

**TOXICS STEERING GROUP (TSG) MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 5, 2020**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees:**

Jordan Bailey, MDHHS	Bill Farrell, MDHHS	Alex Rafalski, MDHHS
Aubrey Brewer, MDHHS	Brian Hughes, EGLE	Geoff Rhodes, EGLE
Shannon Briggs, EGLE	Rosa Jaimon, MDHHS	Al Taylor, EGLE
Sarah Bowman, EGLE	Sesha Kallakuri, MDHHS	Joy Taylor Morgan, EGLE
Dennis Bush, EGLE	Andrea Keatley, MDHHS	Joost Van't Erve, MDHHS
Jacob Carrick, MDHHS	Gary Klase, MDHHS	Punnet Vij, MDHHS
Xun Che, MDHHS	Grace Kuan, EGLE	Eric Wildfang, EGLE
Ryan Cleary, MDHHS	Doreen Lehner, EGLE	Keisha Williams, EGLE (chair)
Aaron Cooch, MDHHS	Kay Fritz, MDARD	
Mike Depa, EGLE	Mounica Nandula, MDHHS	

**Items Discussed to Gain Consensus On:**

**Update or rescind [TSG policy and procedure](#)?**

Issue: The TSG P&P is outdated, and the group needs to decide if an updated version is needed.  
Discussion: Some members pointed out the value in updating the P&P for ensuring the existence of the TSG. The point was made that other Michigan interagency groups exist without a P&P. Suggestions were made for a different type of multi-agency agreement to ensure that the TSG continues to function if the TSG P&P is let go. Next steps: Kay Fritz, Bill Farrell from MDHHS, Al Taylor and Shannon Briggs will go back to their respective departments to discuss this idea with executive management to determine if they would be supportive. Report outs can be shared via email or at the next TSG meeting on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Restart the TSG Brownbag Series?**

The issue: The TSG Brownbag Series would be worthwhile to the group currently, because it previously provided helpful information exchange opportunities between TSG members and several sources via speakers, journal clubs, field trips, etc. Discussion: There was not much discussion on this topic. Next Steps: Eric Wildfang is willing to lead this series again. The group may be ready to vote to gain consensus on this issue.

**Host a reference document of EPA, etc. citations?**

The issue: A recommendation was made to use the TSG SharePoint Site to host a living document of helpful phrasing from references like EPA. Discussion: There was not any discussion on this topic. Next Steps: The group may be ready to vote to gain consensus on this issue.

**Form subcommittee to review [EPA's draft All Ages Lead Model](#)?**

The issue: EPA has released a draft for a lead model that would replace the integrated exposure uptake biokinetic (IEUBK) model for lead that is currently used. Since lead models are critical to the work for several TSG members, it was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to review the draft and the functionality of the model. Discussion: There was not much discussion on this topic. Next Steps: The group may be ready to vote to gain consensus on this issue.

**What is the consensus gaining process?**

Issue: It was not clear what process had been used by the TSG to gain consensus, so a process was recommended based on the gradients of agreement. Discussion: The suggestion was made to use

neutral rating or higher agreement to determine consensus. Next Steps: Keisha Williams will develop a survey using this process to poll the TSG on the discussion items and share the results with the TSG.

## **Updates from TSG Subcommittees**

### **Volatilization to Indoor Air Workgroup**

Updates: The workgroup has been updating the document containing TSG recommendations for screening levels used to for vapor intrusion issues in Michigan. The workgroup is requesting that the entire TSG review the latest draft, provide comments, and gain consensus on the updates. Discussion: A question was asked about whether the workgroup had decided on how to receive feedback and when to received feedback had been determined, and it had not. Next steps: Keisha Williams will follow up with an email with details on how the rest of the TSG can provide feedback, and when to get the feedback to the workgroup.

