeting PFOA manufactures and public water systems in traditional media and social media with statements such as:

Local government officials need to come clean about the effects of forever chemicals to our community's health. We know they found PFOA in our drinking water and demand to know what they plan to do about it!



Key Issues

- Should the community be informed?
- Are there any communication aids that have been pre-developed?
- What are some communication strategies for different groups of stakeholders?

MODULE 2

(15 minute discussion, 10 minute report out)

This is an interactive discussion. Please select group representative to open the following worksheet to build a message house related to following module.

SCAN OR CLICK THE QR CODE TO ACCESS THE WORKSHEET.



Pertinent Scenario Facts

Compliance monitoring in a public water authority servicing more than 10,000 residents in the southern part of Liberty County detected the presence of PFAS at 17.9 ppt, exceeding the regulatory threshold.

Prior to any information formally being released about the detection, the community has learned about the test results sparking immense criticism and concern.

- The local water authority has been slammed with phone calls from a concerned public wanting to know what's going on.
- Citizens have gathered at the county seat demanding an alternative source of clean water immediately and wanting to know how the contaminated water will be cleaned up.
- A rumor has started circulating on social media that local governments will be forced to hike taxes to pay for treating the water.

- The local activist group FFL has begun approaching those who have been exposed to the PFAS to sign on to their lawsuit targeting private companies thought to be responsible, as well as local governments.

Key Issues

- What key messages need to be communicated with stakeholders?
- Do local communities have tools, best practices, or lessons learned that the Agency should consider adopting?

Plenary Discussion and Wrap Up

- What tools exist to aid in risk communications for PFAS contamination?
 - Message Maps
 - Message House
 - Response Plans
 - Continuity of Operations Plans
 - Training
 - Others?
- Are there any gaps in your risk communication strategy?
- How can EPA support effective partnership of local, state and federal governments on this issue?

SCAN OR CLICK THE QR CODE FOR EXERCISE FEEDBACK AND
FINAL THOUGHTS



APPENDIX A: EXERCISE SCHEDULE

10 Minutes	Group Set-Up
15 Minutes	Discussion of current actions and risk management posture
25 Minutes	Module 1 – Test results fall under regulatory thresholds
25 Minutes	Module 2 – Test results exceed regulatory thresholds
30 Minutes	Plenary discussion
15 Minutes	Wrap-up and next steps

APPENDIX B: ACRONYMS

Acronym	Term
AAR	After Action Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Services
FFL	Forever Free Liberty
IP	Improvement Plan
LGAC	Local Government Advisory Committee
MCL	Maximum Containment Levels
MCLG	Maximum Containment Level Goals
NPDWR	National Primary Drinking Water Regulations
PFAS	Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances including are PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and GenX Chemicals
PPT	Parts Per Trillion



U.S. EPA Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)

April 2023

Purpose

The LGAC is an independent, policy-oriented advisory committee of locally elected and appointed officials that provides advice and recommendations to the EPA Administrator. The LGAC is tasked with assisting the agency by ensuring that EPA's regulations, policies, guidance, and technical assistance supports and improves the capacity of local governments that implements and carries out these programs.

Client Office

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJEER)

Background

From day one of the administration, President Biden pledged to prioritize environmental justice and equity for all, and EPA is delivering on that mission. In 2021, Administrator Regan issued agency-wide guidance directing all offices and regions to prioritize the advancement of environmental justice, equity, and civil rights, and a series of actions, investments and engagements have underscored the agency's commitment to advance environmental justice, including formal engagement with the LGAC.

In July 2022, the [LGAC issued 5 core recommendations](#) to EPA addressing ways to bridge gaps between federal regulatory policies and community-level environmental justice priorities. These recommendations followed 3 key themes: Zoning and Permitting; Cumulative Impacts; and Technical Assistance and Funding. In response to these recommendations, EPA replied in part stating *"As we work to significantly strengthen our EJ program, a central priority is providing a new era of support, engagement, and leadership in collaboration with our local government partners on the ground in a mutual effort to seek justice for the communities most overburdened and vulnerable to environmental threats to their public health and economic vitality."*

Carrying forward the commitment to collaborate with local governments to help build strong partnerships with communities across the country and deliver results for environmental justice communities, EPA seeks the input from the LGAC for the development and implementation of a cumulative impacts framework. In addition to charges related to cumulative impacts, the LGAC serves a sounding board on the development of key OEJEER policies, initiatives, and activities and will convene the Environmental Justice and Equity Workgroup to provide feedback and recommendations on such developments.

