

To: PFAS Working Group
From: Amanda Campbell, Legislative Advocate
Rebecca Lambert, Municipal Issues Specialist
Date: October 9, 2024
RE: Working Group Meeting Notes

What follows is a summary of the working group's discussion.

The group welcomed Nick Hodgkins from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Nick shared background information on PFAS mitigation currently happening in Maine; the Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Sites Fund, its funding and use, and pointed out that the real hurdles for municipalities surrounding PFAS are funding for remediation and potential liability.

Proposals for consideration:

- Survey local Fire Chiefs / Departments to determine what locations are housing AFFF firefighting foam and if they are located near private or public water systems.
- Propose a stand-alone, voluntary participation program for municipalities to join that would provide technical assistance, funding for local remediation efforts and a take-back program for those communities that currently possess unused AFFF foam. Enrollment in the program would also provide municipal protection from liability for PFAS contamination. The program could be housed within the Fire Marshal's office, as part of the new Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA), with DEP providing technical assistance. This program would function like the Farm Buy-Back program that is administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, and would be funded by either an appropriation in the Governor's budget or a bond issue that would be separate from the Uncontrolled Hazardous Substance Site Fund.

The group also discussed the need for DEP to provide figures for current remediation efforts around the state so that impacted municipalities can plan ahead for potential budgetary impacts should PFAS remediation become a local expense.