

**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 and Litchfield.**

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

**Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Friday, May 13, 2022 10:00-11:41 AM, Virtual Meeting**

The meeting was called to order @ 10:01 am by Chairperson Rep. Rosemarie Rung.

Rep. Rung reviewed members present onscreen for attendance/quorum.

Present: Rep. Rosemarie Rung (Chair), Ms. Laurene Allen (Merrimack citizen representative), Mr. Ron Dunn (Londonderry citizen representative), Mr. Chris Bandazian (Town of Bedford), Mr. Mike Wimsatt (NHDES), Sen. Gary Daniels (on the phone), Hon. Mindi Messmer (environmental advocate), Rep. Maureen Mooney, Hon. Nancy Murphy (Town of Merrimack), Rep. Gary Woods (NH Medical Society), Mr. Joe Ayotte (U.S. Geological Survey), (@ 10:04) Ms. Amy Costello (UNH)

Absent: Dr. Kathleen Bush (NHDHHS), Rep. Ralph Boehm, Rep. Bob Healey, Rep. Richard Lascelles, Rep. Jacqueline Chretien, Sen. Sharon Carson

Rep. Rung sought approval of April 8, 2022 meeting notes (thanked Mr. Dunn)

Mr. Wimsatt noted a “communications” subcommittee typo.

Ms. Allen moved to approve minutes of April meeting “as amended” and Mr. Dunn seconded.

Minutes “approved” unanimously, “as amended” (all hands raised).

Rep. Rung requested Rep. Mooney provide an update relative to legislation @ 10:04 am.

**Legislative Update:**

Rep. Mooney shared information relating to pertinent bills of interest to the commission.

HB478 (Rep. Mooney)/ would require that Saint Gobain pay for operating and maintenance costs of Merrimack public wells #4 and #5, beyond the year 2025; Passed the House, Interim Study in the Senate. A decision will be made in the Fall as to a recommendation.

HB1547 (Rep. Mooney)/ to set PFAS soil standards; Amended in the House to allow USGC to study and DES to make recommendations; Passed House. Passed Senate with an expansive amendment. Amends the PFAS Remediation Loan Fund grant section just slightly, and allows rebate programs to assist impacted private well owners with filtration/treatment or connection to public water systems. It also adds \$25M to the Remediation Loan Fund; A Committee of

Conference will be held 5/16/22 @ 9 am as the House Finance Chairman wants to know where the money is coming from; Doesn't anticipate any real problem with that bill moving forward.

HB1546 (Rep. Boyd)/ air emission's bill; Passed House, Senate amended and House concurred; awaiting Governor's signature.

HB1185 (Rep. Rung)/ allows municipalities to regulate PFAS coming into their wastewater treatment facilities; Passed House on Consent, Senate amended (concerns raised regarding inclusion of residential waste) and after some misattribution of an incorrect amendment number that resulted in an ITL that then had to be overturned, the issue has been resolved, and the House concurred; On its way to the Governor's desk.

Rep. Rung asked if members had questions:

Ms. Messmer sought confirmation from Mr. Wimsatt that rebate/grant eligibility is only for those whose private wells exceed one or more of the four regulated PFAS MCL's. Mr. Wimsatt confirmed this is indeed a criteria of eligibility for the grant program.

Ms. Messmer wonders about the potential for future legislation that might provide a "buffer" on that to "ensure that we're being proactive" and to protect the health of vulnerable populations. Spoke of her town's water having "26 parts per trillion total PFAS" and being "concerned about any PFAS in water." Shared that at her own expense, she'd put in a POET (point of entry treatment) filtration system to filter her homes drinking water to zero, and believes many other people have done the same. Said that "as we are cognizant of the fact that the regulation's lag health studies, and for a great length of time, we might want to look at some adjustments to standards for the fall."

Ms. Allen asks that the commission keep in mind for the Fall and moving forward, the amendment to the existing definition of PFAS. Suggested that the policy group consider including this issue as part of its discussion. She said "there's a lot of national tension about this definition of PFAS between scientists, environmentalists, academics, and even the EPA."