Charge

1. How can EPA better address factors, such as land use planning or infrastructure investment, that contribute to concentration of environmental burden through federal policy?
2. How can local governments partner with EPA and states in addressing cumulative impacts through better coordination, planning, working with communities, and other actions?



3. Based on an overview of existing EPA authorities to address cumulative impacts in the permitting context, (a) where is the great need, from a local perspective, to consider cumulative impacts, and (b) which statutory authorities may present the greatest opportunities for addressing those needs?

Details of LGAC Workgroup Action

The LGAC will constitute a new standing Environmental Justice and Equity Workgroup to serve as a sounding board to EPA's development of policies, initiatives, and activities to advance environmental justice, equity, and civil rights. The workgroup will also address the current charge and develop recommendations related to cumulative impacts. The Workgroup will be comprised of LGAC members, not to exceed a quorum, and will meet monthly via videoconference, starting in May.

The Workgroup will report out on its interim progress during public meetings, and the Workgroup will present its final recommendations once they are developed. EPA requests that the recommendations be completed within one year. The LGAC's Small Community Advisory Subcommittee will also be given an opportunity to weigh in on the recommendations before they are finalized

The content of Workgroup meetings will include dialogue with EPA staff and other experts. External guests may be consulted as desired by the Workgroup members.

Deliverables

The Workgroup will provide input and recommendations on the development of policies, initiatives, and activities to advance environmental justice, equity, and civil rights and summarize its discussions on cumulative impacts, highlighting any recommendations, in a written document. Additional deliverables may be developed as the workgroup progresses.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE and SMALL COMMUNITIES ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE
May 2023 Meeting
As of 5/16/23

In-person Attendee

1. The Honorable Darcy Burke, Municipal Water District, Lake Elsinore, CA
2. The Honorable Luke Bronin, Mayor, Hartford, CT
3. Mr. Gary Brown, Director of Water and Sewerage Department, Detroit, MI
4. Thomas Carroll, City Manager, Cambridge, MD
5. The Honorable Kimberly du Buclet, Water Reclamation District Commissioner, Cook County, IL
6. Kevin Dumas, Town Manager, Mansfield, MA
7. Ms. Miki Esposito, Associate Director of Public Works, Los Angeles County
8. The Honorable Sarah Fox, Councilmember, Vancouver, WA
9. The Honorable Jacob Frey, Mayor, Minneapolis, MN
10. The Honorable Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor, Lincoln, NE
11. The Honorable Jonathan Godes, Mayor, Glenwood Springs, CO
12. Jonathan Gordon, Newark, NJ
13. The Honorable Nick Gradisar, Mayor, Pueblo, CO
14. The Honorable Jonathan Grieder, Councilmember, City of Waterloo, IA
15. The Honorable Daniel Guzman, Councilmember, Oneida Nation, WI
16. The Honorable Evan Hansen, House Delegate, State of West Virginia
17. The Honorable Brenda Howerton, County Commissioner, Durham County, NC
18. The Honorable Deana Holiday Ingraham, Mayor, East Point, GA
19. Ed Eiffler Jaramillo, Minneapolis, MN
20. The Honorable Velma Jenkins, Mayor, Shuqualak, MS
21. The Honorable Heather Kimball, Councilmember, Hawai'i County
22. Denise Koch, Deputy Director of Engineering and Public Works, Juneau, AK
23. The Honorable Rey Leon, Mayor, Huron, CA
24. The Honorable Ann Mallek, Supervisor, Albemarle County, VA
25. The Honorable Julian McTizic, Mayor, Bolivar, TN
26. The Honorable Christian Menefee, County Attorney, Harris County, TX
27. Kim Morrow, Lincoln, NE
28. The Honorable Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor, Issaquah, WA
29. Tyler Palmer, Deputy City Supervisor, Moscow, ID
30. The Honorable Hattie Portis-Jones, Councilmember, Fairburn, GA
31. Mr. Whitford Remer, Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Tampa, FL
32. The Honorable Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor, Madison, WI
33. The Honorable Kimberly Rich, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Willow Springs, MO
34. Mr. Michael Scuse, Secretary of Agriculture, Delaware Department of Agriculture, Dover, DE
35. Kevin Shropshire, City of Rockledge, FL
36. The Honorable Sophie Swope, Councilmember, Bethel, AK
37. The Honorable Lucy Vinis, Mayor, Eugene, OR
38. Mr. Jeff Witte, Secretary, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, NM
39. Marshall Wilson, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, NM

