

Appendix A.6

AFFF Collection and Disposal Final Environmental Impact Statement: Public Hearing Summary



Public Hearing Goals

- Inform attendees about the [draft Environmental Impact Statement \(draft EIS or DEIS\)](#)¹—including alternatives, environmental impacts, and next steps—in a transparent, accessible way.
- Receive public comments and testimony, to be included in the official hearing record for the draft EIS.

Publication Information

This appendix is part of Washington State Department of Ecology’s publication number 24-04-040, [Aqueous Film-Forming Foam \(AFFF\) Collection and Disposal Program: Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement](#).²

ADA Accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology at 360-407-6700 or hwtrpubs@ecy.wa.gov, or visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility. For Relay Service or TTY call 711 or 877-833-6341.

Public Hearing Details and Agenda

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Streamed via TVW: [TVW archived stream](#).³

Table 1. Agenda for the AFFF Collection and Disposal Draft EIS public hearing.

Duration	Item
10 minutes 1:00 – 1:10	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and team introduction• Zoom tools and tech introduction• Review agenda and ground rules
30 minutes 1:10 – 1:40	AFFF Collection and Disposal Draft EIS Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on draft EIS purpose, alternatives, and analysis

¹ <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2304064.html>

² <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2404040.html>

³ <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2024011193>

Duration	Item
2 hours, 10 minutes 1:40 – 3:50	Public Hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public comment and testimony
10 minutes 3:50 – 4:00	Closing and Next Steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public comment open until February 5, 2024 Next steps after public comment period closes

Meeting Roles

Table 2. Ecology and consultant staff roles during public hearing.

Name	Affiliation	Role
Sean Smith	Ecology	Presenter
Marla Koberstein	Ecology	Hearings Officer
Gretchen Muller	Cascadia	Facilitator
Alle Brown-Law	Cascadia	Facilitation Support + Tech Support
Taylor Magee	Cascadia	Notetaker + Tech Support

Introduction

Gretchen welcomed everyone to the public hearing and introduced the project team. She then reviewed the meeting agenda, how to use Zoom, and the public hearing ground rules.

AFFF Collection and Disposal Draft EIS Overview

Sean provided his presentation on the draft EIS, including the purpose and background of the EIS and the AFFF disposal options.

Two questions from attendees in the chat:

- **Alan Davis:** Any new information on Disposal Support and Assistance for Maritime, Fire Schools, Airfields and other "Non-municipal" Fire Fighting Organizations?
- **Darla Smith:** Perhaps you mentioned and I missed it but which DOT Hazard Placards will apply? Any chemical hazard labels?

Formal Public Hearing

Marla began the Public Hearing at 1:44 p.m. She covered ground rules and operating procedures before opening it up for public comment.

Public comments

Public Comment #1: Meisam Vajdi, Missouri University of Science and Technology

Good afternoon. I'm Meisam Vajdi, at Missouri University of Science Technology. I'm very happy and glad to be with you here, and thanks for this event, it's very informative to me. So, is there a detector for PFAS materials? Are you seeking, or is that important to have detectors, for example, in the incinerator facilities? I think that it's necessary to have detectors to detect and monitor the air and environment in that facility, to understand if the process is accurately done or not. So, I'm curious to know what the importance is of having detectors, especially in the air, for PFAS materials. Thank you.

Public Comment #2: Alice Green, Green Party of Washington

Hello, I'm Alice Green, I'm representing Green Party of Washington. We've been in discussion of PFAS and other endocrine-disrupting chemicals, which are becoming a health hazard. My concern is for first responders and firefighters and their exposure to PFAS, which has increased their cancer rates and some health hazard to them. I would like to know: is incineration the only means for which it can actually chemically change the molecule from PFAS? Also, our concern is for any water seepage and water contamination. I want to let you know that we really appreciate you exploring this comment, I think there are a lot of states that are lagging behind in PFAS remediation. So, first of all, if you could just let me know – is incineration really the only way that the actual molecule can be altered? Thank you.