Ms. Allen asked that we, and those who represent us, "follow what the EPA is doing and where they're going here in the terms of definition. In other nations, they're defining PFAS differently than we are. Industry, we know, has a huge seat at the table in the USA- that's just the way it is." Ms. Allen said that is a "troubling thing here, and ... that is...their practice of (using) PTFE, which is Teflon. The fluoropolymers at this point, are really being overlooked. The federal government is not challenging...industry right now, so, it is going to be up to the states to protect ourselves. This is not just a big environmental issue- this is absolutely pertinent here (NH) because we have this active industry presence...and what they've pivoted to, and what they use and continue to use, is in a category that at this point is exempt from a lot of the reporting. It's exempt from the definition of PFAS as we know it, many of their production lines. That does not mean it's safer and does not mean we're 'OK,' and that doesn't mean the pollution stopped. It means that industry is pretty powerful... has deep pockets, and is a step ahead."

Ms. Allen "really encourages the policy group, and anybody in this group" to "do some work about getting into the weeds over where this information is" as it's very "troubling" and believes the commission...really needs to look at that."

Following the agenda, Rep. Rung turned the meeting over to Mr. Wimsatt for the DES update @ 10:20 am.

**NHDES Update:** provided (in person and via email to acting clerk) by Mr. Wimsatt: (<..\\Downloads\\5-13-2022 NHDES Update.docx>)

Mr. Wimsatt stated that he was prepared to provide his usual monthly update but rather than include air division updates as well, he'd invited Ms. Cathy Beahm to join today who will do so.

### **NHDES *Activity***

Mr. Wimsatt shared:

“On April 18, NHDES announced that an agreement was reached with SG for the provision of alternate water for homes located within the 2018 Consent Decree. Remedies for 353 properties were listed in the agreement that included:

-Bedford, south of County Road and east of Liberty Hill Road: Water line connections to 15 properties; Point-of-entry treatment (POET) systems for 181 properties

-Litchfield, Hillcrest Road Area: Water line connections to 77 properties

-Merrimack, Wildcat Falls Area and Brenda Lane: Water line connections to 32 properties

-Other Areas in Bedford, Merrimack, Litchfield, and Londonderry: Water line connections to 48 properties”

In addition to the 353 properties referenced above, Mr. Wimsatt stated that there “was a requirement in the agreement for an additional roughly 650 properties... When the agreement was made... for remedies, either water lines or POETs to be specified for those properties... at the time the agreement was entered into we (NHDES) didn't have that reconciled. So it gave us ... a deadline of April 30th (for SG) to submit the proposed remedies for those additional 650 properties.” Per Mr. Wimsatt, “On April 29, NHDES received a proposal from SG to remedy 600+/- properties that were not specifically listed in the Agreement; this is currently under review.” Mr. Wimsatt expects that the specifics of this remedy will be available and he will be able to outline those at our next meeting. He shared that for those property owners inside the boundary that have been offered bottle water by Saint Gobain to have a permanent alternate water solution (POET or public waterline connection) is “an important milestone in the project,” though “by no means the end of it.” He stated that “DES still has a lot of work to do.”

Mr. Wimsatt further shared that on April 28, “NHDES issued a comment letter on the Supplemental Site Investigation Report. This letter requested (1) that SG submit an application in 120 days for a ‘Groundwater Management Permit’ that establishes a ‘Groundwater Management Zone’ that contains contaminated groundwater within the CD Outer Boundary and (2) requests submittal of a Remedial Action Plan for the facility and adjacent properties within 120 days of receipt of the analytical data from upcoming stormwater sampling. [per Mr. Wimsatt: “Re: that permit...in DES rules, we have a requirement that a party who has contaminated groundwater

needs to get a ‘groundwater management permit’ which essentially sets out the parameters of a monitoring program, so as to establish what we call a ‘groundwater management zone’, which is defined as the area where groundwater is contaminated above standard.”]