Virtual Attendance

1. The Honorable Ras Baraka, Mayor, Newark, NJ
2. The Honorable Sharon Broome, Mayor, Baton Rouge, LA
3. The Honorable José Carlos Aponte Dalmau, Mayor, Carolina, PR
4. The Honorable Katherine Gilmore-Richardson, Councilmember, Philadelphia, PA
5. The Honorable Ella Jones, Mayor, Ferguson, MO
6. The Honorable Christine Lowery, Commissioner, Cibola County, NM

7. The Honorable Rachel May, State Senator, Syracuse, NY
8. The Honorable Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, Yuma, AZ
9. The Honorable Ron Nirenberg, Mayor, San Antonio, TX
10. The Honorable Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury, CT
11. The Honorable David Painter, County Commissioner, Clermont County, OH
12. Ms. Lisa Wong, Town Manager, South Hadley, MA

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Member Biographies

March 2023



Leirion Gaylor Baird, Chair

Mayor, Lincoln, NE

Leirion Gaylor Baird was elected Mayor of Lincoln, Nebraska in 2019, after serving two terms on the City Council. The mayor's vision of leading Lincoln toward a more successful, secure, and shared future drives her administration's agenda. Upon taking office, she launched the Resilient Lincoln initiative and commissioned the development of a Climate Action Plan – a first of its kind in the state of Nebraska. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of the U.S.

Conference of Mayors and as Chair of their Mayors and Metro Universities Task Force. Mayor Gaylor Baird has been Chair of the LGAC since 2021.



Lucy Vinis, Vice Chair

Mayor, Eugene, OR

Lucy Vinis has served as Mayor of Eugene, Oregon for 5 years. She has worked across the government and non-profit sectors to address equity, land use, natural resources, agriculture, housing, and homelessness. She previously worked as a consultant in Washington, DC, and co-authored studies on sustainable farming, land use, and development impacts on ground and surface water in the

Chesapeake Bay. Vinis is a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and a Climate Mayor, bringing Eugene's leadership and experience into the national discussion about the role of cities in responding to climate change. Vinis is the Vice Chair of the LGAC.



Ras Baraka

Mayor, Newark, NJ

Ras J. Baraka is currently serving his third term as Mayor of Newark, New Jersey. A Newark native, he has received accolades from grassroots organizations to the White House, for his ability to reduce crime to its lowest levels in five decades, address affordability while maintaining growth, lower unemployment, and nearly complete the replacement of all 23,000-plus lead service lines in the city. As the

President and Chair of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association, and through his involvement in the New Jersey DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council, he is addressing climate change and environmental justice inequities.

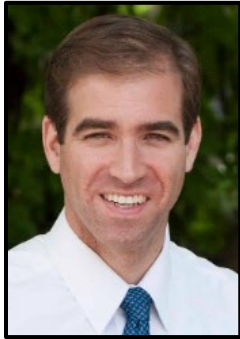


Sharon Broome

Mayor-President, Baton Rouge, LA

Sharon Broome was sworn in as the Mayor-President of Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2017, but has a long history of public service and leadership. She is the first female to hold her position and was also the first female to hold the leadership positions of Speaker Pro Tempore in the Louisiana State House and President Pro Tempore

in the State Senate. Broome is focused on uniting her city around the common goals of equality in education, economic development, justice, housing, and other quality ways of life.



Luke Bronin
Mayor, Hartford, CT

Mayor Bronin has worked to establish Hartford, Connecticut as a leader in environmental stewardship, while also maintaining fiscal responsibility. He is an advocate for cleaning up PFAS and other hazardous chemicals, as well as carbon-friendly mass transit. Prior to his role as Mayor, he served as general counsel for the Connecticut Governor's office, and two senior posts at the U.S. Department of Treasury. While serving in the U.S. Navy in Afghanistan he was a member of the anti-corruption task force.



Gary Brown
Water and Sewerage Department Director, Detroit, MI

Gary Brown is Director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), which is the largest water and sewerage system in the United States. Service has been a constant in Brown's life, starting with the U.S. Marines, and including 26 years in the Detroit Police Department as a patrol officer, precinct commander and deputy chief. Since taking the helm of DWSD in 2016, Brown has transformed its operation by focusing on compassionate customer care and addressing the evolving needs of the community.



