



Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Friday, May 17, 2024



NJDEP Kicks Off PFAS Water Working Group

Includes Several AEA Leaders

The NJDEP Division of Water Resource Management kicked off its PFAS Water Working Group this week. Commissioner Sean La Tourette began the meeting, addressing an online session of about 40.

About half were NJDEP staff and the remainder were stakeholders. These included three members of AEA's board of directors, Tom Laustsen of Passaic Valley SC, Jo Ann Mondsin, of Rockaway Valley SA, and Ron Anastasio of Somerset Raritan Valley RSA.

Also participating were Pam Carolan of Mount Laurel Township MUA and Mike DiNinno of Middlesex County UA, both members of the AEA NJPDES/PFAS committee.

The goals of the working group, NJDEP said, are to identify gaps in communications about PFAS and to work together to develop PFAS regulations that protect human health. Pat Gardner, and Chelsea Brook were among the NJDEP officials who participated.

WG members include representatives of New Jersey American Water, Aqua New Jersey, Hazen and Sawyer, the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, Veolia, Middlesex County UA, and Ridgewood Water. Ms. Gardner told the group that priority issues would include source control with monitoring, public notification, regulatory flexibility, compliance timelines, submitting primacy documentation required by EPA, and addressing permit challenges.

Stakeholders asked questions and made a variety of comments. One was whether the state was involved in any concerted effort to ban the use of PFAS in products people use every day.

States that have banned intentionally added PFS products include Maine, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington.

New Jersey Senate bill number S1042, titled the "Protecting Against Forever Chemicals Act," establishes requirements, prohibitions, and programs for the regulation of PFAS. It aims to phase out the sale of certain products containing PFAS. It is sponsored by Senator Linda Greenstein.

Civic Spring Fellows Sought to Address NJ Community Needs This Summer



The Institute for Citizens and Scholars is recruiting a summer cohort of "Civic Spring Fellows," New Jersey youths ages 14-24 who will work in teams on a project in their community. The program aims to strengthen the civic capacities of young people while addressing an identified community need.

Two project teams will be selected in New Jersey for the summer of 2024. The teams include two Team Leads and four to five Fellows who pursue a community-based project that addresses a local need. Proposals must be developed and implemented by the Fellows.

The eligible topics include, but are not limited to, criminal justice, education, community health and wellness, economic opportunity, environment, immigration, transportation and/or elections.

Team Leads can be educators, youth leaders, faith leaders, community members, college or graduate students and retirees.

Team Leads receive a \$4,000 stipend, split evenly for Co-leads. Fellows receive stipends of \$1,800. Other eligibility requirements: Teams must be based in New Jersey. Fellows must devote 10 hours per week to the project. Teams must complete at least one identified project milestone by Aug. 22, 2024.

Applications must be submitted by 9 a.m. on May 28. For more information and to apply, visit citizensandscholars.org.

NJDEP Posts PFAS Sampling Template

The NJDEP has finalized and posted templates and information to be used for recording PFAS sampling data at <https://dep.nj.gov/dwq/pfas-data-collection/>. The PFAS Data Collection webpage is part of the effort to better understand PFAS sources. At last count, about 21 AEA wastewater members indicated they were voluntarily sampling or intended to begin doing so.

An AEA team developed a Work Plan wastewater utilities could follow to conduct the sampling and provide data to the NJDEP. AEA published the final Work

Plan on last June. It includes a sampling schedule and protocols for influent, effluent, and residuals/sludge sampling duplicates and blanks, use of sample bottles and labeling, sample handling and custody, sample storage, and sample pickup or shipping. Group laboratory service pricing was also made available with the Work Plan.

The NJDEP has indicated a preference for sampling done under User Defined EPA Method 1633, which was finalized by the EPA in January.

PFAS Lawsuit Settlement Information

The following information was sent through AEA member firm AquaLaw:

A judge in South Carolina gave final approval on Friday, March 29 to the **3M PFAS Settlement**. This starts the clock on several important deadlines for drinking water utilities that accepted the settlement and chose not to opt out. May 3, 2024 is the effective date of the 3M Settlement. **July 2, 2024 is the final deadline** for Phase-One Class Members to file Phase-One Claims Form.

Phase One Members are water systems that have any documented PFAS in source water prior to June 2023.

These timelines could be paused if there is an appeal of the 3M Settlement. A settlement with another PFAS manufacturer, DuPont, was appealed, and it is considered highly likely that the same would occur in the 3M Settlement. For more information and for claims forms, visit www.pfaswatersettlement.com. AEA is happy to pass along to AquaLaw any questions members may have on these law suits.

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