On May 4, NHDES issued a comment letter pertaining to Addendum 14 that required SG to include all properties within the ‘buffered areas’ around other potential contamination sources for sampling, as well as all remaining properties within the CD Outer Boundary, in the next Addendum due by June 3rd.” “Saint Gobain has been unwilling to sample around those buffered areas ...and DES has made it clear that we think they do need to sample those, and want them to submit a sampling plan by June 3<sup>rd</sup> for sampling in those areas.” “Also, under a couple hundred properties were not in the buffer areas, but simply haven’t been offered sampling- because they haven’t fallen within the iterative process, where Saint Gobain draws a 500 foot circle around...and then offers people inside that circle an opportunity to sample. It’s (DES) our position that all the properties inside the CD area are at meaningful risk of being contaminated from their (Saint Gobain) emissions, and so they should all be sampled.”

On the evening of Wednesday, May 4, NHDES held a virtual public meeting to discuss the agreement. The meeting included a brief review of site history, a summary of the provisions of the agreement, and an approx. 2.5 hour Q & A period. There were approximately 200 participants.

#### -Water Supply Well Sampling-

SGPP presented a Work Plan for Residential Well Sampling and Fourteen Addenda to the sampling Plan relative to the 2019 AGQS. Currently, Golder is retesting wells with PFOA results between 10 and 12 ng/L.

As of 4/19/22:

- 3,691 properties identified for sampling (same as April report)
- 3,591 access agreements sent (Return Rate ~ 68%) (same as April report)
- 2,221 samples collected by their consultants from water supply wells (29 more than April report)
- 975 properties offered bottled water (11 more than April report)

#### -Site Investigation-

Saint-Gobain’s consultant will be conducting post-RTO storm-water sampling, timing dependent on rain events and safety concerns working around Merrimack River.-but ‘soon’.

Once a site investigation is ‘complete’ or ‘substantially complete’, there is an expectation that a ‘Remedial Action Plan’ will be submitted to NHDES. This ‘Remedial Action Plan’ (a DES requirement in its rules) is due to NHDES 120 days after SG’s consultant receives analytical

results from the storm-water sampling.” This plan for this site will include not only a proposal to address, what we call on-site contamination on the site proper, but also the remedy for the wells that are drinking water wells that are impacted... DES is “down the road on that. We still have work to do, still have more data that we need to get from them (Saint Gobain).”

Commission members’ questions to Mr. Wimsatt:

Hon. Nancy Murphy requested DES response and follow-up to residents’ concerns raised at the May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting about problems/challenges accessing the bottled water SG is responsible to provide them. Hon. Murphy referenced repeated delays for a very long time.

Mr. Dunn stated as a water recipient himself, he waits three or four weeks or more for deliveries from time of request. He asked for guidance for himself and others as to the process to follow when water has been ordered and not received in a timely manner.

Mr. Wimsatt encouraged Mr. Dunn to call Saint Gobain directly. If a prompt response is not received, call Mr. Jeffrey Martys at DES who will reach out to Saint Gobain. Though not an efficient or desirable process, this is the best advice Mr. Wimsatt can provide to make sure residents receive what they need.

Mr. Wimsatt responded that DES is in weekly- sometimes daily contact with Saint Gobain (SG) regarding water delivery concerns. This remains a continued concern that DES continues to raise with SG. The water vendor remains very challenged in its ability to meet delivery needs/expectations (truck-driver shortages, etc.). DES reported that sometimes Golder (SG’s consultant) has to purchase water and deliver it to residents that very day.

Commission member Hon. Mindi Messmer asked whether correspondence between Saint Gobain and DES is accessible on One Stop and suggested that having access to a database/spreadsheet where we could more easily access up-to-date info re: impacted homes, would be more efficient than trying to find that information the way we do now. Currently, that info is public but finding it is an arduous task, and it is not provided in a user-friendly format.

Mr. Wimsatt replied that the aforementioned correspondence can be found on One Stop. He stated that DES tries to avoid making people’s specific data/ address/ names broadly available for privacy reasons. Mr. Wimsatt will follow up with Mr. Marts to see what can be done.

