

Overview

The following document includes transcribed comments that the public or stakeholders provided verbally during a public comment meeting on November 12, 2020 at 2:00 p.m., focused on the Draft PFAS Chemical Action Plan. This transcript was prepared by Ecology staff based on the recorded portion of the meeting.

Please note: During this public comment meeting, we noted the closing date for the public comment period as December 7, 2020. However, after this public comment meeting, based on stakeholder input, Ecology extended the comment period through January 4, 2020.

Transcript

[START RECORDING]

[Kimberly Goetz] Great, thank you Irina. So, we're now going to begin the public comment section of today's webinar, which is for the record, which is um, uh, for the public record.

And at this time I want to read some information that we do require as part of that record. And Megan, you can go ahead and start recording.

[Maria Blackshear] All right, it's recording.

[Kimberly Goetz] Fabulous. Um, so good afternoon. I'm Kimberly Goetz. I'll be coordinating the public comment portion of today's webinar. We're here to receive public comments about the PFAS Chemical Action Plan.

Let the record show it is currently 2:25 P.M. on November 12th, 2020, and this public comment opportunity is being provided via a Webex webinar.

Ecology provided notice to the public that a draft Chemical Action Plan was issued and available for public comment. The notification included the dates and times of the public comment webinars as well as information about other methods the public can use to submit comments. The notification was published in the Washington State Register on October 7th, 2020, under Washington State Register number 20-19-130.

A notice about the public comment opportunities was also published on Ecology's website. In addition, Ecology issued a news release on October 8th, 2020, about the public comment period and email notices were sent to approximately 600 people subscribed to Ecology's Chemical Action Plan, Safer Products for Washington and PFAS Listservs.

Maria will be calling on people to provide oral comment based on the order that your name appears at the end of our, at our end of the Webex platform. Please remember that we've asked you to keep your comments to about 3 minutes. When you reach that limit I will ask you to summarize your comments so that the next person can be called to make, to make their comment. Next slide please.

Um, another slide, have another slide? There we go. If you wish to comment today, please raise your hand via the Webex feature that Maria just explained so that she can unmute you. If you, after you have completed commenting, please put your hand down so that we can track who is left.

Please speak clearly so that we can get a good recording of your testimony. We ask that you please tell us your name for the record. And if you want to be notified, when the CAP is finalized, please also provide either your mailing or your email address or both. Please note that any address you provide will be part of the public record.

So Maria, why don't you queue up our first commenter.

[Maria Blackshear] I don't see any hands raised yet.

[Kimberly Goetz] Okay, well we'll give them just another moment.

All right. I'm not seeing any commenters. We'll give you just another moment in case somebody wants to change their mind.

[Maria Blackshear] It looks like Jessica would like to provide a comment. Jessica we have unmuted you.

[Jessica Zimmerle] Hi, can you hear me?

[Maria Blackshear] Yes, we can hear you.

[Kimberly Goetz] We can. Please go right ahead.

[Jessica Zimmerle] Thank you. Hello. Thank you for having this meeting today. My name is Jessica Zimmerle and I am the program and outreach director of Earth Ministry in Washington Interfaith, Power and Light.

We are a statewide nonprofit that engages people of faith on environmental stewardship and justice. And I support faith communities from really diverse traditions on a wide range of environmental issues. Yet toxics is the one topic that I can talk about with communities that are more conservative to those that are incredibly liberal. Because simply poisoning one another and our one and only planet is immoral and it's a human health issue that can transcend our divisions.

So just last night, I wanted to share that we hosted a gathering for people of faith to learn more about this PFAS CAP and folks from across the state, joined via Zoom, people who are Jewish, Muslim, Unitarian, Catholic, and Protestants. And everyone was appalled by the persistence and pervailance of these toxic chemicals. In the Q and A questions went where they often go, towards individual action. Is there a filter that will remove PFAS in my drinking water? What cookware should I use? Etcetera. And I shared recommendations but what I really emphasize is that we need widespread systemic change to get these chemicals out of our homes, bodies and environment. We need protection through strong policies from our state. And that's where you enter.

Now I know that all of you care about this issue as well and have been hard at work drafting the Chemical Action Plan and I give my deep gratitude for that work.

All of us need this CAP to be as strong as possible. With that, I would like to share the following recommendations for incorporation into the Draft Chemical Action Plan.

First, and what we think is most important, is PFAS should be designated as a hazardous substance under the Model Toxics Control Act. Uh, this is especially, um, important as you shared today that it

can help a liable parties have to pay for cleanup, which was another value of accountability that we think is very important for uh, polluters to pay.

Uh, we encourage testing to be expanded to sludge and biosolids.

And overall, we really encourage you to address PFAS as a class, um, and expand to include all of the types of PFAS that are considered in the drinking water standard currently underway as well.

So, we thank you for your good work. Um, we will also be sending in, ah, some written comments, um, but really here to say that people of faith are aware of this issue and care very much about it and are looking to you to, uh, protect all of our families and God's creation. Thank you.

[Kimberly Goetz] Thank you.

[Maria Blackshear] Thank you Jessica. We have re-muted you. It doesn't look like we have any other hands raised at this time.

[Kimberly Goetz] Okay, well, um, that's totally fine. Why don't we move on to the next slide and, uh, just let folks know about the additional opportunities that you have to submit oral comments.

We have two more webinars coming up. One November 18th at 6:00 P.M., and one November 19th at 2:00 P.M., both of those are Pacific time. If you would like to send Ecology written comments, you have a number of options. You can send them in by mail as long as they are postmarked by December 7th, 2020. You can submit them online using our online comment form at the address there on the slide. They must be submitted no later than December 7th, 2020. And you can also submit online using email. Again, like the others, they need to be submitted by December 7th, 2020. If you need additional accommodation to submit a comment, please contact Irina Makarow who can help you arrange for that. Contact information will be included at the end of today's presentation.

All testimony received at this, and the other two online opportunities, will be collated with the written comments received by, or postmarked by, December 7th, 2020. And they will all be part of the written record, the official written record for the PFAS Chemical Action Plan. WAC 173-333-430 requires that a response to comments be prepared. This response will be included with the Final CAP.

Ecology will send notice about the availability of the Final CAP to: everyone that provided written comments on this Draft CAP or provided a valid email or mailing address so that we can reach them; to everyone that commented in today's meeting, or who provided an email, and who provided an email or mailing address. We will publish a notice in the Washington State Register and will also provide notice to any other interested parties, via the agency's mailing list for this CAP.

If you want to be notified when the response to comments is available, please sign up at the, for the PFAS CAP Listserv.

That concludes today's public comment portion of the webinar. Please let the record show that it is 2:34 P.M.

And Maria, you can stop recording and I'll pass the webinar back to Irina.

[END RECORDING]