

**Virginia PFAS Occurrence & Monitoring Subgroup**  
Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water  
May 6, 2021, 2 pm  
Virtual Meeting by WebEx

1. Call to Order  
Bob Edelman with the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was virtual via WebEx. Refer to the PowerPoint presentation along with these minutes.
2. Attendance  
Attendees entered their name and affiliation into the chat box.

**Members**

Henry Bryndza (backup for Steve Risotto, ACC)  
Jessica Edwards-Brandt (Loudoun Water)  
David Jurgens (City of Chesapeake)  
Michael McEvoy (Western Virginia Water Authority)  
Anna Killius (James River Association)  
Jamie Hedges (Fairfax Water)

**VDH ODW**

Nelson Daniel  
Bob Edelman  
Jack Hinshelwood

**Guests**

Eric Whitehurst (City of Richmond)

3. Meeting Overview – Review Agenda  
Bob Edelman reviewed the agenda. No changes to the agenda were proposed.
4. Approve minutes from the April 1, 2021 subgroup meeting  
Bob Edelman asked if there were any changes or corrections to the last meeting minutes. No changes were proposed and the Subgroup approved the minutes.
5. Sampling Plan – Bob Edelman provide a briefing – see slide 5  
ODW has finalized the *PFAS Sampling & Monitoring Study in Virginia Drinking Water*.  
ODW posted a copy of the Sampling Study on the PFAS Workgroup SharePoint site.

ODW has reached out to 50 waterworks to request an agreement to participate in the monitoring and occurrence study. As of yesterday, ODW received responses from 36 waterworks; in addition, ODW received one today. From the group of 37 waterworks, one declined and ODW withdrew one request to sample since the waterworks does not normally use the intake that the sample would have come from. To date, thirty-five (35) waterworks

have indicated their willingness to participate in the study. ODW sent a list of 33 drinking water samples to the laboratory on Monday, May 3. The list is limited to finished water samples. Raw water samples will be collected in a later batch. The laboratory plans to send out the sample kits this week. ODW will reach out to non-responders and select replacements as appropriate.

A member has asked if ODW could post the list of the waterworks that have responded on the SharePoint. ODW will get this posted to the laboratory folder on SharePoint.

6. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) – briefing – See slide 6  
EPA conditionally approved the QAPP on 4/12/21, identifying some typos. ODW corrected the requested items and resubmitted on 4/21/21. EPA noticed that ODW is using the Department of Defense (DoD) method for non-potable (i.e., raw, untreated) water. EPA wants to approve this method for non-potable water. EPA provided a list of data needs for their review of this method. ODW requested the needed data from the laboratory and the laboratory provided the data to ODW. ODW is sharing data with EPA. While EPA reviews the DoD method, as implemented by the selected laboratory, ODW will only ask waterworks to collect and submit samples of finished water (as identified in the Sampling Study).
7. Sampler Training – briefing – See slide 7  
ODW held the sampler training webinar on Wednesday, April 14. This included a sampling training video. ODW posted this video along with the webinar slides on ODW's website. See <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/pfas/> under the VA PFAS Sampling tab.
8. Draft VA PFAS Communication Toolkit – See slide 8  
ODW shared the draft VA PFAS Communication Toolkit with the Policy Subgroup for input and comments, and incorporated their comments. ODW shared the toolkit with the PFAS Workgroup on April 28, 2021. The toolkit consists of background information (mostly from the PFAS Sampling and Monitoring Study document), two fact sheets, one letter template to share PFAS with customers and some additional resources. Comments are due today.

One member asked if the PFAS levels exceeded the level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) PFOS plus PFOA (EPA's lifetime health advisory level), what is expected or required of the waterworks? Bob explained that EPA established a lifetime health advisory level of > 70 ppt for PFOS and PFOA, individually or combined. If a waterworks has confirmed sample results, meaning more than one sample, exceeding the health advisory level, the Department of Health expects the waterworks will provide public notice to their customers. In addition, the expectation is that waterworks will take action to reduce the level to below the health advisory level.

The member asked if ODW has authority to require action if the PFOA/PFOS concentration exceeds the health advisory level. Bob explained that the Waterworks Regulations do not establish Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for the PFAS chemicals or analytes. If a waterworks exceeds EPA's health advisory levels, ODW will work with the waterworks on a voluntary basis. If the waterworks will not take action voluntarily, the State Health Commissioner has general powers to protect public health and would need to assess the risk

to public health associated with the specific condition(s). Since EPA has established a lifetime health advisory for PFOS and PFOA (individually and combined), risk would be based on the concentration compared to EPA's level. For other specific PFAS, where EPA has not established a health advisory or regulatory limit, but other states have established limits, the risk and health implications are not as clear and, as a result, the waterworks' obligations to respond to some level of contamination is also not clear.

The member asked if a water system chose not to notify customers of test results, if the earliest anticipated public notice could be when ODW first publishes the test results on the website. Bob indicated that this could happen. ODW will be in conversation with waterworks owners if there is concern about the results and the need to notify customers.

The Communication Toolkit refers to the consumer confidence report (CCR). Bob explained that community waterworks must publish and distribute a CCR by July 1 each year. The CCR contains water quality data from the previous calendar year. For example, a waterworks that collects a PFAS sample during 2020 would report the results in the CCR due July 1, 2021.