Darcy M. Burke
Board of Directors, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, CA

Darcy M. Burke was elected to the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Lake Elsinore, California in 2018 and then re-elected in 2022. Her professional career has focused on water quality and small water system assistance. Since joining the Board, she has led a five-year strategic planning effort which included creating a cohesive regional water resiliency planning group, focusing on securing new long-term water supplies for fast-growing Southwest Riverside County. She currently serves on the Urban Water Institute's Board of Directors, the California Nevada Section, American Water Works Association's Communications and Customer Service Committee, and Associated California Water Agencies Water Quality PFOS Working Group.



José Aponte Dalmau
Mayor, Carolina, Puerto Rico

José Aponte Dalmau has served as Mayor of Carolina, Puerto Rico, since 2007. He successfully navigated his community through the recovery of Hurricane Maria in 2017 and has developed innovative solid waste management solutions for his community. Prior to serving as Mayor, he had a successful career as an engineer. He has served on the LGAC and SCAS since 2015.



Kimberly du Buclet

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Commissioner, Cook County, IL

Commissioner Kimberly Du Buclet was inspired to run for her current position on the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District after repeated flooding in her childhood home on Chicago's south side was met with inaction from the local government. Prior to this position she was a state-elected legislator and Chicago Park District Director of Legislative and Community Affairs. She has experience working on green infrastructure, water supply, water quality, and flood damage protection, as well as turning vacant space into green spaces.



Miki Esposito

Los Angeles County Public Works Department Assistant Director, Los Angeles County, CA

Miki Esposito is the Assistant Director of the Los Angeles County Public Works Department, which serves nearly 10 million people. Esposito began her career as an attorney for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, specializing in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. She also worked in the Lincoln City Attorney's Office on civil litigation, contract negotiation and legislation, and as Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor of Lincoln, where she supported a range of policy issues.



Jacob Frey

Mayor, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jacob Frey was elected Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2017 and has championed an agenda during his tenure centered on increasing access to affordable housing throughout the city, strengthening community-police relations, and fueling economic growth through inclusive policies. He has successfully secured record-setting investments for the city's affordable housing work, boosting efforts to expand and preserve affordable housing. Prior to his role as Mayor, he served on Minneapolis City Council Member from 2014 to 2018. As an employment and civil rights attorney, Frey became an active community organizer, including fighting for gay rights and supporting those experiencing homelessness.



Sarah Fox

*Council Member, Vancouver Washington
Washington State Department of Commerce Climate Program Manager*

Sarah Fox was elected to Vancouver, Washington's City Council in 2019. She is also a Climate Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Commerce, where she guides local governments in planning for climate change impacts. She has more than 18 years of experience in long-range and current planning, including advocating for urban development and affordable housing, land use, transportation, fossil fuel regulations, and climate action policies.



Katherine Gilmore Richardson

Councilmember At-Large, Philadelphia, PA

Katherine Gilmore Richardson is serving her first term as Councilmember At-Large for the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A lifelong Philadelphian, Gilmore Richardson is the youngest woman ever elected Citywide and the youngest African-American woman ever elected to Philadelphia City Council. She is focused on upskilling and reskilling the local workforce, supporting local, small, and minority-owned businesses, and addressing climate change and environmental justice. Gilmore Richardson previously served for 11 years as a staff member for Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown in roles ranging from Constituent Services to Chief of Staff.



Nick Gradisar

Mayor, Pueblo, CO

Nick Gradisar was elected as Mayor of Pueblo, Colorado in 2019. For 65 years the town of 110,000 had no head of government, but Gradisar fought for years to change the system, accomplished it in a referendum, and then ran for the newly created position. Gradisar has been engaged in public service for many years and spent 40 years in the private practice of law. As mayor he is working to address housing, transportation, economic development, education, and neighborhood revitalization within Pueblo.



Jonathan Grieder

Councilmember, Waterloo, IA

As a Councilmember for Waterloo, Iowa, Jonathan Grieder is focused on addressing the affordability and accessibility of childcare, raising wages to a livable level, investing in Waterloo's infrastructure, ensuring quality city services, addressing the spike in gun violence, and fighting to ensure equitable economic development that lifts all his constituents. Grieder has also made tangible progress on addressing climate change in his city and bringing other communities along. Outside of elected office Grieder is a high school social studies teacher.



