New Issues / Action Items for multiple standards

E. Task Group on PFOA/PFOS (DWTU-2019-13)

Motion: Expand scope of task group to consider removal of other PFAS contaminants under NSF/ANSI 53 and 58. S. Ver Strat motioned; R. Herman seconded.

Discussion: A. Patil reported that the task group has completed its work for protocols under NSF/ANSI 53 and 58 for carbon, RO systems, and anion exchange for PFAS and PFOS. The carbon and RO protocols have been included in the 2018 edition of the standards; the anion-exchange protocol is currently under ballot. It was clarified that that the ion-exchange media is non-regenerative. A. Patil stated that other PFAs substances are now coming to the forefront. He recommended that rather trying to develop protocols for each of these contaminants, the task group should investigate the development of a surrogate compound that will cover all of these PFAs.

A. Patil stated that a second issue the JC should consider is how the saturated devices are disposed. Should the end of life of these products be the responsibility of this JC as well? B. Powitz suggested that an informational annex on proper disposal and potential waste problems could be included in the standards.

F. Lemieux noted that some of the other PFAs have health-based criteria, but not all have a sound scientific basis. The JC would need to determine what criteria should be used (e.g., state advisories levels). She stated that she was not opposed to using a surrogate, but the JC needs to be careful on how the claim is presented. A. Patil referred to studies that have indicated that PFAs suppress the immune system. He added that many of these compounds don't yet have traditional MCLs, but if they have the potential to have an adverse effect, the committee shouldn’t wait for an MCL to be established to address the issue. Creating a surrogate will shorten the overall time to develop a protocol. F. Lemieux noted that in other cases the committee had validation testing to justify the use of the surrogate. The task group will need to study and develop criteria as a basis for a surrogate.

The group discussed the chloroform surrogate used for VOCs. R. Herman noted that it was the result of a multi-year effort. It included VOCs studies with chloroform and multiple types of carbon. He added that the JC had more information and understanding of VOCs than these PFA compounds. The toxicological information is still lacking, and they are difficult to group. B. Powitz asked if there are any other corporations or state agencies doing relevant work that are not currently represented on the task group. R. Regunathan stated his agreement with the chloroform work and noted that some of the studies were funded by Water Quality Research Foundation. He suggested that an initial task group project could be targeted to characterize of these chemicals leading up to a surrogate study. S. Murphy noted that the EPA recently awarded $4 million to PFOS research to the Colorado School of Mines and Oregon State University. C. Klevens stated that she supported the task group addressing the disposal issue. She added that New Hampshire is going to adopt a new MCL for PFAs compounds. The current level is at 70 ppt but will likely be lowered.

Vote: All in favor
Motion passed.

Additional TG members: A. Lundquist; S. Lee; A. Fenwick; C. Klevens