



A CONVERSATION ON PFAS

AGENDA (ANNOTATED)

Thursday, September 22, 2022

Join the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin for a virtual conference on the state of the science, policy, technology, and the future of PFAS in the Potomac River basin. [REGISTER HERE.](#)

Session 1: Opening

- 9:00 am: *Welcome* Mike Nardolilli, ICPRB
- 9:10 am: *Introduction*..... Lisa Daniels, PA DEP
- 9:15 am: *Keynote: EPA’s Update on the PFAS Strategic Roadmap* Adam Ortiz, Regional Administrator for EPA Region 3
- 9:45 am: *The Science of PFAS and Environmental Justice*..... Kimberly Jones, Howard University

Session 2: PFAS Occurrence in the Potomac Basin

- 10:10 am: *Finding Forever Chemical Sources in the Proverbial Haystack: Pinpointing Potential Sources of PFAS in the Potomac River Watershed*..... Jennifer Benjamin, Corona Environmental Consulting

In 2019, as the first step in an effort to track and assess the threat of PFAS to drinking water sources in the metropolitan Washington, DC area, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and Corona Environmental Consulting developed a method for identifying potential PFAS sources using data indicative of industry types and manufacturers historically known for their PFAS use. Over 1,400 potential PFAS sources were identified in the watersheds utilized by drinking water utilities relying on the Potomac River. The resulting inventory can be used to help MWCOG’s member utilities update source water risk assessments, identify appropriate sampling locations if needed, evaluate the potential need for risk mitigation options, inform cost-recovery efforts, and help guide discussions with regulators in MD and VA. This presentation will review the key steps in the method, most useful data sources, results for the Potomac River study, and ways to further prioritize potential sources.

- 10:35 am: *Spatial and Temporal Variation in PFAS Concentrations in Plasma of Smallmouth Bass in the Potomac River Watershed*..... Vicki Blazer, USGS

Fish kills, skin lesions, reproductive endocrine disruption (intersex) and populations declines have been documented in smallmouth bass populations within the Chesapeake Bay watershed during the last two decades. To better understand these adverse effects, USGS together with state biologists, conducted comprehensive health assessments of smallmouth bass as well as surface water and tissue chemical analyses from 2013- 2019. We used archived plasma samples from these collections to determine if PFAS may be playing a role in observed health effects. Thirteen PFAS compounds were analyzed. Four were detected in every plasma sample while two others were less prevalent. There were considerable spatial differences and some temporal variation between 2017-2019. The influence of land-use, climatic factors and potential sources will be discussed.

Session 3: PFAS Policy and Regulation

11:00 am: *Policy and Regulation in Potomac Basin Jurisdictions Panel.....* Moderator: Sarah Grace Hughes, ECOS
Joshua Rodriguez (DC) • Lee Currey (MD) • Lisa Daniels (PA) • Jeffery Steers (VA) • Mindy Neil (WV)

12:00 pm-1:00 pm: *Break for Lunch*

Session 4: Addressing PFAS through Technology

1:00 pm: *Overview of WRF's Latest Research on PFAS in Water, Wastewater, and Biosolids.....* Alice Fulmer, WRF

The Water Research Foundation (WRF) has been managing research on constituents of emerging concern for over 50 years, helping utilities find treatment solutions. In 2012, WRF expanded this research to include the emerging issue of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and began a multi-year research program dedicated to PFAS after EPA established drinking water health advisory (HA) levels for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

WRF currently has 15 ongoing projects related to PFAS management in water, wastewater, and biosolids. Specific projects focus on analysis, including novel methods for estimating total PFAS; treatment, including both removal and destructive technologies; fate and transport in the environment, water and wastewater treatment plants, as well as biosolids; and related risk communication for water sector professionals. The presentation will have a focus on research relevant to the Potomac River Basin.

1:25 pm: *Eliminating PFAS—Advances in Destructive Technology.....* Rosa Gwinn, AECOM

PFAS, like the proverbial toothpaste, cannot be put 'back in the tube.' They are present throughout the One Water Cycle, stemming from long-term use by society and their persistent nature. Society can (and is) finding substitutes for beneficial PFAS in goods and materials, but there is a need to eliminate those PFAS--especially the fully fluorinated ones--from where they are already present in the environment. This presentation will address PFAS sources, and where we can exploit their presence in the One Water Cycle to capture and destroy them. Throughout the remediation industry, researchers and practitioners, scientists and engineers are seeking permanent PFAS solutions. We will address the commercial viability of destructive solutions, and how they can be coupled with technologies that remove and concentrate PFAS.

Session 5: Next Steps

1:50 pm: *Improving the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed: A Summary of the Chesapeake Bay Program Workshop.....* Emily Majcher, USGS

Recognizing the urgency and relevance of the topic, in May 2022, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Chesapeake Bay Program sponsored a scientific workshop entitled: Improving the Understanding and Coordination of Science Activities for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed (the watershed) via the Toxic Contaminant Workgroup. The objectives of the workshop were to 1) summarize the current understanding of sources, occurrence, and fate of PFAS, 2) identify current efforts and approaches to inform potential effects on fish, wildlife, and their consumption, and to 3) consider study designs and comparable sampling and analytical methods for a more coordinated PFAS effort in Chesapeake Bay. An inventory of efforts within the watershed and lessons learned from outside the watershed were presented and discussed in technical presentations, panel discussions, and small groups. Highlights, research and knowledge gaps, and recommendations from the workshop sessions will be summarized.

2:15 pm: *Advocacy Priorities to Address PFAS in Our Watershed* Brent Walls,
Potomac Riverkeeper Network

Potomac Riverkeeper Network (PRKN) will share our perspective as a regional clean water advocacy organization on this issue in three areas; one, a recap of our actions to date, including surface water sampling in the Upper Potomac, coordinating with USGS researchers to test fish tissue, and our regulatory and legislative advocacy in Virginia and Maryland. Two, an overview of key federal and state (states in our watershed) actions to address PFAS. Three, identification of our priorities for regulation and further scientific research to address forever chemicals in the Potomac Basin.

2:35 *What's Next: Continuing the Conversation on PFAS*..... ICPRB

Questions? Contact info@icprb.org