Public Comment #3: John Lovie

Thanks for taking the comment, and this isn't meant as a reply to the previous comment, but it might accidentally work that way. I've read that there are some other technologies in the works, such as lower temperature hydrolysis in non-aqueous solvents, that might work adequately for removing PFAS in fairly concentrated solutions, like returned firefighting foam concentrate. So, I'm hoping that, in consideration of these alternatives, that you take a look out on the horizon and see what might be coming down the pike in terms of alternative destruction technologies. The picture in 2 or 3 years might look quite different than the way it does right now, and it would be a shame to go down an irreversible path that doesn't give us the option to take advantage of those newer technologies.

Project team on break from 1:54 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. The Public Hearing reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

One comment in chat

- **Meisam Vajdi:** I suggest deployment of PFAE air detectors in incinerating facilities to monitor accuracy of the process. This could be done by Missouri University of Science & Technology.

Closing and Adjourn

Marla closed out the Public Hearing Session by reminding members of the public that the comment period will close at 11:59 p.m. on February 5, 2024. She reminded everyone how they can submit comments and noted that the comments will be included in the EIS along with their appropriate responses. Lastly, Marla noted that Ecology will be making their decision in spring or early summer 2024.

Gretchen thanked everyone for joining and adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance

Peak attendance: 67

Table 3. Attendees and meeting hosts for the public hearing.

Number	Name	Affiliation, if any
1	Abbey Linsk	ACC
2	Abby Bazin	Unknown
3	Alan Davis	Unknown
4	Alfred Martini	Unknown
5	Alice Green	Alt Delegate GPWA
6	Alle Brown-Law	Cascadia Consulting Group
7	Amy Wilson	TRC
8	Aurora Janke	Unknown
9	Aurore	Unknown
10	Bill Kidder	TRC
11	Carrie Gillum	City of Tumwater, Water Resources
12	Celeste Pachella	HDR
13	Chris	Unknown
14	Courtney Cecale	Ecology
15	Danyel Hiland	WSDOT Environmental Services
16	Darla Smith	Eurofins Env Testing NW
17	Dawson Frank	Paine Field
18	Dean Williams	TPCHD
19	Don Martin	Unknown
20	Dosborne	Unknown
21	Elaine Snouwaert	Ecology
22	Esteban Hernandez	Oregon State University
23	Gary Mendivil	ADEC
24	Gretchen Greene	Greene Economics

Number	Name	Affiliation, if any
25	Gretchen Muller	Cascadia Consulting Group
26	Heather Church	Ecology
27	Heather Kryczka	Unknown
28	Jacob Polin	Unknown
29	Jessica Reed	IC DNR
30	Joanna Seymour	Ecology
31	Joe Aldridge	GeoEngineers
32	John Evered	Unknown
33	John Lovie	Unknown
34	Joss	Unknown
35	Julia Shuurman	Unknown
36	Keith Johnston	TPCHD
37	Kevin Freeman	TRC
38	Lizzy Baskerville	Ecology
39	Lya Carini	Unknown
40	Marla Koberstein	Ecology
41	Matt Cox	EPA Region 10
42	Matthew Massey	Unknown
43	Meg Bommarito	Ecology
44	Megan King	Port of Seattle
45	Meisam Vajdi	Missouri University of Science & Technology
46	Melissa Holcomb Palmer	Unknown
47	Mike Crisenbery	Unknown
48	Miranda HOLETON	Unknown
49	Mounia Sassi	Ecology
50	Naomi	374 Water
51	Patricia Reyes	Unknown
52	Patrick Solomon	CEP
53	Paula DeMichele	TRC
54	Reanna Bettencourt	Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department
55	Rick	Unknown
56	Scott Cave	S.C. Communications, Friends of Rocky Top
57	Sean Smith	Ecology
58	Stacey Callaway	Ecology
59	Tariq Hussain	Haley & Aldrich
60	Taylor Magee	Cascadia Consulting Group

Number	Name	Affiliation, if any
61	Thomas Cortina	Unknown
62	Timothy Allen	WA AGO
63	Tom Thorson	Unknown
64	Trevor Whitson	Unknown
65	TVW Streaming	Unknown
66	Yida Fang	Unknown
67	Yorick Wahaus	Unknown

Public Hearing Comment Transcript

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now, and it would be a shame to go down an irreversible path that doesn't give us the option to take advantage of those newer technologies.