Hon. Messmer also asked how many wells located outside of the CD area have been tested and found to have PFAS above standards. Mr. Wimsatt indicated that he would check and provide this number in a post-meeting written update. [Mr. Wimsatt provided the following response via 5/17/22 email to acting clerk, Hon. Murphy, and Hon. Messmer. “To date, NHDES has identified approximately 650 properties outside of the CD boundary that are over the standard and are located within inferred areas of impact from Saint-Gobain’s releases.”]

Ms. Allen quoted the 353 private wells (the first identified) “in agreement”, and asked about the 181 POETs (point of entry treatment systems) that will be provided. She wonders why there is such a high number of POETs and remarked that this will “cut costs down dramatically for Saint

Gobain.” She, and residents, are “bothered by that as a permanent solution” and believes that “everyone should be hooked up so their water can be professionally maintained.”

Mr. Wimsatt stated that “under their (DES) rules, there are a number of criteria to use to decide on what is an appropriate remedy... “cost-effectiveness” and the “mixed signals” DES gets regarding well-owner preferences, included. Mr. Wimsatt stated that both POETs and connection to existing public water lines “are acceptable solutions under the rules.” He also stated that “if towns want to be partners in expanding water (lines) to a larger area, in lieu of POETs”; “to the extent Saint Gobain has a financial responsibility to provide a solution there”; and if there’s a willingness to “look at other funding opportunities to expand in water”; “it may be possible to cobble a plan in an individual town, or individual portions of towns, to opt for instead, putting in waterline expansion as opposed to POETs.” In reference to the 650 homes noted prior, Mr. Wimsatt stated that DES is “still looking at their (SG’s) proposals with respect to the 650, as long as the proposals that they make for POETs are acceptable, then they’re going to be acceptable. And if there’s different desire in the community, then it’s probably going to take a combination of townspeople and town governments and Saint Gobain, with DES participating, to try to look at potentially opting for a different solution that might include a waterline expansion.”

Ms. Allen noted that it sounds like residents “have an opportunity to weigh in” about their potential preferences for waterline extensions” and asked if NH can utilize federal infrastructure money to help with this.

Mr. Wimsatt stated that DES is “absolutely prepared to participate in these discussions” but doesn’t want to conflate the two. He remarked that whenever DES “can make” connection to a public water supply happen, DES is “interested in helping to do that- but that doesn’t always mean” DES “can require” that.

Hon. Murphy asked about the use of the terms “cost effective” in terms of safe drinking water solutions, and wondered just who this references- Saint Gobain or impacted well-owners.

Mr. Wimsatt said that expanding a water supply is “outside of a regulatory activity” though “that’s a discussion that can happen... It would take monies other than just Saint Gobain’s money. It would take public monies that are available- potentially money from the town or money from the federal government or wherever.” Mr. Wimsatt went on to share that “there are a lot of sources” for funding “to expand water supply and address contamination right now” ... “a lot of...unprecedented opportunities that we’ve never had before.” “If towns want to pursue that, that’s something we’re certainly interested in participating with them” and DES will assist communities in trying to “develop a cobbled together funding solution” where Saint Gobain “would still be responsible for its fair share of the cost,” but “probably also take additional funds.”

**NHDES Air Division** Update: presented by Ms. Cathy Beahm, NHDES Administrator in Air Resources Division @10:45 am ( [../Downloads/HB737%20summary.docx](#))

“NHDES, Air Resources Division (ARD) was asked to provide an update on Saint-Gobain’s use of the emergency bypass stack and information regarding NHDES’ inspections of the

regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) and the bypass. NHDES issued a Letter of Deficiency to Saint-Gobain on November 18, 2021 regarding the installation and use of the emergency bypass stack and has referred the matter to the NH Attorney General's Office. Therefore, NHDES cannot discuss the specifics of the active enforcement case. However, the following is a summary of the publicly available information regarding the issue.

