

**HB 495 Seacoast Drinking Water Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2021**

Commission Members present: Representative Jaci Grote (Chair), Representative Mike Edgar (Vice Chair), Representative Aboul Khan, Representative Dennis Malloy, Mindi Messmer, Danna Truslow, David Ciccalone, David Moore, Brandon Kernen, Tim Roache, Carl McMorrان, and George Eaton.

Guests: Curtis Slayton, Seabrook Water and Sewer Superintendent
Paul Susca, NHDES
Jonathan Ali, NHDES

The Chair opened the meeting at 2:05, called the roll, and determined that there was a quorum. Representative Grote announced that the commission will not meet in July and August, and that the next meeting will be September 23rd. With four towns left to brief on their water systems, the schedule will be Greenland in September, Stratham in October, North Hampton in November, and Hampton in December. The presentation on the Drinking Water Quality Buffer Regulation for New Hampshire by the Rockingham Planning Commission will also be in September. The minutes for the April meeting and the notes for May work session were approved.

George Eaton and Curtis Slayton presented the Seabrook water system. Most of the population of fourteen thousand is on town water with only 14 residences on private drinking water wells. Additional private wells are used for irrigation only. Seabrook also supports a small number of customers in Hampton Falls. The 12 wells that the town has in operation, 67 miles of water main, 456 hydrants, 3 storage tanks, and the automated monitoring system are adequate to support the community, but they are always mindful of the nuclear power plant which can drastically increase requirements. Seabrook also interconnections with Hampton and Salisbury for mutual support if needed.

The town currently has adequate treatment capacity with the water from all wells going directly to the treatment plant before being distributed. The water pH is monitored continuously, and there is daily monitoring for manganese, iron, and arsenic which is generally below the detectable level. One well tested positive for PFOA once, but that has not been repeated, and there is no indication of where substance came from. The one positive test may be an anomaly, but the town can apply for a grant for a monitoring well if that becomes necessary. Representative Malloy asked who conducted the testing for PFOA

and how that is being monitored now. Seabrook now meets the monitoring requirement for individual PFAS compounds as opposed to reporting at the aggregate level.

Seabrook's Groundwater Management Plan is very effective in managing their water resources and has made good progress with conservation measures. The town conserves by using water meters and a tiered billing system that replaced a flat rate to encourage conservation. After dealing with shortages in the early 2000s due to drought conditions, Seabrook now has a very resilient systems and continues to take steps to ensure that they can meet the demand. After considering desalination and water storage in artificial ponds, the town has worked closely with residents to raise their level of awareness of the need to conserve water, and those efforts have paid off. While the nuclear power plant uses some ocean water, the town of Seabrook closely monitors how much town water the plant uses.

Seabrook has significant wetlands, but no prime wetlands. The town also has a wellhead protection area ordinance, and a considerable amount of conserved land around the bedrock well fields so that those areas will not be developed. The town of Kensington has concerns about private wells in Seabrook impacting their water supply, and they also have concerns about the reclassification of a wellhead protection area from GA1 to GAA, but there does not appear to be any issues related to the wells or the reclassification.

In response to the discussion about the possibility of desalination, Danna Truslow asked if the town is seeing an increase in the amount of chloride from road salt. Mr. Eaton said that it has remained stable but made the point that the impact of road salt is a state-wide issue.

Ms Messmer asked about tritium in the vicinity of the nuclear power plant. Mr. Eaton said the town does not monitor for tritium, and that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has responsibility for the power plant. Mr. Kernan can provide a DES report on tritium.

Mr. Kernan pointed out that he provided the drought update to the group in an e-mail prior to the meeting and stated that this portion of the state is abnormally dry. Mr. Roache asked about a year-over-year comparison of conditions so that the long-term impact of the drought is made clearer to the public and that the assessment of "abnormally dry" might not present a complete enough understanding of the situation. Mr. Kernan made the point that the state has the capability to provide information that can clarify the assessment using data such as stream flow, precipitation levels, and problems with individual wells.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50.