



Local Hazardous Waste Management Program

Serving Seattle, King County, Cities, and Tribes throughout King County

King County

Solid Waste Division

Water and Land
Resources Division

Public Health

Seattle and King County

Seattle

Public Utilities

Sound Cities Association

Participating Cities and Tribes:

Algona
Auburn
Beaux Arts
Bellevue
Black Diamond
Bothell
Burien
Carnation
Clyde Hill
Covington
Des Moines
Duvall
Enumclaw
Federal Way
Hunts Point
Issaquah
Kenmore
Kent
Kirkland
Lake Forest Park
Maple Valley
Medina
Mercer Island
Muckleshoot Tribe
Newcastle
Normandy Park
North Bend
Pacific
Redmond
Renton
Sammamish
SeaTac
Shoreline
Skykomish
Snoqualmie
Snoqualmie Tribe
Tukwila
Woodinville
Yarrow Point

October 12, 2018

Maia Bellon
Washington State Department of Ecology
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

LHWMP Supports Washington State Department of Ecology PFAS Alternatives Assessment in Food Contact Materials

Dear Ms. Bellon:

Thank you for your ongoing work with per- and polyfluoralkyl substances (PFAS) and the continued dialogue between the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County (LHWMP). As a long-time partner of Ecology, LHWMP is happy to engage in discussion about reducing PFAS related hazards.

In 2018, the Washington State Legislature passed two PFAS bans. First, PFAS-containing firefighting foam will be banned by 2020 (RCW 70.75A). Second, PFAS in food contact materials (RCW 70.95G) will be banned dependent on whether Ecology finds an available safer alternative through an alternatives assessment (AA). We are providing this letter to outline our position on Ecology's AA for PFAS in food contact materials and to reiterate our support for creating strategic, evidence-based solutions to reduce PFAS related hazards.

Reducing harmful PFAS exposures is a priority concern for LHWMP. Across King County and Washington State, residents are being exposed to PFAS from various pathways, including common household products.

- PFAS has been detected above U.S. Environmental Protection Agency health advisory levels in drinking water near Issaquah, Whidbey Island, and Joint Base Lewis-McCord.
- PFAS has been found in fish, water, soil, and sediment across Washington State.
- PFAS has been discovered in human and animal tissue nationally, provoking concern from citizens and media outlets, prompting state and federal agencies to take action.

LHWMP is a steadfast advocate for evidence-based solutions, like the AA being completed by Ecology. To protect King County residents, and to support best practices, we encourage Ecology to consider the following elements as it conducts its AA:

1. RCW 70.95G.070 states that Ecology must follow “the guidelines for alternatives assessments issued by the interstate chemicals clearinghouse.” Notably, the Interstate Chemicals Clearing House (IC2) Alternatives Assessment Guide dictates clear direction on AAs including the following:
 - Hazard reduction is a key principle of an AA.
 - PFAS’ classification as the chemical of concern for this assessment has already been established through legislative mandate and is thereby outside the scope of the AA.
2. Ecology should also follow the guidance it published via the 2015 Washington State Alternatives Assessments Guide (Pub. 15-04-002). Using this publication that follows the IC2 Alternatives Assessments Guide, the following modules and levels are suggested:
 - **Stakeholder: Level 2** – Formal process that seeks input
 - **Hazard: Level 2** – Green Screen Hazard Assessment Tool
 - **Performance: Level 1** – Qualitative, readily available information (e.g. promotional materials). Quantitative tests are not necessary to gauge performance. Using readily available and qualitative information, as described in the IC2 guide can be more useful. For example, data derived from the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) 559 test may not be the appropriate test to use.
 - **Cost and Availability: Level 1** – Qualitative, readily available information (e.g. use in competitive products)
 - **Exposure: Level 1** – Qualitative, readily available information (i.e. keep focus on hazard)
3. Cost should not be the basis for early elimination of an alternative, as costs can change.
4. The AA should be done as part of the CAP process. Specifically, the AA should be done through a consultative, transparent, and equitable process with all stakeholders – not just industry.
5. As per LHWMP’s focus on racial equity, identified alternatives should not disproportionately burden immigrants, refugees, low-income communities, or people of color.

Creating a strategic and evidence-based PFAS AA for food contact materials is an important task that LHWMP wholeheartedly supports. LHWMP is available to discuss the PFAS AA with

Maia Bellon
October 12, 2018
Page 3

Ecology. We look forward to continuing the dialogue with Ecology on our shared interest of protecting King County and Washington State residents from unnecessary risks to human health and the environment.

If you have any questions, please contact LHWMP Policy Liaison Matthew Bangcaya at 206-477-4764 or mbangcaya@kingcounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Lynda Ransley
Program Director
Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County

cc: Brian Penttila, Alternatives Assessment Lead, Washington State Department of Ecology