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NEWEA Annual Conference  
Regulators Roundtable

Rhode Island Update

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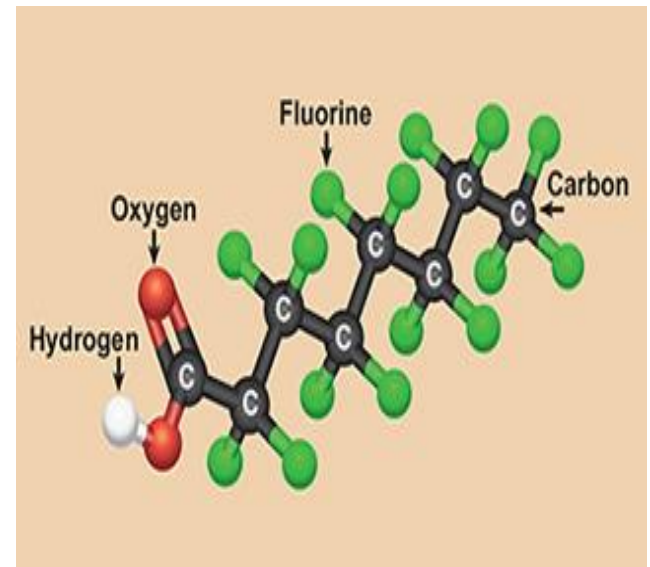
# Rhode Island's Hot Topics

- PFAS
- Water Quality Standards
- Seafood Processing Wastewater
- BIL & CWSRF
- Staffing



# PFAS

- Recent legislation passed (PFAS in Drinking Water, Groundwater, and Surface Waters Act)
- Establishes/Requires:
  - Interim Drinking Water Standards – 20 ppt
  - Monitoring of all public water systems for PFAS by 7/1/23
  - Final drinking water standards by 6/1/24
  - Groundwater standards and Surface Water Action Levels by 12/31/23
  - Landfill monitoring by 12/31/22



# Actions being taken by OWR to address PFAS



## Surface Water

- Action Levels
  - PFOA
  - PFOS
  - PFHxS
  - PFNA
  - PFHpA
  - PFDA
- By 12/31/23

## Groundwater

- Groundwater Standards for the same 6 compounds
- By 12/31/23

## Permits

- RIPDES permits
- POTWs
- Quarterly monitoring starting 2024
- Influent and Effluent
- SIU monitoring also to begin in 2024

# Water Quality Standards

- PFAS
  - See prior discussion
- Aluminum
  - 3 RI POTWs use aluminum chemistry for TP removal, 2 have compliance schedules
  - Updated criteria may resolve compliance issues
  - Currently have POTWs collecting necessary background data
  - Will need to update Water Quality Regulations and modify RIPDES permits



# Seafood Processing Wastewater

- Limited existing wastewater processing capacity
- EDA Grant to evaluate expanding wastewater treatment capacity
- Anticipate “kickoff” in Spring ‘23 with a 24 month project schedule
- Next phase would be construction



# BIL & RI CWSRF

Directed funding, including principal forgiveness, to 5 entities meeting disadvantaged communities criteria during first year of BIL, in addition to other loans.

Will launch solicitation of projects for inclusion in next Project Priority List in February 2023. Will be issuing additional guidance to clarify eligibility of green infrastructure when proposed as a component of part of a larger project.

Workload is steadily increasing and DEM is seeking to add 2 FTEs to support the program including technical reviews.

Concerned with downward trend in the federal allocation of Capitalization (base) Grant SRF program funding resulting from an increased number of Congressionally Directed Spending projects.

FY21 - \$1.6 billion vs. FY23 \$775 million



# Staffing

- How to attract new staff
- Increased outreach to attract qualified applicants (particularly engineers)
- Succession planning





*Thank you!*

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