Evan Hansen

West Virginia House of Delegates Member, WV

Evan Hansen is serving his third term in the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing Monongalia County. Hansen owns an environmental and economic development consulting firm that strengthens economies, sustains healthy environments, and builds resilient communities. Before his election, Evan worked with legislators to respond to the Freedom Industries chemical leak and provided testimony regarding attempts to increase the amount of cancer-causing chemicals in the state's rivers. Hansen's work has also included consulting on water and energy issues across Sub-Sahara Africa, and in China and Egypt.



Brenda Howerton

Durham County Commissioner, NC

Commissioner Howerton is the first African American commissioner in Durham County. She has focused her four terms on the initiative "100 Counties Helping Our Children Thrive." She has a history of demonstrated advocacy for disadvantaged communities and public health, including addressing juvenile crime prevention, workforce development, and public health issues. Outside of elected office she owns a consulting firm that specializes in organizational development and executive coaching for public and private industries.



Deana Holiday Ingraham

Mayor, East Point, GA

During her first term as mayor of East Point, Georgia, Deana Holiday Ingraham has championed implementation of livable wages for City employees, financial literacy for youth, developing public arts and agricultural master plans, and using Brownfields grant funding to develop unused land. Prior to her role as mayor, she had a successful legal career, including serving as a trial court law clerk, managing member of her own law firm, and an advocate for senior citizens. Ingraham serves on several organizations, including as a board member for the National League of Cities (NLC) and Georgia Municipal Association.



Ella Jones

Mayor, Ferguson, MO

Ella Jones was elected as Ferguson, Missouri's first African-American and female mayor in 2020, having served on the City Council for one term. During her tenure she has championed public safety, neighborhood stabilization (including funding for first-time homeownership), and engaging Ferguson's youth with more job opportunities. Prior to public service, Jones was a trained chemist, working for the Washington University School of Medicine and KV Pharmaceutical before becoming a Sales Director with Mary Kay for 30 years.



Heather Kimball
Hawai'i County Commissioner, HI

Heather Kimball is in her second term as Commissioner, representing the rural and economically disadvantaged district of Hawai'i County. During her tenure she has supported legislative projects on affordable housing, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and climate change targets. Outside of elected office Kimball manages a consulting firm focused on environmentally sensitive land management planning and creating public communication materials and policy support tools. She has technical expertise in the zero-waste movement, Extended Producer Responsibility, and has written for several relevant academic publications.



Christine Lowery
Cibola County Commissioner, NM

Christine Lowery, a second term Commissioner in Cibola County, New Mexico, views her role on the Committee as spiritual, personal, and purposeful for the people she serves. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and post-retirement, has lived on her ancestral land at the Pueblo of Laguna for over 20 years. Her village of Pagate is also home to the Jackpile-Pagate Uranium Mine, once the world's largest open-pit mine, and now, a Superfund site. Lowery had a successful career as a social worker and finally, an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Helen Bader School of Social Work. Lowery is co-chair of the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee.



Ann Mallek
Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Member, VA

Ann Mallek was first elected to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors in November 2008. She has over 40 years of experience in public service, including Committees on tourism, agriculture, forestry and historic preservation. She is also an active member of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Board of Directors and the National Association of Counties (NACo) Environment and Land Use Committee. In 13 of her 14 years on the Board of Supervisors, she has held 6 town halls annually to meet with constituents, going online with Covid. Mallek is co-chair of the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee.



Rachel May
New York State Senator, NY

Fresh off a career in sustainability education at Syracuse University, Senator May brought a whole systems approach to New York state government when she was elected in 2018. She helped negotiate the nation's strongest climate law in 2019, making sure that upstate forests and farms were considered in crafting solutions. In her approach to the state budget, she has sought holistic decision-making, promoting measures like soil health policies to prevent flooding downstream, or home care investments to help seniors and the state avoid the high costs of nursing home care.



Christian Menefee
Harris County Attorney, TX

Christian Menefee was reared in an environmental justice community, living near the largest petrochemical company in the world. In 2020 he was elected as Harris County Attorney, as the youngest person and first African American to hold the position. During his tenure he has engaged in legal action against the Texas highway agency for infrastructure projects with detrimental impacts on underserved neighborhoods, as well as with Texas environmental regulators failing to follow permit laws, and a company responsible for creosote contamination in a predominantly Black neighborhood that resulted in cancer clusters.



