

Group Discussion

Goal: Build connections and explore opportunities for collaboration between the Toxic Contaminants Workgroup and the Local Leadership Workgroup to support local governments in addressing PFAS and other toxic contaminants.

Breakout Room Instructions (15 minutes total):

1. Introductions - 3 minutes
 - a. Go around the breakout room and introduce yourself.
2. Review Challenges & Opportunities – 2 minutes
 - a. Look at the next two slides that summarize key challenges and opportunities.
 - b. Then, go to the slide labeled with your **Jurisdiction Breakout Room**.
3. Group Discussion – 9 minutes
 - a. As a group, discuss and answer the two questions on your state's slide.
4. Report-Out Prep – 1 minute
 - a. Choose one person to share **2–3 key takeaways** from your conversation with the full group.

Toxic Contaminants Workgroup

Key Challenges

- *PFAS sources in drinking water.*
- *Source Identification and resource prioritization*
- *Criteria for different media - Adopted criteria in different jurisdictions*
- *Legislation and regulations keeping up with the science/understanding*
- *Public awareness and education*

Key Opportunities

- *Ambident monitoring of fish tissue.*
- *PFAS Workshops - Great Lakes PFAS Summit - Free to local officials*
- *PFAS and Biosolids Legislation - Sampling and State Methodology*
- *Evaluating levels of PFAS in drinking water, and in surface water, groundwater, and fish tissue*
- *Public awareness and education*

Local Leadership Workgroup

Key Challenges

- *Biosolids and land application*
- *Don't know what we don't know - Levels? Dangers? Info on the topic to inform local govts.*
- *Public Outreach/Awareness - need more public education*
- *Historic use of firefighting foams*
- *Funding - As more hazardous sites are identified, more \$ will be needed to address.*
- *Source Identification*
- *Impacts to Drinking Water*
- *Impaired Water Monitoring - under Industrial SW discharge permit, who should be monitoring?*
- *PFAS TMDL*

Key Opportunities

- *MD PFAS Action Plan - Comprehensive Testing of Public Water Systems - Remedial Steps*

Breakout Room - *Pennsylvania*

Challenges → Solutions

- *Thinking about the challenges that were shared earlier, what solutions or strategies could help address them through your work?*
 - *Access to laboratories that can test for PFAS, not all labs can test for it and those that do are at capacity*
 - *Not a lot of regulations, some drinking water regulations, but more needed for surface water, regulations takes time*
 - *Home wells require home treatment systems, but PA can't supply a system (\$3k - \$5k) for every impacted well*
 - *Biosolid sites are more remote so they often don't have municipal water (compared to airports, which are more likely to have public water)*
 - *Public perception and understanding is a challenge, a lot of fear/concern and relative lack of knowledge (more education and outreach)*
 - *NY → farmer has been land spreading biosolids since the 90s, two municipalities have now banned biosolid land spreading, not a lot of action to help homeowners with private wells*
 - *Who's responsible? Is it the farm that accepted the biosolids? Is it the municipality that processed the biosolids? Is it the producer that created the produce originally? Legal issues. Some are clear cut, but not always.*
 - *York County → finger pointing at local landfill, legal battle with local waterkeeper, includes water testing, new public water line installed to help impacted folks.*

Breakout Room - *Pennsylvania (continued)*

Opportunities → Actions

- *Which opportunities stand out as most promising, and how could you or your organization help advance them in collaboration with others?*
 - *Science - how high before you need to be concerned*
 - *Education and outreach*
 - *Legislation/regulation*
 - *Where is it coming from? How is it ending up in biosolids? Mitigate them from getting into biosolids in the first place? Where are the biosolids coming from?*
 - *Labs/testing*

Breakout Room - *Delaware*

Challenges → Solutions

- *Thinking about the challenges that were shared earlier, what solutions or strategies could help address them through your work?*
 - Fundamental challenge with PFAS in DE is communicating with the public and homeowners, as recent DNREC survey showed.
 - DNREC and DHS are hiring contractors to do statewide testing of drinking water for homeowners who apply, but need to workshop action plans for homeowners who find PFAS
 - Todd Kaiser from DNREC gave excellent presentation on this topic at the DLLG roundtable last year
 - DE had advantages for gathering due to its small size, helpful for communicating among other local governments

Breakout Room - *Delaware (continued)*

Challenges → Solutions

- Challenging to communicate this issue with the public as whole, survey results from last month demonstrate this is a problem
 - Survey shows we need basic info about what PFAS is, where it is, and how it impacts you is critical for laying the foundations before diving into the deeper issues that DE is navigating on the regulatory side
 - Large portions of DE are on groundwater/private wells that are monitored regularly by homeowners and are overdue for testing for toxic contaminants
- DNREC and DHS are hiring contractors to do statewide testing of drinking water for homeowners who apply. What do we do when we find it? Need to come up with an action plan before this program goes live.
- The State can start a monitoring system but it'll ultimately be turned over to homeowners who may struggle to maintain monitoring.
- Also want to prevent panic and widespread fear, so the State has to be careful with how it communicates around it. The State lacks information on where it comes from and how to stop it, so there's not a lot of information to provide to the public and homeowners.
- Can we provide basic suggestions for circumventing contaminated water supplies with the information we have?
- Does the state have the funds necessary to remediate contaminated water at individual wells? And what does the State do with the pollution/hazardous materials generated by remediation? What do we do in the meantime until we have more information and better solutions for remediation?.

Breakout Room - *Delaware (continued)*

Opportunities → Actions

- *Which opportunities stand out as most promising, and how could you or your organization help advance them in collaboration with others?*
 - Best solution in the meantime is to expand education in a way that educates homeowners without spreading fear. We need to provide actionable strategies for handling contaminated wells and drinking water until more information and legislative solutions are available.
 - Spreading information without spreading fear.
 - Until legislation to limit the production of PFAS comes into effect, working together is key. Legislators and producers need to work together and operate on the same team.

Breakout Room - *Maryland*

Challenges → Solutions

- *Thinking about the challenges that were shared earlier, what solutions or strategies could help address them through your work?*
 - *More research needed on land applications, runoff contamination risks (Maybe Pooled Monitoring Program under Chesapeake Bay Trust)*
 - *Focused public outreach and education campaigns*
 - *Better source identification*
 - *More funding (of course)*
 - *Impaired Water Monitoring under Industrial SW discharge permit*
 - *More EPA PFAS Standards (such as for Surface Water)*
 - *Clearer disposal methods for PFAS*

Breakout Room - Virginia

Challenges → Solutions

- *Thinking about the challenges that were shared earlier, what solutions or strategies could help address them through your work?*
 - *Biosolids - what research is needed? → legislative funding? (need guidance on research priorities)*
 - *Stakeholder awareness/sensitivity on PFAS concerns → enhance engagement*
 - *Stakeholders prompt legislative action*
 - *Clear, accurate information on PFAS/Biosolids effects/sources*
 - *LGLW outreach to educate*
 - *Dynamic topic; rapidly evolving; staying up to date*
 - *Capital-intensity; additional PFAS efforts are constrained by existing capital-intensive efforts*

Breakout Room - *Virginia (continued)*

Opportunities → Actions

- *Which opportunities stand out as most promising, and how could you or your organization help advance them in collaboration with others?*
 - *PFAS monitoring/data transparency (e.g. VA DEQ PFAS Dashboard)*
 - *Legislators want information, so need to grab their attention with anything we do*