On January 6, 2022, two senior ARD staff conducted an onsite inspection at Saint-Gobain to review records and verify the operating conditions of the RTO and the emergency bypass. During the inspection, Saint-Gobain provided the following:

- Tour of the duct work and RTO;
- Demonstration of the data acquisition system;
- Discussion of the parameters monitored for the RTO and bypass operations;
- Records pertaining to the RTO temperature, natural gas flow and exhaust flow for various times and dates of reported emergency bypass events or other periods chosen by NHDES' staff as well as corresponding tower operational information; and
- Periodic maintenance records kept by Saint-Gobain in accordance with the RTO vendor's recommendations, additional bypass instances since Saint-Gobain submitted this information in response to the LOD, and maintenance and malfunction reports generated pursuant to Saint-Gobain's monitoring plan.

After the inspection, Saint-Gobain submitted electronic copies of RTO Compliance Data and Operational History from July 2021 to January 2022 to NHDES. On February 8, 2022, Saint-Gobain provided a supplemental response to the December 18, 2021, LOD information. Saint-Gobain submitted an updated revised air permit application and Air Pollution Control Equipment Monitoring Plan on February 28, 2022. Additional records were requested by NHDES in April and Saint-Gobain provided these records. NHDES believes that at this time the Department has sufficient information to move forward with a technical review of the application and the drafting of an amended permit with regard to the emergency bypass stack.

In addition, Saint-Gobain has continued to submit monthly monitoring plan reports as required in TP-0256 and rainwater study results as required in the Consent Decree. These documents can be found at: <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/DESOneStop/AFSDetail.aspx?ID=3301100165> under the General Correspondence tab. The most recent monthly monitoring plan letter from Saint-Gobain is dated 5/12/2022. The most recent rainwater study letter is dated 4/29/2022 and reflects samples taken in March. Results indicate measurements were below detection levels for most PFAS analytes. For the Concord rainwater sample, 3 PFAS analytes were reported above reporting levels: PFBA (5.9 ppt), PFHxA (4.7 ppt) and PFPeA (2.1 ppt). For the Merrimack sample, 3 PFAS analytes were reported: PFBA (5.2 ppt), PFHxA (8.0 ppt), and PFPeA (3.8 ppt). For the Nashua sample, 1 PFAS analyte was reported: PFHxA (2.6 ppt). Other analytes were J flagged as being less than the Reporting Limit but greater than or equal to the Method Detection

Limit and the concentration is an approximate value. These results appear to be higher than previous sample results although tending to be the same analytes detected in past tests.

Barr Engineering submitted a revised stack test report on April 1, 2022, on behalf of Saint-Gobain. NHDES issued a letter regarding the stack test on May 6, 2022. NHDES found the stack test report to be technically acceptable and agreed that the results show PFOA and PFOS emission rates comply with the limits in the permit; that the emission of HF and APFO do not exceed the air toxic limits specified in Env-A 1400 and that permanent total enclosures have a capture efficiency of 100 percent.

Next steps will include a public comment period/hearing to be scheduled.

Members asked Ms. Beahm a number of questions relative to: the amount of HF being produced; how it is determined that the HF levels coming from the RTO are, as she said, “very low” and thus “not high enough (per Ms. Beahm) to require control device for HF (nor “trigger the requirements on the Air Toxics Rule”); whether there is any corrosion of the RTO due to HF, and if any inspections of that are occurring; whether any other possible dangerous byproducts are being formed since the HF is not being entirely destroyed by the RTO; rainwater results and the increase in rainwater sampling numbers; air quality and PFAS (pounds/year) emissions; control device efficiency; legacy compounds; the RTO mechanical and chemical operations (it IS reducing emissions); emission rates/ ground deposition; calculation of rainwater concentration; when the bypass is being used and if that use may be contributing to the rainwater issues noted; whether more than 50 compounds are being detected in emissions; whether it is typical for a need for 175 hours of emergency RTO bypass use; mass balance; whether there is the ability to test exactly what is going into the RTO; PFBA breaking through PFAS filters at the MVD wells; research health studies that might help drive an MCL for PFBA. [A review of the 5/13/22 meeting video/transcript (DES DropBox) will provide more information re: the DES response to the aforementioned member questions/areas of interest.]

