Wisconsin Agency Response to PFAS

An introduction to PFAS and the development of Wisconsin’s Action Plan
PFAS Overview

- What are PFAS
- Where do we find PFAS
- Emerging issues
- Challenges we face
- Wisconsin response via WisPAC

Graphic: ITRC
What are PFAS?

• Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
  – Family of 4,000+ human-made chemicals
  – Commercial and industrial applications since 1940s
  – PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, GenX
  – Less known about “short-chain” PFAS

• “Emerging Contaminant”
  – Bioaccumulate
  – Not known to degrade in the environment and the environment
  – Certain PFAS are threat to human health

Source: Australian Department of Defence
Products that May Contain PFAS

Manufactured for use in:

- Non-stick coatings
- Waterproof fabrics
- Certain firefighting foams
- Protective coatings
- Stain/water resistant products
- Chrome plating
- Food packaging
- Personal care products
- Coated paper
Where are PFAS found?
Not just a Wisconsin Issue...

PFAS Contamination Sites In the U.S.
Source: EWG 2019
How are humans exposed?

Main exposure from *ingestion*

- Drinking contaminated water
- Eating food with PFAS-containing packaging
- Eating fish caught from PFAS-contaminated water
- Accidentally swallowing contaminated soil or dust.

Exposure can also occur from PFAS-containing consumer products.
Health effects of PFAS?

Studies in humans show PFAS may:
- Increase cholesterol levels
- Reduce antibody response
- Decrease fertility in women
- Increase the risk of:
  - thyroid disease
  - Osteoarthritis
  - Ulcerative colitis
  - Testicular cancer
  - Kidney cancer

Studies in animals have shown:
- Changes in liver, thyroid, and in hormone levels
- Cancer pancreatic function
- Changes

Based on conclusion by: US EPA, the US CDC and ATSDR.
PFAS Exposure: Environment
Executive Order No. 40

Create the PFAS Coordinating Council pursuant to Section 14.019 of the Wisconsin Statutes. The Council shall be staffed by the Department of Natural Resources, with assistance provided by other agencies. Membership of the Council shall include a representative from each agency seeking to participate.
WisPAC’s Charge

- **Explore**
  - Explore funding avenues to assist state & local governments, and private parties

- **Identify**
  - Identify likely sources & add to action plan

- **Find**
  - Find best practices for PFAS sources & add to action plan

- **Engage**
  - Engage academic institutions and other experts

- **Develop**
  - Develop standard, cost-effective and effective testing & treatment protocols with stakeholders

- **Create**
  - Create a multi-agency PFAS action plan
Developing the Action Plan: General Overview

- General Public
  - Structured Survey
- Meetings
- PFAS Advisory Groups
  - Local Government
  - Citizen

WisPAC

“Green lit” ideas for Action Plan

“Parking lot” ideas for future consideration
Developing the Action Plan: Timeline

(see handout: Proposed Timeline & Steps for Developing the PFAS Action Plan)

Jan 16th  Phase 1  Feb 20th  Phase 2  Mar 19th  Phase 3  Apr 16th  Phase 4  Jun 17th

July 1st 2020: Final PFAS Action Plan Published
State Agency Involvement