



MDE Conducting PFAS Testing at Wastewater Plants May 2021

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has begun work on developing a PFAS footprint, which, consistent with recommendations made by participants at the Fall 2020 PFAS Roundtable, will include a study to “assess the presence of PFAS in wastewater treatment plants, biosolids land application sites, and landfill leachate.” As an initial step, MDE has reviewed the types of industrial users that may be sending PFAS to wastewater treatment plants. MDE is planning to talk with each of the plants receiving those industrial inputs about taking samples to establish a baseline on PFAS discharges. MDE has started discussions on baseline monitoring with facilities that currently have an application in for a discharge permit reissuance.

If the baseline sampling shows higher levels of PFAS, MDE will ask the WWTP to talk with their industrial users about reducing those levels. At this time MDE has not defined what will constitute a “higher level” of PFAS.

MAMWA is following this important issue and will continue to report back to Members as events warrant.