National initiatives for managing PFAS

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Department of Environment and Science

Emerging Contaminants Workshop, qldwater

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Overview

International / National regulation of PFAS
  – Stockholm Convention
  – National Standard for Environmental Risk Management of Industrial Chemicals
  – Intergovernmental Agreement on PFAS
  – PFAS National Environmental Management Plan

Where to from here?
International / National regulation of PFAS

- Work underway in relation to the following areas:
  - International obligations and commitments
  - National framework for managing industrial chemicals
  - PFAS specific management
  - Emerging contaminants
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

- PFOS, its salts and PFOS-related chemicals were listed on Annex B (restriction) of the Stockholm Convention in 2009
- PFOA, its salts and PFOA-related chemicals were nominated in 2015 for listing on the Stockholm Convention—earliest decision date for listing in the convention is 2019
- PFHxS, its salts and PFHxS related chemicals were nominated in 2017
- Ratification would mean accepting international standards for management of these chemicals

National Standard for Environmental Risk Management of Industrial Chemicals

- Agreement in July 2015 to establish a National Standard for the environmental risk management of industrial chemicals by Environment Ministers from the Commonwealth and all states and territories
- Led by Commonwealth and implemented by each state and territory
- Outlines risk management approaches for industrial chemicals
- Applies during all stages of a chemical’s lifecycle in Australia, from introduction to end of life
- Section 3.5 of the Draft addresses risk management measures relating to treatment and disposal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environment Schedule</th>
<th>Treatment and Disposal Risk Management Measures</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Schedule 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Treatment</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TD_1.1, TD_1.2, TD_1.3</td>
<td>TD_1.1 Apply best available treatment technologies when treating a substance containing the chemical for disposal.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>TD_2.1, TD_2.2, TD_2.3, TD_2.4, TD_2.5, TD_3.1</td>
<td>TD_1.2 Do not adopt measures for treatment or disposal that will result in adverse effects on the environment.</td>
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<td>TD_1.3 Do not dispose of empty storage containers and drums containing the chemical substance other than through a [licensed/approved/treatment/disposal/facility/receiver].</td>
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<td><strong>Sewer</strong></td>
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<td>TD_2.1 Do not discharge the chemical to the sewer unless it is permitted under the terms of a [trade waste agreement/approval/agreed concentration] with the relevant sewerage authority.</td>
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<td>TD_2.2 Do not discharge to sewer at concentrations greater than [x concentration].</td>
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<td>TD_2.3 Do not discharge the chemical to sewer [above its limit of quantification].</td>
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<td>TD_2.4 Do not use the chemical substance at concentrations greater than [x concentration] in [products] intended to be disposed of to sewer.</td>
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<td>TD_2.5 Do not discharge to sewer if the discharge will result in concentrations in repurposed biosolids greater than [x concentration].</td>
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<td><strong>Landfill</strong></td>
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<td>TD_3.1 Do not dispose of wastes containing the chemical substance to landfill if the waste composition is contrary to the requirements of the landfill [licence/agreement/permit/acceptance criteria/class].</td>
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</table>
Intergovernmental agreement on PFAS

• Effective as of February 2018

Intergovernmental Agreement on a National Framework for Responding to PFAS
• Appendix A – PFAS Contamination Response Protocol
• **Appendix B** – **PFAS National Environmental Management Plan**
• Appendix C – PFAS Information sharing, Communication and Engagement Guidelines
• Appendix D – Health Based Guideline Values for PFAS
• Appendix E – Environmental Health Standing Committee Guidance Statements on PFAS
• Appendix F – Australian Health Protection Principal Committee PFAS Factsheet
• Appendix G – Food Regulation Standing Committee Statement on PFAS and the general food supply

PFAS National Environmental Management Plan

• Provides a consistent, practical, risk-based framework for the environmental regulation of PFAS-contaminated materials and sites.
• How-to guide for PFAS investigation and management.
Draft PFAS NEMP v2.0

• Draft changes include:
  – new or significantly amended material - feedback invited (yellow highlight)
  – editorial revisions to more clearly communicate the original intent - for information only (blue highlight)
  – white text has not been changed

• Submission period closes 31 May 2019

• Section 15 – Wastewater treatment
  Initial guidance on management of PFAS in wastewater, including trade waste, to be further developed in consultation with the water industry. This guidance includes an example water utility PFAS management framework.

PFAS NEMP 2.0 – Wastewater treatment

• Provides interim guidance while criteria are being developed
• Includes example management framework
• The NCWG is working with the wastewater sector to further develop this initial guidance

• Benefits from developing a framework:
  – Sharing information helps contribute to science based criteria development
  – Provides a systematic way to management performance against criteria once developed
  – Minimises future risks that may otherwise arise
Where to from here?

- Implementation of the National Standard – early stages
- Regulated Waste Framework
  - PFAS included under previous framework as an organohalogen
- End of Waste Code for biosolids – review by Dec 2019
- PFAS NEMP v2.0 – development of PFAS Management Frameworks
- PFAS NEMP future work – development of criteria and guidance
Any further questions, please contact the PFAS Project Team at

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