

Secretaries' Science Advisory Board

MEETING SUMMARY

Archdale Building, Ground Floor Hearing Room, Raleigh, NC

Monday, February 24, 2020

10:00 AM-4:30 PM

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Secretaries' Science Advisory Board (SAB) met on Monday, February 24, 2020 at the Ground Floor Hearing Room of the Archdale Building in Raleigh, NC. SAB members in attendance were: Tom Augspurger, PhD (Chair); Viney Aneja, PhD; Richard DiGiulio, PhD; Jamie DeWitt, PhD; Gina Kimble, PhD; Detlef Knappe, PhD; Betsey Tilson, M.D., MPH and John Vandenberg, PhD. In attendance by telephone for portions of the meeting were: Elaina Kenyon, PhD; Thomas Starr, PhD and Michael Stoskopf, PhD. Also in attendance were Michael Scott (DWM); Mike Abraczinskas (DAQ); Danny Smith (DWR); Zack Moore (DHHS); Virginia Guidry, MD (DHHS), and DEQ and DHHS support staff.

I. Call to Order (Chairman Tom Augspurger)

Chairman Augspurger called the meeting to order.

II. Review and approve agenda

Chairman Augspurger asked if there were any modifications to the meeting agenda sent by Louise Hughes on February 13 and posted on the Board webpage. There were no changes, and the agenda was approved by unanimous vote after a motion to approve by Dr. DiGiulio and second by Dr. Tilson.

III. Ethics Statement

Chairman Augspurger read the ethics statement and reminded the members that if anyone had any conflict of interest to indicate so. Dr. Jamie DeWitt explained that she has received US EPA funds for PFAS research and is currently consulted as an expert witness in PFAS/PFOA litigation. There were no other conflicts expressed.

IV. Public Comments Request

Chairman Augspurger welcomed attendees and asked if any present, or on the telephone, wanted to comment on any agenda items; he had three replies they would like to speak.

Chairman Augspurgen thanked them for their interest, and indicated he would give them an opportunity to speak.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 2, 2019

The draft meeting minutes were circulated to all members for review on December 23, 2019, January 8, 2020, and again as part of materials for this meeting on February 19, 2020.



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SAB Meeting Minut

Chairman Augspurgen asked for any additional comments on the minutes; he mentioned the ATSDR typographical error noted for correction in the February 19 version. There were none others, so he asked for a motion to approve and adopt the minutes. Dr. DeWitt moved to approve the minutes; Dr. Aneja seconded, and the December minutes were approved with the spelling correction and adopted unanimously by verbal vote.

VI. DEQ and DHHS updates

Chairman Augspurgen asked for the DEQ update.

Michael Scott, Division Director of Waste Management, informed the Board that DEQ is still in the process of hiring a toxicologist who, among other duties, will serve as Board technical liaison. The priority items of interest to the Board, from DEQ's perspective are: (1) PFAS issues (mixed PFAS exposures, ecological impacts, exposures by inhalation and food ingestion in addition to drinking water, and AFFF for suppression of fire and vapors); (2) the Corrective Action Plan received from Chemours; and (3) the expanding list of emerging compounds which may be the subject of reviews (including vanadium; it was noted that DEQ will supply a more definitive list in the future to the Board).

Chairman Augspurgen thanked Mr. Scott for his update, and asked Dr. Zack Moore for the DHHS update.

Dr. Moore thanked the Board for the opportunity to update on behalf of DHHS. He said the primary topic of concern is PFAS management. The recent community survey results were sent with the meeting materials to the Board.

Chairman Augspurger thanked Dr. Moore for the update and announced a short break.

VII. SAB Presentation to EMC – Chairman Augspurger

Chairman Augspurger reconvened the meeting at 11:05 AM. He went through a draft presentation proposed for next week's EMC meeting and invited Board feedback. He then announced another break to set up the PFOA/PFOS draft final for review by the Board.

