



August 2, 2021

*Chemical Prioritization Scoping  
Department of Environmental Quality*

*NC DEQ approach to identifying the most pressing contaminants in the state*



# *The Chemical Priority Scoping Process*

## **Step One:**

- For NCDEQ, the process starts within each Division – Air Quality, Waste Management, Water Resources.
  - Each Division identifies its most pressing contamination issues .
    - Based on human exposure, toxic potential, federal guidelines, forthcoming federal guideline revisions, current events/natural disasters, etc.

# *The Chemical Priority Scoping Process*

## **Step Two:**

- All divisions will meet and discuss the priorities overall for DEQ.
  - This includes determination of pending EPA guidance updates, and other relevant forthcoming information.

## **Step Three:**

- Divisions meet with DEQ leadership to gain approval/acceptance of the selected contaminants.

# *The Chemical Priority Scoping Process*

## **Step Four:**

- Meet with DHHS to discuss the selected contaminants.
- Come to a consensus about the collective priorities to address.
- Determine which issues require input from the SSAB and which can be handled through the two Departments.

## **Step Five:**

- Develop Charge to SSAB.

# *Subject Areas Currently Being Evaluated by NCDEQ*

## Preliminary Scoping within Divisions August 2021

# *PFAS Disposal – DWM*

- Disposal of PFAS contaminated soil, AFFF bulk containers, and other contaminated wastes
- This is an issue for many entities currently that are working toward a solution
  - Department of Defense
  - Local Firefighting Departments
  - Areas of redevelopment
  - Many other states
- Lined-landfills accept some PFAS-containing materials
  - Screening levels prior to entry into the landfill are being discussed
  - Landfill leachate screening levels are also being considered
- Many entities want to know “How much is OK?”

# *Current and Future Ambient Air Levels (AALs) – DAQ*

- Several compounds are undergoing review by the EPA.
- Example:
  - Ethylene Oxide- EPA is reconsidering a national rule on the basis that a new risk assessment from TCEQ has become available.
- Recommendation:
  - Wait for EPA's final actions and risk assessments.



# *Questions*



*Department of Environmental Quality*

