

During Dr. Levine's testimony last week on H. 238 (PFAS), the Committee asked the Department of Health to follow-up with more information on two issues:

1. How does the Department collaborate with VAAFM to evaluate the human health impacts of pesticides and pesticide coated seeds?

While VAAFM has jurisdiction over the regulation of pesticides, the Department of Health's Division of Environmental Health, including our State Toxicologist and Senior Risk Assessor, work closely with VAAFM on pesticide issues. These efforts include:

- Regular meetings to discuss PFAS in general and PFAS in pesticides.
- Participation on the Agriculture Innovation Board (AIB), which reviews topics related to pesticide use and human exposure. For example, the AIB recently considered a set of best management practices for the use of treated seeds in Vermont.
- Consultation on permits for pesticides with concerning health effects.
- Review of permits for control of aquatic nuisance species.
- Collaboration on pesticide misuse cases (e.g., when chlorpyrifos was illegally used indoors, when chlordane was found in a school).
- Collaboration on aerial application of pesticides for EEE.
- Annually review mosquito adulticide permit applications for health concerns.
- Consultation, at the discretion of VAAFM, when a new pesticide is registered for use in Vermont.
- Consultation when there is a pesticide that presents an unacceptable health risk. For example, Health supported VAAFM's efforts to cancel uses of dacthal.
- Collaboration to respond to citizen concerns about pesticides from nearby farms in their private drinking water or other pesticide health concerns.

Other previous efforts of note include:

- Until the Vermont Pesticide Advisory Council was dissolved by statute, review of pesticide right-of-way permit applications.

2. What filtration methods are available to remove PFAS from water?

The Department of Health has some information about this available at: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/environment/drinking-water/treating-pfas-drinking-water>.

Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any further questions for the Department.

Sincerely,

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Policy Director

Vermont Department of Health