Douglas Nicholls
Mayor, Yuma, Arizona

Currently in his third term as Mayor of Yuma, Arizona, Nicholls believes that quality communities provide opportunities for success to all residents through jobs, superior education, and a robust quality of life. His vision to make higher education more accessible culminates in plans for the Yuma Multiversity Campus (YMC), a brownfields redevelopment project that will utilize the academic programs and specialties offered by state universities and local community colleges. Nicholls has also spearheaded efforts to enhance and grow the Yuma community, including founding 4FrontED, an economic development-focused governing board of mayors from binational locations near the U.S.-Mexico border.



Ron Nirenberg
Mayor, San Antonio, TX

Ron Nirenberg is currently serving his third term as the Mayor of San Antonio, Texas, which has the 7th largest population in the United States and is one of the nation's fastest growing cities. Nirenberg is the first San Antonio Mayor of Asian Pacific Islander descent. Through his personal experiences, Nirenberg developed a core commitment to civic participation and the universal values of liberty, justice, and equal opportunity for every person. Under his leadership as mayor, the city has adopted an equity framework in budgeting to reduce poverty, improve public health, and overcome historical socioeconomic inequality.



Neil O'Leary
Mayor, Waterbury, CT

Mayor Neil M. O'Leary has dedicated over 40 years to the people of Waterbury, Connecticut. He joined the Waterbury Police Department in 1980 and rose through the ranks to Chief. As Mayor, O'Leary revitalized the city's former brass manufacturing industry in a way that not only kept the metal industry, but also used Brownfield programs and other funding sources to remediate contaminated properties and create new opportunities. He believes that a team-centric approach predicated on input from the community is critically important to successful government and has used this approach to lead multiple regional government coalitions.



David Painter

Clermont County Board of Commissioners, OH

David Painter is currently serving his second term on the Clermont County Board of Commissioners and is a strong advocate for market competition and government efficiency. Painter is committed to reducing the impacts resulting from the Ohio opiate crisis. He represents the people of Ohio on several regional and national organizations, including the National Association of County's (NACo) Energy, Environmental and Land Use Steering Committee and NACo Board of

Directors.



Mary Lou Pauly

Mayor, Issaquah, WA

Mary Lou Pauly has served as Mayor of Issaquah, Washington since 2017, following 19 years on the City's Development Commission and four years on City Council. During her time as a public servant, she has implemented a City Climate Action Plan, provided electrification incentives, and worked with regional partners to evaluate PFAS contamination and remediation. She is an active member on several national organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Mayors Water Council, and the National League of Cities. Prior to elected office

she worked in environmental consulting and civil engineering.



Whitford Remer

Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Tampa, FL

As the first Sustainability and Resilience Officer for the City of Tampa, Whitford Remer is guided by three core principles: Go Green, Be Fair, and Keep Safe. Remer is responsible for developing the Resilient Tampa Roadmap and secured major financial commitment in his first few months on the job to develop the city's first Climate Action and Equity Plan to reach 100% renewable energy. His drive towards equity and inclusion comes from living in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.



Satya Rhodes-Conway

Mayor, Madison, WI

Elected in 2019, Satya Rhodes-Conway is the second female and first out LGBTQ person to serve as mayor of Madison, Wisconsin. She has extensive experience in local policy and practice, having served three terms on the Madison Common Council, and worked with mayors and organizations across the country to implement innovative policy that promote environmental economic sustainability and build democratically accountable communities. As co-chair of the Climate

Mayors, Rhodes-Conway recognizes the need for whole-of-government approach to climate change, including public budgets, capital investments, and a focus on equity.



Michael Scuse

Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, DE

Michael T. Scuse is in his second term as Delaware's Secretary of Agriculture, having previously held several leadership positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), where he oversaw USDA's Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, and Foreign Agricultural Services. He led initiatives to improve the competitiveness of American products in the global marketplace, created new markets to increase rural economic opportunity, and delivered assistance that helped to keep America's farmers and ranchers in business. He has experience working on a range of water issues and is a lifelong farmer of corn, soybean, and wheat



Jeff Witte

New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture, NM

Jeff Witte has served with New Mexico's Department of Agriculture since 1994, and as Secretary since 2011. He has been a member of both the LGAC and SCAS since 2015, including serving as Vice Chair from 2018 to 2020. During his tenure he created the New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program, represented New Mexico ranchers and farmers on state legislation, and started the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center at New Mexico State University, which brings together law enforcement and the agricultural industry to develop plans that will protect New Mexico agriculture as part of a homeland security strategy.



