



**Governor Lamont's Interagency
PFAS Task Force
Minutes of Meeting
July 30, 2019**



Commissioner Katie Dykes of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Commissioner Renee Coleman-Mitchell of the Department of Public Health called the meeting to order at approximately 1:35

Introductions

The Commissioners welcomed the agency representatives to the first meeting of the Governor's Task Force. The following were in attendance:

- Steve Link – Director of Engineering, Department of Corrections
 - Joe Cassidy – State Building Inspector, Department of Administrative Services
 - Ben Neumon – Construction and Facilities Management Officer, Connecticut Military Department
 - Dave Carey - Bureau Director of Aquaculture, Department of Agriculture
 - Jack Betkoski – Vice Chairman, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
 - Jordan Scheff – Commissioner, Department of Developmental Services
 - James Rovella – Commissioner, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
 - Scott De Vico – Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
 - Matthew Levine – Assistant Attorney General at the Office of the Attorney General
 - Leslie O'Brien – Legislative Director of Department of Consumer Protection
 - Kelly Sinko – Office of Policy and Management, sitting in for Jeff Beckham
 - Kevin Dillion – Executive Director of the Connecticut Airport Authority
 - Terry Dominguez – Director of Environmental Health and Safety, University of Connecticut
- Participated via phone

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection: Scott De Vico was invited to speak about what DESPP is doing in regard to PFAS. Jeffrey Morrisette, State Fire Administrator, provided the following update on behalf of Mr. De Vico. He noted 8 regional foam trailers carrying 500 gallons of AFFF with an additional 4,000 gallons of AFFF in storage are staged throughout the state.

- DESPP became aware of AFFF issue by way of introduction from DEEP as early as 2016
 - After requesting additional information and a presentation from DEEP, info was disseminated to fire departments regarding the use of AFFF in 2017
- DESPP became aware of a major contamination issue with the Eastern Fire School in Willimantic, and worked to purchase the property, as well as construct new facilities to replace the contaminated fire school

- March 2019 – Foam workgroup to use Fluorine Free Foam.
- June 2019 – Worked with DEEP to send info bulletin to fire departments. Also requesting AFFF inventory and storage conditions.
- Working on take back program and clean-up initiatives. Looking for funding assistance.

Connecticut Airport Authority: Kevin Dillon was invited to share what the CAA has been doing in regard to PFAS

- Discusses confliction between FAA regulations & environmentally safe practices.
- Currently 17 airport buildings with foam systems currently.
 - Noted AFFF being used in hangers and firefighting equipment across 6 airports.
 - Four buildings have secondary containment systems for PFAS usage

A power point presentation was provided to the attendees and is posted on the PFAS Task Force Web page.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the Commissioners entertained Questions from the Task Force Members

- 1) Are committees predetermined?
 - a. **Commissioner Dykes:** No, they are open sign ups
- 2) **Terri Dominguez** – from UCONN Environmental Health and Safety requested via phone to be added to either the Human Health or Pollution Protection Committee

The Commissioners adjourned the Task Force Meeting and reconvened after a 10 minute break to accept comments from the public

Public Comments

- ➔ **Peter Hearn** – Executive Director of the Council of Environmental Quality
 - Emphasized the importance of communication to the public,
 - Pointed out communication issues during Windsor spill
 - Suggested a subcommittee specifically for communications
 - Referred to existing law as a basis: CT General Statutes section 22a-424
- ➔ **Anne Hulick** – Clean Water Action
 - Impressed with knowledge and expertise
 - Suggests F3 foams; mentions it is the alternative being used in other countries, for example: Canada.

- Proactive measures need to be taken aside from legislation, since legislation is a lengthy process
- Urges comprehensive actions; stresses that PFAS should be regulated as a class and not as individual substances
- Must focus on food packaging
- ➔ **Eric Weiner** – Windsor Resident and Advocate
 - Wants a subcommittee dedicated to Public Outreach, with focus on citizens
 - Stresses importance of working in coordination with the federal government
 - Farmers by Farmington river spill weren't told to *not* draw water for crop irrigation until 4 weeks after spill. Wants quicker communication.
 - Mentions that no testing for wells adjacent to the farms that pulled and used the water have been conducted.
 - Concerned average citizens are being lost in a process that mainly involved government agencies
 - Identified the need for a single point of contact for citizens
 - Recognize **Representative John Larson & Senator Richard Blumenthal**– coordinate in that level.
 - Wants more communication and response from MDC, wants them to be more involved.
 - Emphasized the need for Public Outreach
 - Emphasizes the importance of using federal agencies as resources
- ➔ **Bill Dornbos**– Farmington River Watershed Association
 - Wants town officials to be “linked in” and involved; bring in town officials for their local knowledge
 - Also stresses relationships with federal agencies
 - Specifically mentions National Park Service, wild & scenic river division.
- ➔ **Nicholas Hoffman**
 - Mentioned his team's development of PFAS treatment/destruction technology
- ➔ **PhD. Vasilis Vasiliou** – Yale School of Public Health Chairman
 - Offers epidemiology and analytical services, research resource
 - Also offered with public outreach; community engagement
 - Monitor Health Effects, communities
 - Epidemiology analytical sciences
 - Has team with grant funding
 - Represents School of Agriculture, and Chemical Engineering