**DHHS Update** – received via email by Chair Rung as DHHS staff was not able to attend today’s meeting. Rep. Rung read Dr. Bush’s NHDHHS’ update @11:17 am

PFAS Outreach/Education Initiatives:

DHHS launched an updated website on May 3, 2022. The new website includes a dedicated page for PFAS with resources from both state and federal partners, such as NHDES and ATSDR.

DHHS Website: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov>

DHHS PFAS Website: Poly- and Per-fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) | New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (nh.gov)

Nurse Practitioner Conference:

April 8, 2022: the NHDES EHP connected with Ms. Peg DiTulio about supporting her efforts to educate Nurse Practitioners about PFAS. DPHS partners and community members were invited to participate in planning and conducting the presentation. The agencies will continue to work with stakeholders to advance provider understanding of matters related to EH.



Merrimack Cancer Investigation:

DHHS continues to convene the Cancer Concern Review Team (CCRT) to look at cancer data more closely to determine the focus for next steps in the investigation into the excess of kidney cancer observed in Merrimack, NH. The CCRT has completed the assessment phase of the investigation and is currently preparing a report summarizing the Department's data analysis and recommendations for next steps, including the feasibility of conducting an epidemiological study. The Department anticipates the report to be finalized by the end of May and will provide an update and/or share the report if it is complete at the next Commission meeting.

Chair Rung called for Committee Reports @11:19 am

The **Health Subcommittee** has not met.

Chair Rung apologized to Hon. Messmer for not having included her in the noticing of the **Environmental Subcommittee** meeting, having misremembered membership.

@ 11:20 am, Mr. Bandazian of the Environmental Subcommittee, shared info re: the status of the soil study that is ongoing, including statewide background levels from different sites. He stated that they are looking at agricultural products, and products brought onto the sites that can be problematic. NH is entering its 6<sup>th</sup> growing season since we first became aware of NH's PFAS contamination. The committee notes community concerns re: home gardening. State agencies may address this issue with the public and provide some guidance.

Mr. Bandazian spoke of the need for follow-up on homeowners who've had testing completed yet do not appear on the DES GIS map. Some private well testing companies are reporting testing data results to DES. There are a large number of Londonderry private well-owners which comprise the private well-testing data. Mr. Bandazian reported that "there is a fairly high correlation between data reported from other sources and adjacent properties, not having had tests done." The committee isn't sure of the reason for this. The committee said there are gaps in testing information which need to be filled in. Monitoring is very important as is "re-sampling a number of people." "Three people who self-selected for re-testing, shared at the May 4<sup>th</sup> public DES meeting, that all results were going up.

Mr. Bandazian inquired of Mr. Wimsatt, as to the availability of slide presentations from the April 5-6, 2022 Northeast Waste Management Official's Association (NEWMOA) PFAS Science Conference (<https://www.newmoa.org/pfasscienceconference/geninfo.html>) on the NEWMOA's website. Mr. Wimsatt indicated that most of the presentations are available on the website, but that it takes a few clicks to get to them. Mr. Wimsatt stated that he would follow-up and provide instructions for finding the presentations in a written update." [Mr. Wimsatt provided this response via 5/17/22 email to acting clerk, Hon. Murphy, and Mr. Bandazian. Mr. Wimsatt's response follows: "To access the presentations:

- 1) Go to newmoa.org
- 2) Under "What's New?" click on "Science of PFAS Conference"
- 3) In the yellow banner, click on "Agenda"

- 4) This displays the agenda for the conference. Scroll down to find the session/topic that you are interested in, and click on the session title, e.g. “Air Emission Impacts to Soil, Surface Water, & Groundwater”
- 5) This displays that session’s agenda with the headings “Description,” “Speakers,” and “Documents”
- 6) Under “Documents,” click on the presentation of interest, e.g., “Evaluating Sources, Fate, and Transport in an Area of Regional PFAS Contamination in Southern New Hampshire”
- 7) The slide presentation will be displayed. To view a new presentation, close the current one, and use the back arrow to back out to the conference agenda, repeat.”]

