

**Chesapeake Bay Program
Toxic Contaminants Workgroup**

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 12th, 2024

Time: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Location: Conference Call (remote only)

Calendar Page: [June Meeting Materials](#)



Chesapeake Bay Program
A Watershed Partnership

Actions and Decisions

ACTION: TCW Leadership will check with the CAST and Modeling teams to inquire as to the existence of Non Tidal Network related land use information.

ACTION: TCW Members with information on PFAS Activities and Efforts currently underway should email Greg Allen, EPA (allen.greg@epa.gov) and Emily Majcher, USGS (emajcher@usgs.gov).

Agenda Item and Desired Outcome	Time	Background Docs, Notes, and Action Items
<p>1. Introductions and Announcements – Emily Majcher, USGS, Greg Allen, EPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maryland Sea Grant story maps PFAS in the Chesapeake Bay • EPA funding to GITs - Update • Introduction and Recap of February 2023 Methods Quarterly PFAS meeting 	1:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ches. Quarterly, Vol. 23 No. 1: PFAS in the Bay • TCW February 2023 Meeting • Intro Slides • Emily Majcher, USGS and Greg Allen, EPA covered several announcements including a series of Storymaps put out by MD Sea Grant which feature workgroup regulars and the fact that the GIT funding process concluded this cycle without funding being allocated for any of TCW’s proposed projects. • Emily Majcher, USGS gave an overview of the objectives of the PFAS Quarterly meeting series, a recap of the February 2023 Quarterly on Common Analytical and Field Approaches for PFAS Studies, and a preview of the agenda for the remaining meeting items.
<p>2. Technical Presentations – PFAS Non-Targeted and Targeted EPA Methods Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of EPA Method 1621: Determination of Adsorbable Organic Fluorine in Aqueous Matrices by Combustion Ion Chromatography – Daniel R. Tettenhorst, Chemist, USEPA Chemical Methods and Treatment Branch, Water Infrastructure Division, Office of Research and Development • Overview of the EPA’s Clean Water Act PFAS Method Activities – S. Bekah Burket, USEPA Office of Water, Office of Science and Technology, Engineering and Analysis Division 	1:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA Method 1621 • EPA Method 1633 • Daniel Tettenhorst Slides, S. Bekah Burket Slides • Daniel Tettenhorst, EPA presented on the development of EPA Method 1621, which is a non-targeted analysis on Adsorbable Organic Fluorine (AOF). Daniel covered the rationale for non-targeted testing (targeted methods capture <1% of individual PFAS chemicals), the advantages of measuring AOF, the analysis process, which uses Combustion Ion Chromatography in part, results and validation, and shortcomings of the method. The presentation was followed by discussion covering topics including whether the limits on short chain PFAS would affect this method’s usefulness for drinking water testing. • S. Bekah Burket, EPA presented on the EPA’s Clean Water Act

		(CWA) PFAS Method Activities, primarily focusing on the history of Method 1633. Bekah covered the EPA offices that develop analytical methods, the authorization of the analytical methods program under the CWA (40 CFR Part 136), the validation of Method 1633, including EIS criteria and spike results, and the Methods Update Rule (MUR) process which includes Methods 1633, 1621, and 1628 for PCB congeners. Bekah took questions after the presentation on topics like landfill leachate samples.
<p>3. PFAS Monitoring Across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Potential for Assessments – Emily Majcher, USGS and Anna McClain, USGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of efforts to inventory current publicly available data and compile and map PFAS metadata from Chesapeake Bay in various media. 	2:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anna McClain, USGS and Emily Majcher, USGS provided an overview of the state of PFAS data, studies, and sampling in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. They covered previous inventory and assessment work, the EPA ECHO PFAS Analytic tool which was discussed at the November 2023 PFAS Quarterly, the compilation of metadata from EPA WQX and USGS NWIS into a searchable database, recent increases in PFAS sampling, spatial overlap with existing sampling networks, and the need for a comprehensive searchable database or tool for studies, data, and sampling locations. <p>ACTION: TCW Leadership will check with the CAST and Modeling teams to inquire as to the existence of Non Tidal Network related land use information.</p>
<p>4. Work Session – PFAS Activities in Chesapeake Bay and Associated Data Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing and planned studies and methods Options and ideas for sustaining a data inventory 	2:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jamboard PDF Menti link Emily Majcher, USGS facilitated a discussion on ongoing PFAS activities via Jamboard, and a question on data inventory using Mentimeter, which was resolved in favor of a standalone, standardized electronic file submittals for a CBW specific database submitted to a data manager annually. <p>ACTION: TCW Members with information on PFAS Activities and Efforts currently underway should email Greg Allen, EPA (allen.greg@epa.gov) and Emily Majcher, USGS (emaicher@usgs.gov).</p>
Wrap Up and Adjourn	3:00	<p>Next meeting: Wednesday, August 14th, 2024 Next PFAS Quarterly: Wednesday, October 9th, 2024</p>