End of Transcript.

Zoom Chat Log

13:02:14 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

If you have any technical issues, please send me a message over Zoom, or email alexandra@cascadiaconsulting.com

13:03:44 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

Closed captioning is available, please select "Show Captions" at the bottom of your screen, then select either subtitles or full transcript.

13:04:29 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

AFFF DEIS webpage: ecology.wa.gov/AFFF-comment

13:09:32 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

AFFF DEIS webpage: ecology.wa.gov/AFFF-comment

13:21:40 From Alan Davis to Everyone

Any new information on Disposal Support and Assistance for Maritime, Fire Schools, Airfields and other "Non-municipal" Fire Fighting Organizations?

13:34:51 From Darla Smith-Eurofins Env Testing NW to Everyone

Perhaps you mentioned and I missed it but which DOT Hazard Placards will apply? Any chemical hazard labels?

13:43:06 From Alice Green, Alt Delegate GPWA to Everyone

Thank you.

13:45:20 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

To provide public comment, please raise your Zoom hand (by clicking Reactions, then Raise Hand). If you're joining via phone, raise your hand by dialing *9. To unmute, dial *6.

13:51:54 From Alice Green, Alt Delegate GPWA to Everyone

Thank you.

13:53:51 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

Submit comments here: <https://hwtr.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=hYEe5GPAC>

14:20:12 From Meisam Vajdi to Everyone

I suggest deployment of PFAE air detectors in incinerating facilities to monitor accuracy of the process. This could be done by Missouri University of Science & Technology.

14:20:54 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

To provide public comment, please raise your Zoom hand (by clicking Reactions, then Raise Hand). If you're joining via phone, raise your hand by dialing *9. To unmute, dial *6.

14:38:53 From John Lovie to Everyone

Thank you all for hosting.

14:41:29 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

How to Submit Comments:

- Online public comment form: <https://hwtr.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=hYEe5GPAC>
- By email: AFFFDisposal@ecy.wa.gov
- By mail:
Washington State Dept. of Ecology
Attn: Sean Smith
P.O. Box 330316
Shoreline, WA, 98133
- By sharing a verbal comment today, at our public hearing.

14:42:37 From Alice B Green, RN to Everyone

Will a copy of this recording be available?

15:05:20 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

Thanks for asking Alice! Yes, TVW Streaming is currently live-streaming this meeting, which you can view here: <https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2024011193>. The stream will also be available for viewing afterwards on TVW's website.

In addition, the slides that Sean presented on today are also available in Ecology's Documents Library, found here:

https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37693/pfas_in_firefighting_foam.aspx.

15:08:11 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

Additionally, we held an information session on January 17, and Sean's presentation from the information session is posted on YouTube. You can view that presentation here:

<https://youtu.be/latyO4Y2FZo>

15:10:50 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

To provide public comment, please raise your Zoom hand (by clicking Reactions, then Raise Hand). If you're joining via phone, raise your hand by dialing *9. To unmute, dial *6.

15:21:45 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

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- By email: AFFFDisposal@ecy.wa.gov
- By mail:
Washington State Dept. of Ecology

Attn: Sean Smith
P.O. Box 330316
Shoreline, WA, 98133

- By sharing a verbal comment today, at our public hearing.

15:30:27 From Meisam Vajdi to Everyone

I suggest deployment of PFAE air detectors in incinerating facilities to monitor accuracy of the process. This could be done by Missouri University of Science & Technology.

thank you so much, Have a wonderful days!

15:47:13 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

To provide public comment, please raise your Zoom hand (by clicking Reactions, then Raise Hand).

If you're joining via phone, raise your hand by dialing *9. To unmute, dial *6.

15:58:33 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

How to Submit Comments:

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- By mail:
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Attn: Sean Smith
P.O. Box 330316
Shoreline, WA, 98133
- By sharing a verbal comment today, at our public hearing.

15:58:41 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

Sean Smith: sean.smith@ecy.wa.gov.

15:59:26 From Alle Brown-Law, Cascadia Consulting (she/her) to Everyone

To view the draft EIS and more information, please visit our webpage: ecology.wa.gov/AFFF-comment