@ 11:26 am, the **Communications Subcommittee** update was provided

Ms. Allen shared that a 4/29/22 meeting was held of the Communications Subcommittee. Ms. Allen, Mr. Dunn, and Hon. Murphy attended that meeting. Citizen representatives from the towns of Bedford and Litchfield were not in attendance. [It was noted that while it seems imminent that a Bedford citizen representative, Mr. Michael Strand, will be appointed shortly (great news!), the commission appointee to serve in that role from Litchfield, Ms. April Webber, has not responded to outreach from this subcommittee.] For effective communication to occur between impacted communities and the commission, the subcommittee feels all HB737 communities should be represented, and appointees available to meet.

At the April subcommittee meeting, Hon. Murphy had provided those members in attendance, some background into the thoughts/ideas of the subcommittee that had been discussed prior to Ms. Fordey and Ms. Paradis’ moving out of state, and Hon. Messmer’s decision to focus on the Environmental and Health Subcommittees. Discussion at the April meeting involved the need to fill communication gaps between the public and officials, and how best to engage liaisons/citizen contacts within communities to provide greater outreach. The committee is aware that Rep. Rung has requested the assistance of House support staff to update the HB737 webpage, and supports this request- recognizing that this is vital to the work of the Communications Subcommittee. The subcommittee is working toward determining the best way to cultivate an ongoing presence within communities, to improve communication and visibility.

A May 27, 2022 10 am follow-up meeting has been scheduled.

Rep. Rung responded to some of the concerns raised by the Communications Subcommittee, and will look into the challenges with attendance of commission members Dolan, Lascelles, and Rep. Boehm to see if they still have interest in the commission.

#### **Other:**

Rep. Rung alerted subcommittee members that she’d like to have everyone consider legislative and non-legislative actions that they might want to recommend so that they might be considered for Fall legislation, and/or so that these ideas might be included in our annual report to the Governor, due by November 1, 2022. Rep. Rung would like subcommittee meetings to be scheduled so that committees are ready to submit recommendations at the August full commission meeting, and the Policy Subcommittee may convened after that August meeting to define what recommendations we may wish to make for this year.

Rep. Rung shared some thoughts about driving by Saint Gobain every day and wondering what has been done with all of the trees that have been cut down. She assumes that they contain PFAS, and worries that they may have been carted away to contaminate another site. Says that we don't want this contamination to spread. She wonders if further guidance/legislation/rulemaking is necessary to control the removal of material from a site that has soil and groundwater PFAS contamination.

She then spoke of her support for retroactive rebates for those citizens who invested in POETs since discovery of the PFAS contamination of our drinking water, but realizes that rebate programs available now may not allow for this. She doesn't believe they should lose the ability to receive a rebate just because they acted more quickly than others.

Mr. Wimsatt explained that these rebates are retroactive to September 2019, and that the value of each rebate is up to \$5K for POET, and up to \$10K for connection to waterline access. He spoke of funding sources for these grants.

Rep. Rung raised the need for, and appropriation of monies to (1) expand a health study including non-cancer outcomes and health effects related to PFAS exposure; and (2) expand the state's PFAS blood testing program.

Rep. Rung shared that she, Hon. Murphy, and Ms. Allen will be attending the National PFAS Conference in Wilmington, NC from June 14-17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and will share info with the commission at a future meeting.

Hon. Murphy noted that in addition to private well owners, many citizens with PFAS-contaminated public well water also chose to install home filtration at their own cost.

Mr. Wimsatt confirmed that the grants available for rebates are only for private well owners who've installed filtration as per the aforementioned eligibility requirements.

Rep. Rung stated that the next full commission meeting will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

**Public Comment @11:40 am:**

Rep. Rung noted that it may be burdensome for the public to comment in the current webinar meeting format, and suggests that the 'Public Comment' standing agenda item remain, but that it exist for members to share community concerns/issues that have been brought to them, at that time.

After addressing member availability for the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, Rep. Rung stated she'd entertain a motion to Adjourn @ 11:40

Moved by Mr. Wimsatt and seconded by Hon. Murphy.

Meeting adjourned @11:41 am

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Hon. Nancy Murphy