A member asked if the Communication Toolkit would go back to the Policy Subgroup for another review after addressing the comments. Bob explained that ODW has received very few comments and ODW will need look at the comments and see if they can be resolved. ODW did not envision going back to the Policy Subgroup, but if members feel strongly about this, they should communicate this with the Policy Subgroup leader, Nelson Daniel.

A member asked when and how ODW will transmit the toolkit to participating waterworks. Bob explained that ODW would email the toolkit to the original recipients of the PFAS Sampling & Monitoring Study notification letter. ODW staff will discuss putting the toolkit on the website.

The subgroup then went through the toolkit and viewed major sections online.

A member asked about the timing of releasing data. Bob explained ODW will complete the QA/QC on all the data per the QAPP and notify waterworks before publishing data, whether on a website, or in a report. Another member expressed concern about ODW waiting to release the data as part of the required report to the General Assembly, which could be a long time after the sampling is completed. Bob explained that ODW would have to prepare a draft of the report for internal review by or before October 15 to meet the legislation's December 1, 2021 deadline.

Nelson explained ODW has not made a decision about releasing the data because the agency is trying to balance the concerns of making sure it is valid and accurate with the right of the public to know. ODW also needs to provide context and certain other information with the data. Bob encouraged members to provide input to Nelson if they have thoughts about this.

The group discussed that the 70 ppt standard is a Lifetime Health Advisory, which means that health effects do not occur immediately after exposure. Members expressed concern

about the expectation to “do something,” perhaps immediately, perhaps to provide bottled water for an entire water system. Subgroup members suggested that the Health and Toxicology subgroup work on language that puts things into perspective. If a utility discovers high results, the utility will need outside assistance to educate the public on what the sample results mean, partly due to a trust issue that could arise.

9. Public Comments – There were no public comments.

10. Action Items

ODW will:

- Discuss posting the PFAS Communications Toolkit on the ODW website
- Update/finalize the PFAS Communications Toolkit
- Share the Toolkit with stakeholders, including local health directors and waterworks completing sampling
- Post list of systems responding to the request for PFAS sampling on SharePoint

11. Next Meeting – June 6, 2021, 2 – 4 pm.

# Virginia PFAS Workgroup

Monitoring and Occurrence Subgroup

Robert D. Edelman, PE

Virginia Department of Health

May 6, 2020

# Subgroup Members

David Jurgens (City of Chesapeake)

Jamie Hedges (Fairfax Water)

Mark Estes (Halifax County Service Authority)

Jessica Edwards (Loudoun Water)

Mike McEvoy (Western Virginia Water Authority)

Henry Bryndza (Consultant, formerly with DuPont)

Jeff Steers (VDEQ)

Dwight Flammia (State Toxicologist)

Anna Killius (James River Assoc)

Tony Singh (VDH ODW)

Jack Hinshelwood (VDH ODW)

Bob Edelman (VDH ODW) - VDH Lead\*

# PFAS Workgroup Meeting Overview

## Meeting Overview

- Call to Order
- Attendance
- Meeting Overview – Review Agenda
- Approve minutes from the previous subgroup meeting
- Sampling plan – briefing
- Laboratory – briefing
- Sampler training - briefing
- Draft VA PFAS Communication Toolkit
- Public Comments
- Action Item Review
- Adjourn



# Meeting Minutes

## Need to approve meeting minutes of April 1, 2021

Minutes are published on:

- Virginia Town Hall
- <https://townhall.virginia.gov/> search for **PFAS**

Members receive email with minutes

Minutes saved on the PFAS Workgroup SharePoint

- PFAS Monitoring and Occurrence Subgroup > Meetings



# Sampling Plan

- Finalized the PFAS Sampling & Monitoring Study in Virginia Drinking Water
- Reached out to 50 waterworks to request an agreement to participate
- Received 36 responses from waterworks
  - One declined
  - ODW withdrew one offer
  - 34 waterworks ready to participate
- Sent list of 33 drinking water samples to lab on May 3
  - Lab is sending out sample kits this week
- VDH will reach out to non-responders, select replacements as appropriate

# Quality Assurance Project Plan

- EPA conditionally approved the QAPP on 4/12/21 until 5/12/21
- VDH corrected the requested items and resubmitted on 4/21/21
- EPA noticed a that VDH is using the DoD method for nonpotable water
- EPA provided a list of data needs for their review of this method
- VDH requested data from the laboratory
- Laboratory provided the data to VDH
- VDH is sharing data with EPA
- Bottom Line: DoD method is under review by EPA

# Sampler Training

- Sampler training webinar delivered Wednesday, April 14
- Sampling Training Video posted on ODW's website
- Training webinar slides posted on ODW's website

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/pfas/>

Under the VA PFAS Sampling tab

# Draft VA PFAS Communication Toolkit

- Shared with the Policy Subgroup Members for input, comments
- Shared with the PFAS Workgroup on April 28
  - Background information
  - 2 Fact Sheets
  - Letter template
  - Additional resources
- Comments due today
- VDH intends to finalize this week

# Public Comments

# Action Items Review

Watch out for the PFAS Workgroup meeting announcement

Are we clear about action items and due dates?

Next Meeting: June 3, 2021, 2 - 4 pm

# Have any Question, Comment or Suggestion, contact Us

Robert D. Edelman

[Robert.Edelman@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Robert.Edelman@vdh.virginia.gov)

804-864-7490 / 434-466-4012

Tony S. Singh

[Tony.Singh@vdh.Virginia.gov](mailto:Tony.Singh@vdh.Virginia.gov)

804-864 7517 / 804-310 3927