

## Overview

The following document includes transcribed comments that the public or stakeholders provided verbally during a public comment meeting on November 18, 2020 at 6:00 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.

## Transcript

### [START RECORDING]

**[Maria Blackshear]** Okay, the recording has started.

**[Kimberly Goetz]** Great. Thank you so much. Well, good evening, again my name is Kimberly Goetz and I'll be recording, or be coordinating the public comment portion of tonight's webinar. We're here to receive public comments about the PFAS Chemical Action Plan.

Let the record show that it is currently 6:25 P.M., on November 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 public comments.

The notification was published in the Washington State Register on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, under Washington State Register number 20-19-130.

A notice about the public comment opportunities was also posted to Ecology's website. In addition, Ecology issued a news release on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 begin calling on folks to begin, to provide oral comment based on the order that your name appears on our end of the Webex platform. Please remember that we ask you to keep your comments to about three minutes. When you reach that limit, I will ask you to summarize your comments so that the next person can be called on to comment.

Let's go ahead and get to the next slide please.

**[Irina Makarow]** This is the only slide here, so we can start calling on folks.

**[Kimberly Goetz]** There you go then, okay, so if you do wish to comment, please as Maria explained, raise your hand in the Webex, ah, using the Webex raise hand feature and Maria will unmute you, and after you have completed commenting, please put your hand back down so that we can track who is still left to speak.

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

And with that we will move to our first commenter, Maria.

**[Maria Blackshear]** Laura, you have been unmuted you may give your verbal comment.

**[Laura Baumgartner]** Thank you I'm Laura Baumgartner and I want to thank you for holding this hearing and for all of your work on this topic. I am a chemistry teacher and I'm also a pastor and I'm also a mother and there are few issues that connect all my roles as much as the perfluoro or polyfluoro alkyl substances and PFAS.

As you know, there are 7, I'm sorry, about 4,700 substances that fall into this category, and as a chemistry teacher, I can marvel at the ingenuity that people have had in developing ways to use chemical substances to solve problems and design solutions. However, as a teacher, I also recognize the need to teach our young people that using earth's resources is not the same thing as exploiting resources and leaving a mess for those who come after us.

As a pastor, I recognize both the gifts that have been given to us through creation and also the responsibility that we have as stewards of it. As a mother, I want nothing more than to leave my daughter a world where her creativity and ingenuity is valued and a world where the water is safe to drink and the soil is safe for growing food.

As a person of faith who seeks justice, there are three things that I will name that should be strengthened in the Draft Chemical Action Plan. First, I recommend stricter regulation on PFAS production and disposal. Second, I advocate for seeking and supporting the companies and organizations who are designing replacements to PFAS whenever possible. And finally, I hope for increased collaboration and the remediation of already contaminated waters around the world.

For me, coming from the Christian tradition, I hear the call of the prophet Amos: Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness, like an ever-flowing stream. And I know that we have work to do.

Justice is not served when we look the other way and let PFAS compounds be discharged in our waters. Justice does not roll down like waters when we look the other way as chemical companies discharge PFAS and precursors that make PFAS compounds downstream into aquifers and surface waters. Justice and righteousness are not what flows like an ever-flowing stream when we make uninformed choices and unknowingly increase the demands for products that contain PFAS. As a person of faith I ask so we take the necessary steps to reduce the harm that has already been caused by PFAS compounds and prevent further harm.

And so I say, made justice roll down like waters again through rivers and currents, may righteousness flow again like a stream across this land. May our children and grandchildren know that we stood up when we had a chance and we made a difference, so that the waters of justice and righteousness, as well as the waters of planet earth could flow once more without the fear of unseen and unknown toxins.

Thank you.

**[Kimberly Goetz]** Thank you. Alright. Are there any other commenters.

**[Maria Blackshear]** I don't see any other hands raised at this time.

Okay, well we'll give folks a few minutes to consider whether or not they'd like to, ah, make a comment or gather their thoughts and so we'll, uh, give you a few minutes. Oh, I see another hand.

**[Maria Blackshear]** Heather, we have unmuted you, can give your verbal comment.

**[Kimberly Goetz]** *[inaudible]*.

**[Heather Trim]** This is Heather Trim executive director of Zero Waste Washington.

I wasn't going to comment, but since you have so few commenters, I will just make a quick comment, because I do plan to send in a comment letter. Um, I really appreciate the hard work that Ecology has and other agency staff has spent on this. It is well, um, overdue. So, we're very happy to see this moving along, um, because this is such an important issue. Um, and I will just note that in our comment we're particularly going to be focusing on biosolids because we are very concerned about the PFAS in the biosolids, as by the way also micro plastics, and that that is being spread in Washington and we really, really need to get that, sources to that under control, because we're basically just spreading it around, um, into our waters and potentially into um, other living beings. But I will be sending a formal comment so I will stop there. Thank you.

**[Kimberly Goetz]** Great. Thank you Heather. Anyone else?

**[Maria Blackshear]** There are no other hands raised right now.

**[Kimberly Goetz]** Okay, well, we'll give folks a few more minutes to collect their thoughts and, um, see if anyone changes their mind.

**[Silence]**

**[Irina Makarow]** Well I think nobody's changing their mind Kimberly.

**[Kimberly Goetz]** It sure doesn't look like it. Okay. Well, um, going once going twice. I think we'll go ahead and close out the hearing. So, um, just a few more things for the record.

Let's see here, so, um, I think so we had a total of seven attendees. It looks like, um, and had the two comments. So, for those of you, who did not want to make a comment at this time, we have one more opportunity for you to submit oral comments, ah, through our webinar, and that's tomorrow November 19<sup>th</sup> at 2 o'clock P.M. Pacific time.

Please take note, uh, that the deadline for receiving written comments has been extended until January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Let me repeat that, the new deadline for submitting written comments is now January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If you would like to receive, to send ecology written comments, you have the following options. First, you can send it by mail, as long as they are post marked by January (fir) 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. You can submit them online, using our online comment form at the address on the slide; they must be submitted no later than January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. And finally, online using email; again, they, your comments must be submitted no later than January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. If you need additional accommodation to submit a comment, please contact Irina Makarow; her contact information will be included at the end of today's presentation.

All testimony received this, and the other two online hearings, along with all of the written comments received by January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, or mailed with a postmark by January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, will be part of the official

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 and provided a valid email or a mailing address so that we can reach them; to everyone that commented in today's hearing who provided an email address or a mailing address; publishing a notice in the Washington state register; and any other interested parties on the agency's mailing lists for this CAP. If you want to be notified when the response to comments is available please sign up for the PFAS CAP Listserv.

That concludes the public comment portion of today's webinar. Let the record show that it is currently 6:37 P.M.

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

**[END RECORDING]**