VIII. PFOA/PFOS

Chairman Augspurger reconvened the meeting and asked Danny Smith to review DWR's request for comments on use of the 2016 EPA Drinking Water Health Advisory values for PFOA/PFOS as a groundwater quality standard. DWR requested that the Board take formal action on the draft final feedback provided in December. Chairman Augspurger shared his screen to facilitate the discussion regarding the draft final document initially distributed to the Board and DWR on December 12, 2019 and re-sent to Board last week with material for this meeting. The draft final was lightly-edited by the Board, and all present concurred with the attached version proposed as final. A formal vote on approving the final statement was delayed when the phone connection wasn't functioning for those attending remotely. Members present agreed to an electronic vote (so that all Board members could be included) on a motion to "approve the 02/25/2020 *SSAB Summary statement on use of EPA's 2016 Drinking Water Health Advisory values for PFOA and PFOS as a Groundwater Quality Standard*" (see attached). The vote will be completed via email by February 28th.



20200225_SSAB
summary statement

Chairman Augspurger thanked the Board for their participation and patience with the process, and announced the break until 1 PM for lunch.

IX. Hexavalent Chromium recommendations

After lunch, Chairman Augspurger set up the actions needed for hexavalent chromium, noting that next steps from the December meeting were to a) review papers referenced by Dr. Starr (which the chair forwarded on December 4); b) have Dr. Vandenberg separate analyses of drinking water and gavage studies so that our summary statements could be more specific

(following-up on a recommendation from Dr. Starr); and, c) merge Dr. Vandenberg's feedback and edits the Board agreed to at the December meeting into a revised draft memorandum for Board review before posting a draft for public comment. The revised draft memorandum was sent to Board members for review on February 2 with comments subsequently provided by Dr. Vandenberg (copied to all Board members). The main task today is to ensure the Board's draft memorandum on hexavalent chromium is clear and complete, especially the summary and recommendations. There was continued discussion about the conclusions; the Board collectively edited each numbered conclusion. Chairman Augspurger asked for a verbal vote on the edits made, and the members agreed they were comfortable with the edits made. He then said the Board would revisit the Tox Strategies comments submitted to the Board and paged through the comment letter on the video screen, asking if anything there merited additional edits in the draft recommendation memorandum. No other edits were suggested for the draft memorandum. Chairman Augspurger framed a motion to approve the draft analyses and recommendations for public comment and Dr. DiGiulio seconded; the motion was approved by unanimous vote (10 'yes' votes, no 'no' votes, and no abstentions).



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Review Draft_SSAB I

Chairman Augspurger then opened the floor for the public forum.

X. Public Forum

Chairman Augspurger asked if there were any others present or on the phone who wished to comment. He then called on Mr. Mike Watters who previously asked to speak.

Mr. Watters, representing the Grace Creek Residents Against PFAS in Our Waters, thanked the Board for recent presentations by Drs. Knappe and DeWitt. He would like to see more chemicals added to PFOA and PFOS in establishing groundwater standards. He commented on testing by Chemours, DEQ enforcement, and testing for PFOA/PFOS in the blood of residents around the plant to check if those chemicals are causing illnesses. He said the cumulative totals of PFAS chemicals are a problem in his well, that he cannot use the water, cannot grow vegetables in the soil. He stated that DEQ is not following the Consent Order, not

enforcing it against Chemours. He said he was adapting a survey to send out, and will send the results to DHHS. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak.

Ms. Kay Reibold, representing the Alliance to Protect the People and Places We Live, protested the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), because the epoxy coating (3M™ Fusion-Bonded Epoxy Coating, or FBE coating) on the pipes is degrading, and leakage along the transmission lines is hazardous. She has been in communication with Dr. Virginia Guidry, DHHS, and asked the Board to support Dr. Guidry's findings about the pipeline coatings. She asked that DEQ revoke the water permits for the MVP/Southgate project, as well as the ACP, based on the coatings, leakage and potential spill issues.

Ms. Marian Osterbrink, also representing the Alliance to Protect the People and Places We Live, said she could provide studies and research on the epoxy coatings of the pipeline and the leakage along the route. She was concerned about explosions along the line, and with the many miles of pipeline in the US, large volume of gas moved along three states, she is concerned about the soil, the water and the air.

Chairman Augspurger thanked the members of the public for their comments and their time. He then asked if there were any more comments; there being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Knappe so moved, and Dr. DeWitt seconded; the motion passed by unanimous vote. He reminded the Board and public that the next meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2019. The meeting adjourned at 3 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise G. Hughes

Assistant to Sheila Holman, Assistant Secretary for the Environment, DEQ