



PFAS Workplan

In recent years, scientists have concluded that some per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pose human health risks. States and federal regulatory agencies are working to address these risks, but they face challenges created by the complex national landscape of PFAS regulatory activity, and by the constant flow of new information about PFAS.

State and federal environmental agency leaders recently asked ECOS to work with them to help coordinate work on PFAS-related issues. ECOS, along with the ITRC organization it manages, will convene state and federal agencies along with private industry and media associations to do the following three things:

1. Coordinate State and Federal Government Work on PFAS Issues

a. ECOS-sponsored “PFAS Coordinating Committee” (Ongoing)

- This committee includes state environmental agency commissioners, senior EPA leaders, and officials from the Food and Drug Administration, Centers for Disease Control, Department of Defense, and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.
- The committee already meets every 2-3 weeks to alert each other to their upcoming activities and to recommend actions to each other. The committee will create working groups to develop information on things such as the past and present uses of PFAS, and best practices for investigation and response. The working groups may include PFAS Caucus members (see below).

b. ITRC-sponsored PFAS Team Calls (Ongoing)

- ITRC’s PFAS Team currently has over 400 members. The team sponsors bi-weekly or monthly calls to discuss technical issues related to PFAS. The calls draw approximately 100 participants.

c. EPA Toxicity Value Team (Ongoing)

- ECOS and EPA sponsor this call to assist states in helping EPA review toxicity values for several PFAS compounds.

2. Exchange and Develop Regulatory Information and Best Practices

a. ECOS-sponsored PFAS Caucus (Launches in September 2018)

- The PFAS Caucus will be a group open to any interested state or federal agency staff as well as media associations and NGOs. The group will share information and experiences on policy and regulation.
- The Caucus is a project of ECOS and its sister state media associations (ACWA, ASDWA, ASTSWMO, NACAA, etc.), who will assist ECOS with content and distribution of information.
- ECOS has begun inviting attendees and potential leaders to a kickoff conference call in September, and will hold calls bi-monthly on the months opposite the ECOS-EPA ORD PFAS Workgroup calls. ECOS is tentatively planning to help the Caucus convene a PFAS Summit in Spring 2019 DC.

b. ECOS-EPA ORD PFAS Workgroup (Ongoing)

- State and EPA staff currently hold bi-monthly calls to share technical information on PFAS toxicity, exposure, and treatment.

c. Cross-Association Calls (Ongoing)

- State government and media associations (ECOS, NGA, ASTSWMO, ASDWA, ACWA, ASTHO, APHL, and NACAA) are already holding or organizing regular calls to coordinate PFAS responses and discuss state issues related to PFAS.
- ECOS supports other state associations in their efforts on PFAS:
 - In addition to its PFAS Workgroup, [ASTSWMO](#) details state updates on its website.
 - [ACWA](#) and [ASDWA](#) will soon embark on a joint emerging contaminants project.
 - [NACAA](#) and other associations have developed communications and fact sheets around PFAS issues specific to their media, and ECOS will help disseminate these as appropriate.

3. Assemble and Communicate Technical Information

a. IIRC PFAS Team

IIRC's PFAS team includes over 400 members from state and federal agencies, ASTSWMO, industry, and nonprofits. Using DOE, DOD and EPA funding, this team has already held technical meetings and developed numerous technical resources, and plans to do more until at least 2020. The team's existing work products include:

- Seven PFAS fact sheets covering a range of topics, with two more on Aqueous Film Foam and Risk Communications forthcoming. ITRC is developing a series of four- to five-minute “Explainer” videos to for each fact sheet that will appeal to a broader audience, summarize key points, and encourage viewers to access the fact sheets for further information.
- ITRC Live Documents (Ongoing), including a monthly-updated, online table of state, federal, and international PFAS regulatory values. ITRC is also developing a map to visually represent these values.

The ITRC team is currently working on the following additional projects:

- PFAS FastFacts Documents (In Progress) to summarize the PFAS fact sheets for a non-technical audience.
- A Technical Regulatory Guidance Document on PFAS that will include pertinent scientific literature, stakeholder points of view, technical challenges, and uncertainties in further detail than the fact sheets. ITRC aims to release this document in 2019.
- In-person and online training. The team will host ten state-led training workshops across the country between October 2018 and May 2019, as well as international classes and internet-based classes on EPA’s CLU-IN platform.
- A Navy-funded Risk Communication Toolkit to help state and federal stakeholders communicate with communities affected by PFAS. The toolkit will include a communication plan template, an analytical results mailing template, training for practitioners, and informational videos to show at public meetings.

b. ECOS-ASTHO Risk Communication Project (Ongoing)

- ECOS and ASTHO developed risk communication case studies on PFAS, published in June 2018.
- ECOS and ASTHO will soon begin work on a template for PFAS advisories that will include advice on communication models and guidance for states developing risk communication materials. ECOS will work with states to create a clearinghouse of fact sheets that helps refine effective risk communication tools.