

AN ACT establishing a commission to investigate and analyze the environmental and health impacts relating to releases of perfluorinated chemicals in the air, soil, and groundwater in Merrimack, Bedford, Litchfield, and Londonderry.

HB737, Chapter 335:1, RSA Chapter 126-A: 79-a, Laws of 2019

Meeting

MINUTES

Friday, July 16, 2021, LOB Rm 301

APPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM.

Present: Mr. Chris Bandazian (Town of Bedford), Rep. Ralph Boehm, Dr. Kathleen Bush (NHDHHS), Sen. Sharon Carson, Ms. Amy Costello (UNH), Sen. Gary Daniels, Rep. Bob Healey, Rep. Richard Lascelles, Rep. Maureen Mooney, Rep. Rosemarie Rung, Rep. Gary Woods (NH Medical Society), Mr. Michael Wimsatt (NHDES). Absent: Rep. Jacqueline Chretien, Hon. Mindi Messmer (environmental advocate), Hon. Nancy Murphy (Town of Merrimack), Ms. Emma Paradis (Bedford resident), Mr. Joseph Ayotte (USGS)

Rep. Woods moved to approve the June minutes as submitted, seconded by Rep. Healey.

Rep. Rung offered amendments to minutes. The minutes passed as amended.

Sen. Daniels gave names of Merrimack, Londonderry, and Litchfield citizens to be member of this commission.

Mr. Michael Wimsatt (NH DES) provided the following summary:

NHDES held virtual public information meetings in Bedford (May 6), Litchfield (May 17), Londonderry (May 20), and Merrimack (May 25) to update residents and answer their questions. The meetings provided core information on the history, consent decree, and toxicology of PFAS, but were also tailored to provide community-specific information regarding sampling and the occurrence of contamination in private wells. The meetings were generally well received, and positive feedback was received from participants.

NHDES sent 598 notification letters to properties within 500' of an AGQS exceedance for PFAS within the Consent Decree (CD) area on July 2, 2021. Approximately 6,600 notification letters have been sent for areas inside the CD.

NHDES initiated bi-weekly calls on 4/20/21 with Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics (SGPP) to discuss long-term alternate water and number of related issues where responses from the company are overdue. NHDES and Saint-Gobain will be meeting on August 11 to discuss and advance plans for permanent alternate water and these other outstanding NHDES requests.

As of July 14, 2021, Saint-Gobain had completed the offline testing of the regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) that is being installed to address air emissions of PFAS compounds. SGPP and their RTO contractor are beginning online commissioning and the RTO should be operational on Monday, July 19. Connection of each tower will be phased in, with all towers being connected by July 30. Stack testing of the unit will occur the week of September 6, 2021. NHDES will be meeting with the company and the stack test firm to begin designing a robust and comprehensive stack test plan.

In addition, NHDES has approved the sampling work plan for the rainwater study that SGPP is required to conduct over the next 12 months and is further evaluating the material balance information that was submitted. The material balance was conducted to evaluate potential emissions of hydrogen fluoride as a result of the destruction of PFAS compounds in the RTO.

SGPP submitted a Supplemental Site Investigation Report that includes a preliminary screening of potential remedial alternatives. This plan is currently under NHDES review.

SGPP consultants submitted a work plan for additional stormwater sampling that will be conducted after the RTO is operational. *Expecting this work late summer / early fall.*

SGPP consultants submitted the 2020 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Summary on 4/7/21.

SGPP consultants submitted the 2020 Pre-GMZ Annual Report on May 4, 2021. They proposed additional wells for ongoing sampling in Londonderry to evaluate temporal PFAS trends.

SGPP presented a Work Plan for Residential Well Sampling and **NINE** Addenda to the sampling Plan relative to the 2019 AGQS. Golder is using 500' buffer on wells >AGQS to identify proximal properties for addition to the sampling list. Addendum 10 is anticipated by the end of July.

As of 7/6/21 (date of last tally): 2,622 properties identified for sampling (400 more than May report), 2,616 access agreements sent (return rate ~ 68%), 1,418 samples collected from water supply wells (~200 more than May report), 740 properties offered bottled water (76 more than May report)

Rep. Healey mentioned that WMUR will be at the SGPP site next week.

Chris Bandazian, raised a question on provisional testing in other towns. (WM)

Rep. Rung asked about communication to Londonderry from SGPP and it will follow process previously for other towns.

Rep. Rung asked about municipal water connections for private well owners and Mr. Wimsatt said that it may be determined that is it more practical to install point of entry water filtration systems.

Rep. Lascelles asked about testing water for private well owners. Mr. Wimsatt said testing can be done by an outside spigot as long as sampling occurs before it passes through home water treatment.

Dr. Bush presented a report.

The NH Childhood Cancer Conference was held on June 10th. It was a very rich agenda with a wide variety of presentations and with participation across sectors including researchers, health care providers, public health staff, community members, cancer registrars, and anyone interested in learning more about childhood cancer. More information can be found at the website: <https://event.roseliassociates.com/nh-childhood-cancer-conference/>

If the Commission is interested in a presentation from some of our key partners, we are happy to explore the possibility of providing a more detailed summary of the recent NH Childhood Cancer Initiatives including the recent conference, data analysis, and literature review.

Regarding the request to update the Merrimack Report published in 2018. The report includes data from 2005 to 2014. As discussed, there are now 5 new years of data available (2015-2019). DHHS will explore the data and work on an update. We will provide an update at the next meeting. The 2019 NH Registry Data are a bit behind largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this stage 2019 would be 90%+ complete, according to the CDC standards. Getting complete data will require the end of year processes, so by Dec 1, 2021 we expect the data to be essentially complete. Due to this delay, we are considering the possibility of conducting the analysis based on the most recent 5 years (2014-2018, 2014 was included in the previous report) in an effort to get an updated analysis prior to December.

The original report can be found here:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/pfcs/documents/merrimack-cancer-012018.pdf>

The Biomonitoring Program presentation was postponed until August. By then, we expect the Summary Reports to be released and look forward to sharing the results at the next meeting.

During the monthly **ATSDR APPLETREE Program** meeting there was discussion related to the Pease PFAS Health Study. The Team continues to recruit study participants. Since we know people who work and attend childcare at Pease come from across Southern NH, your help promoting the study is appreciated.

Rep. Rung stated that the annual report for the Commission is due to the governor on November and suggested last year's report is used as a template. She suggested that subcommittees make recommendations to an ad-hoc report committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 20 at 9:00 am.

Rep. Lascelles asked how people can get involved in getting Federal Grants. Rep. Mooney said she would get the information to Rep Lascelles.

Sen. Daniels moved to adjourn, with Rep. Healey seconding the motion. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.