Lisa Wong

Town Manager, South Hadley, MA

Lisa Wong is the Town Manager of South Hadley, Massachusetts. Prior to this position she served four terms as Mayor of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, where she was elected as the youngest female and the first Asian American mayor in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As Mayor, Wong restored fiscal stability to Fitchburg, notably by increasing the stabilization fund, increasing the bond rating several times, reorganizing city departments, reducing health care costs, and instituting energy efficiency projects throughout the city. Wong was a member of the LGAC under Administrator Lisa Jackson, during which she chaired the Environmental Justice workgroup.

LGAC Workgroup Rosters

Climate

1. Chair: The Honorable Satya Rhodes-Conway, Mayor, Madison, WI
2. Vice-Chair: The Honorable Sarah Fox, Councilmember, Vancouver, WA
3. The Honorable Leirion Gaylor Baird, Mayor, Lincoln, NE
4. Jonathan Gordon, Newark, NJ
5. Ed Eiffler Jaramillo, Minneapolis, MN
6. The Honorable Heather Kimball, Councilmember, Hawai'i County
7. The Honorable Ann Mallek, Supervisor, Albemarle County, VA
8. The Honorable Lucy Vinis, Mayor, Eugene, OR
9. Mr. Whitford Remer, Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Tampa, FL

PFAS and Water

1. Co-Chair: Mr. Gary Brown, Director of Water and Sewerage Department, Detroit, MI
2. Co-Chair: Ms. Miki Esposito, Associate Director of Public Works, Los Angeles County
3. The Honorable Kimberly du Buclet, Water Reclamation District Commissioner, Cook County, IL
4. The Honorable Nick Gradisar, Mayor, Pueblo, CO
5. The Honorable Evan Hansen, House Delegate, State of West Virginia
6. The Honorable Brenda Howerton, County Commissioner, Durham County, NC
7. The Honorable Ann Mallek, Supervisor, Albemarle County, VA
8. The Honorable Douglas Nicholls, Mayor, Yuma, AZ
9. The Honorable Neil O'Leary, Mayor, Waterbury, CT

PFAS and Risk Communications

1. Chair: Mr. Jeff Witte, Secretary, New Mexico Department of Agriculture, NM
2. The Honorable Darcy Burke, Municipal Water District, Lake Elsinore, CA
3. The Honorable Christine Lowery, Commissioner, Cibola County, NM
4. The Honorable David Painter, County Commissioner, Clermont County, OH

Cumulative Impacts

1. Chair: The Honorable Deana Holiday Ingraham, Mayor, East Point, GA
2. The Honorable José Carlos Aponte Dalmau, Mayor, Carolina, PR
3. The Honorable Nick Gradisar, Mayor, Pueblo, CO
4. The Honorable Jonathan Grieder, Councilmember, City of Waterloo, IA
5. The Honorable Brenda Howerton, County Commissioner, Durham County, NC
6. Ed Eiffler Jaramillo, Minneapolis, MN
7. The Honorable Christine Lowery, Commissioner, Cibola County, NM



Client Office: Office of the Administrator and Office of Water

As PFAS is a cross-cutting issue, the LGAC will interface with several experts across the agency to develop recommendations, specifically the Office of the Administrator, Office of Public Affairs and Office of Water.

Background

PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s because of their useful properties. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others. PFAS can be present in our water, soil, air, and food as well as in materials found in our homes or workplaces. As the science has continued to develop, we know more now than ever about how PFAS build up in our bodies over long periods of time, and how they can cause adverse health effects that can devastate families.

The LGAC has a history of working with EPA on this issue. In May 2020 the LGAC provided [recommendations](#) to EPA on risk communications at large. Drawing on members' experience and the expertise of several intergovernmental organizations, the Committee's findings helped inform the Agency's work on risk communications over the past several years.

In 2021, EPA announced a [PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#) – laying out a whole-of-agency approach to addressing PFAS. This includes robust research to learn more about the risks posed. Another essential component of PFAS management – particularly at the local government level – is communicating this risk to affected communities.

In 2022, the LGAC examined the needs of local governments when assessing and managing the presence of PFAS chemicals. The Committee held a series of workgroup meetings with subject matter experts designed to inform members of the breadth and depth of PFAS management, as well as EPA's regulatory authority.

As EPA continues its work on PFAS, the LGAC is now being asked to pull from this institutional knowledge and inform how EPA can support local and state governments, specifically on the risk communications needed when PFAS is detected in a community.

Charge

What happens at the local government level when PFAS is detected? How can EPA support this work – specifically with risk communications – to position a community for successful community engagement and initial management of the contamination?

