

PFAS CONTAMINATED SITES RISK ASSESSMENT -

A WEB BASED EUROPEAN “HOT SPOT” WORKSHOP

22 September 2020, at various locations in Europe

DRAFT GUIDELINE/INFORMATION AND PROGRAM

Highly fluorinated substances (PFAS) has been identified as an environmental and health problem that has gained increased focus in recent years. PFOS and PFOA are the two substances that have received most attention. However, it is well known today that there are a large number of different PFASs in areas where the substances have been handled. The state of knowledge for most of these substances is very limited or even non-existent. This poses a problem when assessing the risks posed by PFAS-contaminated soil and land.

Last year, the Swedish Geotechnical Institute organized a national workshop with invited experts and policy makers on the theme "Risk Assessment Methodology for PFAS". The main purpose of the workshop was to discuss the problems of characterization and risk assessment of PFAS-contaminated areas. It was expressed that analytical methods estimating the content of e.g. precursors or extractable fluorine have limited utility in assessing the risks posed by a contaminated area. The main motive put forward was that the analyses provide limited or no information on which contaminants are present in the analysed sample. Instead, it was concluded that today, the best way is to base a risk assessment of a PFAS-contaminated area on individual compounds that are quantified with LC-MS/MS. In order to assess the overall effect as a mixture of PFAS, the approach with relative potency factors proposed by RIVM¹ was considered to be a method that would be applicable.

The SOILveR platform (www.soilver.eu) is planning for a so called hot spot webinar on PFAS on the 22nd of September 2020. The aim of the webinar is to discuss topics related to human health risk assessment of PFAS contaminated land/sites. How can one take into account that the contamination consists of a large number of PFASs that we have poor knowledge of in terms of both physico-chemical and toxic properties? Can different types of chemical analyses (e.g. TOP, TOF) be of benefit? Do we need policy based thresholds and decisions, until we know more?

What is a web-based “hot spot” workshop?

The benefit is to be able to join an international meeting without long traveling distances. Participants gather at several locations, “hot spots”, that are then connected via video and audio through a web software. There can be several “hot spots” within a country, or just one. This allows for joint presentations and discussions as well as separate discussions at the local hot spot. A hot spot organizer invites participants to its own location, and acts as the host and has a hot spot moderator.

¹ National Institute for Public Health and the Environment

A workshop with two purposes

Exchange of knowledge of PFAS Risk Assessment is the topic of the workshop. However, the workshop is also a pilot exchange activity within the SOILveR platform to try out efficient ways of sharing and disseminating knowledge. We hope to get feedback from participants on the web-based “hot spot” workshop format.

Date	Tuesday 22nd of September 2020
Target group	Experts and policymakers
Number of participants per hot spot	Flexible, preferably 5-20
Language	Plenary sessions: English Local discussions: national language Summaries/input from hot spot discussions: English
Technique used	ZOOM webinar tool
Technical facilities required	Stable internet connection, audio equipment, screen
How to register a hot spot	Register or state your interest in organizing a hot spot by e-mail to info@soilver.eu <i>Please provide country, city and if already known the address contact information. Also provide e-mail to the organizers contact person.</i>

What is required of the hot spot host?

- Organise a meeting room with the technical facilities.
- Invite national experts/policymakers
- Appoint a hot spot moderator
- Participate in preparatory online meeting(s) for technical checks
- Make sure to establish audio/video connection in the morning the day of the workshop in order to be able to start in time
- Provide lunch and beverages during the meeting for the participants within the hot spot – at the expense of the hot spot host or participants

Hot spot locations: Stockholm, Paris, Copenhagen, The Hague, Brussels, Berlin?, Helsinki?, XX?

What is required of the moderator?

- To prepare discussions within the hot spot (*Based on topics and sub questions that will be provided beforehand*)
- To lead the discussions within the hot spot and also report the outcome of the discussions during plenary discussions
- To write a short summary of what has been discussed and concluded during the local discussions (written in English) and send it to the organizer group

Draft program

Speakers not decided 09.15 – 10.45. Open for suggestions

	<i>Preliminary agenda - to be adjusted</i>
08.00	<i>Connection of audio/video by hot spot hosts</i>
08.30-9.00	Registration & coffee/tea at each hot spot
09.00 – 09.15	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background and presentation of the SOILveR Platform & today's Pilot Knowledge Exchange activity • Practical information
09.15 – 10.45	Setting the scene on the topics to be discussed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview optional chemical analyses approaches (NN) • Overview of RA approaches on mixtures? (NN) • International overview – approaches in different countries (NN)
10.45 – 11.15	Introduction to discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome of a Swedish policy/expert WS on the same topic in 2019 (SGI) • Introduction to break-out works groups including topics to discuss (SGI)
11.15 – 13.00	Discussions in break out groups (incl. light lunch) <i>Topics and sub questions will be provided beforehand. Poll to be answered by each hot spot on selected questions</i>
13.00 – 14.45 (incl. short break)	Moderated discussions in plenum – Best ways forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General overview on PFAS policy and practices across Europe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results from hot spot Polls ○ Discussion and comments from Hot Spots • Best solution or way forward today/in short term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results from hot spot polls ○ Short reports/comments from each or some hot spot ○ Discussions • What is most urgent to do to proceed on the short term preferred scenario? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results from hot spot polls ○ Short reports/comment from each or some hot spot ○ Discussions • Best solution or way forward today/in long term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Results from hot spot polls ○ Short reports/comment from each or some hot spot ○ Discussions
14.45-15.00	Wrap up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination – How results will be shared and disseminated • Networking? - PFAS-contaminated sites network • Feedback on the hot spot Web Conference format & Pilot Knowledge Exchange Activity