



National Chemicals Working Group

Meeting Running Order

1. Welcome
 2. Local jurisdiction presentation
 3. NCWG overview
 4. NCWG presentation - detailed walk through
 5. Questions
 6. Next steps
-

The PFAS NEMP 2.0

Consultation on the draft second version of
the PFAS National Environmental Management Plan



The PFAS National Environmental Management Plan (NEMP)

- The NEMP version 1 and work on future versions of the NEMP is authorised by the Meeting of Environment Ministers.
 - It provides an agreed framework and reference for:
 - managing existing PFAS contamination
 - preventing the spread of contamination
 - The NEMP is agreed by all jurisdictions.
 - It is designed to be adaptable to each jurisdiction's regulatory framework.
-

Relationship to existing frameworks

- The NEMP references and supports existing environmental management tools and approaches such as:
 - the Assessment of Site Contamination NEPM
 - the National Water Quality Management Strategy
 - The principles contained in the 1992 Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment.
-

Outcomes sought from the NEMP

- All organisations responsible for managing and providing advice on site contamination will establish a proactive approach to PFAS management that is protective.
 - The aim is to effectively protect communities, ecosystems and other environmental values from risks associated with PFAS.
-

History of the NEMP

- The first version of the NEMP was developed by the National Chemicals Working Group (NCWG) of the Heads of EPAs (HEPA).
 - It was agreed by all Environment Ministers and released on 16 February 2018.
 - The NEMP was appended to the *Intergovernmental Agreement for Responding to PFAS Contamination* in Feb 2018.
 - All jurisdictions are implementing the NEMP.
 - The NEMP is scheduled for a full review in 2023.
-

Further work to strengthen the NEMP

- The NEMP 1.0 was developed within a ten month timeframe and provided a priority list of future work beyond that timeframe.
 - Collaboration occurred across all jurisdictions during 2018 on four priority projects (for input to the second version).
 - Consultation on the draft NEMP 2.0 covers the new guidance developed in 2018 only.
 - Feedback on other matters will be considered for inclusion in future work.
-

Consultation Approach

- Similar to NEMP 1.0 consultations, draft NEMP 2.0 consultations are being led by each state/territory.
 - Coordinated through the National Chemicals Working Group.
 - Focused on technical stakeholders due to the technical nature of the updates.
 - After close of consultation on 31 May all feedback will be carefully considered.
 - Additional targeted consultation as needed.
-

The PFAS NEMP 2.0

- Draft NEMP 2.0 provides new guidance on:
 1. Environmental guideline values
 2. Soil reuse
 3. Wastewater management
 4. On-site containment
 - It also includes **editorial revisions** to clarify the intent of the guidance in the NEMP 1.0.
-

1. Environmental guideline values

- The NEMP 2.0 includes several changes to environmental guideline values as explained in the following slides, including:
 - A. the human health residential soil criterion
 - B. the land use categories used for the ecological indirect soil criterion
 - C. the terrestrial biota guideline values
 - It also includes consequential revisions to explain and incorporate these changes.
-

1A Human health residential soil criteria

- Human health soil guidance values are used to assess potential human exposure through direct soil contact.
 - The Residential with garden/accessible soil values have been updated following a technical review.
 - The technical review considered additional relevant studies, reviewed the data, and more explicitly incorporated the uptake of PFHxS into plants from soil.
 - The guideline values have increased as follows:
 - PFOS+PFHxS – 0.01 mg/kg – formerly 0.009 mg/kg
 - PFOA – 0.3 mg/kg – formerly 0.1 mg/kg
 - Additional guidance is also provided regarding PFHxS.
-

1B Ecological indirect exposure soil criteria

- The NEMP 2.0 includes a change to the land use categorisation for ecological indirect exposure.
 - The previous land use categories were the same as those used for human health.
 - However, traditional land use categories are not relevant to indirect ecological exposure.
 - The NEMP 2.0 now provides a single ecological indirect exposure guideline value for all land use scenarios.
 - It also provides guidance on situations where this criterion may be over-protective, i.e. where the potential degree of indirect exposure is significantly limited.
-

1C Terrestrial biota guideline values

- The interim terrestrial biota guideline values received a technical review for the NEMP 2.0.
 - The guideline values for ecological direct exposure for wildlife diet have been retained, with additional advice to clarify how to apply these values.
 - The guideline value for ecological exposure protective of birds has been updated:
 - Sum of PFOS + PFHxS – 0.2 µg/kg – formerly 1.9 µg/kg
 - This guideline value refers to the level of PFOS + PFHxS in bird eggs and is intended to be protective of development of the eggs and birds.
-

2. Soil reuse

- The NEMP 2.0 includes a decision tree to facilitate effective decision-making on reuse of soils with very low levels of PFAS.
 - The decision tree does not cover jurisdiction-specific requirements in relation to PFAS-contaminated soils, e.g. movement of soils within a contaminated site.
 - Consultation with regulators is required if there is uncertainty e.g. understanding and managing risks from PFASs other than PFOS, PFOA and PFHxS.
-

3. Wastewater management

- The NEMP 2.0 provides:
 - guidance on managing PFAS in wastewater
 - an example management framework for utilities.
 - The NCWG is working with the wastewater sector to further develop this initial guidance.
 - Key issues being explored include PFAS in:
 - trade waste
 - biosolids
 - recycled water
 - effluent
-

4. On-site storage and containment

- The NEMP 1.0 included initial guidance on storage and containment of PFAS-containing materials, e.g. during construction projects.
 - The NEMP 2.0 provides expanded guidance with detailed advice that:
 - reflects operational experience on major projects.
 - is intended to feed directly into construction environmental management plans.
-

5. Editorial clarifications

- The draft NEMP 2.0 includes a range of editorial clarifications where:
 - the text in NEMP 1.0 would benefit from clarification to reflect the original intent of the drafters.
 - it would be helpful to provide additional, or newer, references.
 - facts and details required updating – e.g. to provide up to date information about the Stockholm Convention.
-

Next steps beyond NEMP 2.0

- Work towards future development of the NEMP beyond NEMP 2.0 has commenced.
 - Further work is being considered comprising activities under the following 6 themes:
 - a. understanding and managing the PFAS chemical family
 - b. environmental monitoring
 - c. water
 - d. soil
 - e. resource recovery and waste management and
 - f. detailed advice on application of the PFAS NEMP guidance
-

Thank you – Questions?



Next steps to finalise NEMP 2.0

- Consultation on NEMP 2.0 to close Friday 31 May.
 - EPA Victoria website provides details of the consultations including a submission cover form.
 - Email address for submissions is pfasstandards@environment.gov.au.
 - All feedback will be carefully considered.
 - Specific questions and issues may be followed up with submitters.
 - MEM will consider the proposed draft NEMP 2.0 in late 2019 and publication is likely in early 2020.
-