## **Updates from Toxicology Programs**

### **MDHHS-Division of Environmental Health**

The Toxicology and Response Section (Supervisors noted) is splitting into:

- Toxicology And Assessment Section (TAAS) (Deb McKenzie Taylor)
  - Environmental Site Contamination Unit (Bill Farrell)
  - Environmental Epi Unit (Vacant)
  - Environmental Assessment and ATSDR Unit (Andrea Keatley)
  - Environmental Data & Analytics Unit (Stuart Eddy acting)
  - Environmental Health Strategy Unit (Mitch Lindstrom)
- Chemical Emergencies and Response Section (Gerry Tiernan)
  - Vapor Intrusion Unit (Lisa Quiggle)
  - Drinking Water Unit (Steve Crider)
  - Biomonitoring (Vacant)
  - Community Engagement (Sue Manente acting)

### **MDHHS-Vapor Intrusion and Chemical Emergencies Unit**

Some mitigation units that have been installed for a while are losing needed vacuum power and are not being effective. The unit is revisiting these sites and what needs to be done to effectively mitigate.

### **MDHHS-Environmental Assessment and ATSDR unit**

Puneet Vij and Xun Che are new to the TSG. This unit handles National Priorities List-hazardous waste sites and Superfund sites, as well as emergency response to chemical emergencies.

### **MDHHS-Biomonitoring Unit**

There will be biomonitoring studies going on in the near future:

- PFAS Health study in Kent County and Parchment
  - 39 analytes will be measured
- Biomonitoring for PFAS in firefighters
- Michigan Chemical Exposure Monitoring (MiChEM) study throughout Michigan in select locations.
  - Biomonitoring for PFAS, heavy metals, PCBs, and pesticides

## **MDARD**

Work has mostly been focused on PFAS issues. There will be a job posting for an Emerging Contaminant Specialist. A new policy, Policy #33, addresses more site evaluation in areas where elevated PFAS levels have been identified. There is work with the Biosolids workgroup to address land application of PFAS, and samples from crop and feed are being tested. Kay Fritz will be out for a while recovering from knee replacement surgery. There was discussion around Eastern equine encephalitis and pesticide use, and the need for better notification in the upcoming mosquito season.

## **EGLE-Water Resources Division**

The unit is focused on aquatic toxicology. There have been recent efforts several areas. Reports of PFAS monitoring can be found on the MPART website. Beach monitoring has been enhanced using qPCR real time monitoring for harmful algal blooms. The criteria for ammonia was recently updated, and criteria for sulfate and chloride were developed for the first time. There have been impact assessments of legacy contaminants on wildlife in areas of concern (AOC). This included AOC that currently have a beneficial use impairment related to adverse impacts to reproduction/development of wildlife, and select AOCs related to impacts of PFAS on wildlife.

## **EGLE-Materials Management Division**

MMD will be hiring a 13-level toxicologist, and a 9-11 level toxicologist soon. The division is focused on vapor intrusion and PFAS issues right now. There were a number of residential well sampling efforts around a site previously owned by Chemours. Thiocyanate measurements, which can be difficult to measure, were re-evaluated and additional sampling and lab analysis using a specialty lab identified values around 10 ppb. The tap water RSL is 4 ppb for the child receptor.

## **EGLE-RRD**

Grace Kuan is the new toxicologist with the group. The unit is focused on vapor intrusion issues and developing site specific criteria to address those issues. Site specific criteria is a major focus in other efforts as well.

## **EGLE-Air Quality Division**

Brian Hughes is the new Toxics unit supervisor. A comment letter was recently submitted to EPA regarding the proposal to add PFAS to the Toxic Release Inventory. Concerning ethylene oxide, a major source within the state, Viant, is no longer using EtO and air monitoring efforts are planned to sample the area in March; there are plans to submit comments during EPA's comment periods related to EtO emitting sources; and Environmental Justice is a major departmental focus where multiple workgroups are meeting in response to the governor's executive order around EJ. Risk assessments are also being done for atmospheric deposition impacts, TCE and potential alternatives for TCE.

## **Announcements**

A webinar will be held on February 13<sup>th</sup> and a public meeting will be held on March 5<sup>th</sup> around corrective action issues with Petro-Chem.