- Are there specific tools that EPA should develop?
- Do local communities have tools, best practices, or lessons learned that the Agency should consider adopting?
- How can EPA support effective partnership of local, state and federal governments on this issue?



Details of LGAC Workgroup Action

The LGAC will develop a new workgroup to address this charge and develop recommendations. The Workgroup will be comprised of LGAC members, not to exceed a quorum, and will meet monthly via videoconference, starting in March.

The Workgroup will report out on its interim progress at a public meeting in May; a public meeting will be scheduled for the Workgroup to present its final recommendations once they are developed. The LGAC's Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee will also be given an opportunity to weigh in on the recommendations before they are finalized.

The content of Workgroup meetings will include dialogue with EPA staff and other experts. External guests may be consulted as desired by the Workgroup members.

Deliverables

The Workgroup will summarize its discussions on the above topics, highlighting any recommendations, in a written document. Additional deliverables may be developed as the workgroup progresses.



Client Office: Office of the Administrator

The LGAC will interface with several teams within the Office of the Administrator, including the Office of Policy, Office of Community Revitalization, and other subject matter experts. The Office of Air and Radiation's State and Local Branch will also be consulted, as needed.

Background

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act provided significant funding to support communities seeking to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

In January 2023 the LGAC submitted recommendations on implementing the Inflation Reduction Act's (IRA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grants and Green House Gas Reduction Fund to EPA. One issue raised was the interplay of land use and GHG emissions, the need for more housing stock across the country, and the opportunity to use these programs to break down barriers and support growth and development in a way that reduces GHG emissions.

Similarly, research from a range of organizations has underscored these points. As the Brookings Institution reported in 2021:

Simply put, the United States cannot reach its GHG reduction targets if our urban areas continue to grow as they have in the past. After decades of sprawl, the U.S. has the dubious honor of being a world leader in both building-related energy consumption and vehicle miles traveled per capita. Making matters worse, lower-density development also pollutes our water and requires higher relative emissions during the initial construction. (See [Brookings](#), 2021)

The EPA is seeking more detail on the LGAC's recommendations for this issue.

Charge

- 1) What are the challenges or barriers to *compact, climate-friendly growth* (vs sprawl or greenfield development) faced by cities, especially in creating affordable housing? Examples may include:
 - a. financial barriers (e.g. financing, assembling capital, etc.)
 - b. lack of support from community members, developers, or decision-makers
 - c. policies, ordinances, or regulations
 - d. other?
- 2) At a community level, what are the barriers to creating multi-family housing that is both affordable and GHG neutral/negative? Are they different for infill housing development, compared to greenfield housing development?
- 3) What do local governments need in order to shift toward climate-friendly land use patterns over time? What tools or information (data) would be useful in making the case for compact, climate-friendly growth or integrating climate-impacts into planning at both the project level and the landscape level?
 - a. What role can EPA play in aiding in this shift?



- 4) What are the challenges or barriers to *adaptive re-use and retrofitting of existing buildings* to reduce GHG emissions in your community? And what role could EPA play in overcoming these barriers?
 - a. financial barriers (e.g. financing, assembling capital, etc.)
 - b. lack of support from community members, developers, or decision-makers
 - c. policies, ordinances, or regulations
 - d. other?

- 5) IRA contains many programs designed to finance GHG emissions reductions. Funding applications for current and new EPA programs require applicants to capture the environmental benefits of projects or programs. Do local governments and their partners have the tools and information they need to appropriately capture/quantify the climate and other environmental benefits projects or programs?
 - a. E.g. how do grant applications across EPA programs allow them to show that their sustainable new construction is adding fewer GHGs to the atmosphere than business-as-usual? How can EPA accommodate the numerous ways that cities may need to convey the benefits?

Details of LGAC Workgroup Action

The LGAC will convene a new Workgroup on Climate and the Built Environment to research this charge and develop recommendations. The Workgroup will be comprised of LGAC members, not to exceed a quorum, and will meet monthly via videoconference, starting in March.

The Workgroup will report out on its interim progress at a public meeting in May; a public meeting will be scheduled for the Workgroup to present its final recommendations once they are developed. The LGAC's Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee will also be given an opportunity to weigh in on the recommendations before they are finalized.

The content of Workgroup meetings will include dialogue with EPA staff and other experts. External guests may be consulted as desired by the Workgroup members.

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The Workgroup will summarize its discussions on the above topics, highlighting any recommendations, in a written document.