



Resolution 15-2
Approved September 2, 2015
Newport, Rhode Island

Revised August 30, 2018
Stowe, Vermont

As certified by
Sam Sankar
Executive Director

SUPPORTING WORK ON EMERGING CONTAMINANTS

WHEREAS, emerging contaminants are chemicals of interest for which there is a perceived or real threat to human health or the environment and for which there is no currently published enforceable federal environmental or health standard, or the existing standard is evolving or being re-evaluated; and

WHEREAS, states are addressing emerging contaminants in the absence of enforceable federal standards; and

WHEREAS, between 2006 and 2008 ECOS, the Department of Defense (DoD), other federal agencies, and other organizations of state and local officials worked collaboratively through the ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work Group on emerging contaminant issues and developed three issue papers addressing:

- Risk Communication Principles,
- Identification and Selection of Toxicity Values/Criteria for CERCLA and Hazardous Waste Site Risk Assessments in the Absence of IRIS Values, and
- Initiation of Emerging Contaminants Characterization and Response Actions for Protection of Human Health,

which are available on the ECOS website; and.

WHEREAS, emerging contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), 1,4-dioxane, and nanomaterials are increasingly important to states and federal agencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL OF THE STATES (ECOS):

Requests that appropriate resources be directed to understanding the risks associated with emerging contaminants to address their human and environmental impacts;

Urges federal funding and support of National Toxicology Program (NTP) to continue toxicology research and studies on the risks from emerging contaminants;

Urges responsible parties, federal agencies, and states to commit to investigate whether an emerging contaminant is present, even if risks from these contaminants have not been fully determined;

Urges collaboration among states and federal agencies to establish a national PFAS guidance, share data and information, and other actions in the absence of an enforceable federal standard;

Urges collaboration and information exchange between states and the federal government to identify, assess potential hazards and risks, and address exposures from emerging contaminants, identify safer alternatives and advance the use of alternatives assessment;

Urges acceleration of the efforts to generate enforceable federal standards for both legacy and current generation PFAS compounds and other emerging contaminants;

Endorses the concepts and principles in the ECOS-DoD Sustainability Work Group papers and encourages the States, DoD and EPA to use these principles to address emerging contaminant issues, particularly in addressing remediation of contaminated sites; and

Requests that DoD expedite hazard communications, site assessments, remediation, and drinking water treatment for PFAS contamination, and assume costs associated with these efforts for impacted states and communities, based on state standards and guidelines that are nondiscriminatory.