





proposed primary maximum contaminant level (PCML) for Perchlorate of 0.056 mg/L. The new PMCL has an open comment period until August 26.

Suffolk expressed concern over the feasibility of an accurate service line inventory that wouldn't require utilities to dig up the service lines. Mr. Horne suggested attempting to find archived documentation for older service lines instead of digging them up.

**ACTION:** No action.

## 6. VDH Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

Dr. Todd Egerton VDH, Division of Shellfish Safety, presented a summary presentation of HABs in Virginia and the potential impacts to human health. The HAB Taskforce was established in late 1990's to address blooms affecting both coastal and freshwater. Currently, the HAB taskforce focuses on routine and response based monitoring. The results of this monitoring can be found on [www.swimhealthyva.com](http://www.swimhealthyva.com), where citizens can learn more about HABs, report a fish kill or HAB, and view where in Virginia there is a current HAB.

Dr. Egerton identified potentially toxic algae that are common to Chesapeake Bay and historical HABs in the Chesapeake Bay. He did note that to date, there has been no HAB related human illnesses from Virginia shellfish. Dr. Egerton also explained potentially toxic blue-green algae found in Virginia freshwaters and shared information on historical HABs in Virginia freshwater.

Mr. Aaron Moses presented on VDH Algal Bloom Response Plan that was developed in order to ensure public health. The Algal Bloom Response Plan is composed of 4 steps of monitoring both raw and finished water that will help utilities decide whether to issue a "Do Not Drink" notice. The first step is preparing a source water protection plan or treatment plan for harmful algal blooms in addition to monitoring and reporting any blooms. When a bloom is potentially detected, utilities are recommended to analyze raw water for cyanotoxins, if present, utilities should continue to monitor raw and finished water for cyanotoxins. VDH – ODW may assist with sampling and analysis during these two steps. Finally if cyanotoxins are above the child health advisory for 10 days, ODW recommends issuing a "Do Not Drink" notice.

Norfolk asked how a "Do Not Drink" notice is different than a "Boil Water" advisory in the case of an algal bloom. Mr. Moses stated that boiling the water will not remove the cyanotoxins, and has the potential for releasing more toxins into the drinking water. Mr. Moses finished his presentation by explaining Source Water Protection technical assistance provided through VDH-ODW and contractors, in addition to wellhead protection grants offered through VDH – ODW.

Dr. Todd Egerton presented on how the VDH was using SSO data to estimate the potential impact on shellfish growing areas. VDH uses SSO data to assess the need to issue recalls or establish emergency condemnations on local shellfish. Dr. Egerton expressed the

continued need to include the volume of SSOs to inform protective beach closure decisions.

**ACTION:** No action

## **7. Bacteria Source Tracking Program**

Before Dr. Raul Gonzalez began, Suffolk expressed how useful the Bacteria Source Tracking program has been in the past 4-5 years for finding sources of leaks in Suffolk.

Dr. Raul Gonzalez, HRSD gave an update on the microbial source tracking program, beginning with the shortcomings of using fecal indicators as an indicator for a potential problem. Instead he suggests using the HF 183 marker which indicates recent sewage contamination as it is only measurable for 3 days. Dr. Gonzalez gave examples of how the Bacteria Source Tracking Program has worked in the past, including at Haven Creek. Additionally he presented on recent improvements to the methods of Bacteria Source Tracking including using next generation sequencing techniques. The Bacteria Source Tracking Program is being expanded to look at watershed level contamination and has the capacity to help more localities in the area.

**ACTION:** No action.

## **8. Utility Directors and Health Directors Roundtable Discussion**

There were no updates.

## **9. Staff Reports**

- **Fats, Oils and Grease MOA** - Ms. Katchmark asked which localities were planning on signing the MOA and at what level (i.e. utility director or city manager) they would be signing it. Norfolk stated that it would wait to sign the MOA until the other localities have signed it. Poquoson, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach were not sure whether or not they would sign the MOA. Newport News was not sure what level would sign the MOA. Suffolk would sign the MOA at the city manager level. Gloucester and Isle of Wight would sign at the county administrator level
- **HRSD Integrated Plan – First Amendment to 2014 MOA:** Gloucester noted they were still waiting on document from HRSD.

## **10. Other Business**

There was no additional business, and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting of the Directors of Utilities will be on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 in Chesapeake.