

TURA Administrative Council Meeting

May 21, 2025

1:00pm – 3:00pm

The TURA Administrative Council convened remotely on May 21, 2025, over Zoom.

Council Members Attending (attendance taken by roll call):

Stephanie Cooper, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)

Greg Cooper, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

Michael Flanagan, Department of Labor Standards (DLS)

Jacob Nunnemacher, Department of Fire Services (DFS)

Meg Blanchet, Department of Public Health (DPH; serving as alternate)

Layla D’Emilia, Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation

Meeting Attendees (recorded by participant list):

EEA: Rebecca Mulrean

DEP: Lynn Cain, Rebecca Dolan

OTA: Caredwen Foley, Kari Sasportas, Tiffany Skogstrom, Elisheva Thoreen

TURI: Colin Hannahan, Hayley Hudson, Heather Tenney, Baskut Tuncak

Other attendees:

- Karen Blood
- Wismelda Perez
- Kayla Powers
- Carol Holahan
- Christina Bramante
- Michael Barry
- DL Bushway
- Genevieve Kaplan
- Jerome Lang
- Liz Gugliotti
- Liz Harriman
- 508-962-5576

Welcome and Introductions

Council members were identified by roll call.

The Executive Director described the format for questions and discussion.

Vote to Approve December 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The Chair welcomed members and attendees. The minutes from the December 4 meeting were approved unanimously.

Vote to Approve Nine Recent TRI PFAS Additions to the TURA List

The Chair reiterated the statutory obligation to add all TRI additions to the TURA list. Nine PFAS have now been added to TRI, following a federal regulatory freeze. The freeze has now been lifted,

so the Council is free to vote on these additions.

A member asked whether this change applies to reporting year 2025, and whether filers would have to play catch-up halfway through the year. A program staff member clarified that that is for TRI reporting, but for TURA, the tracking would begin in calendar year 2026.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the additions, and carried unanimously.

Carbon Nanotubes and Carbon Nanofibers Policy Analysis Presentation

Staff from TURI presented the draft policy analysis on multi-and single-walled carbon nanotubes and carbon nanofibers, including:

- A history of the SAB's consideration and recommendation of the toxicity, and policy considerations informing the recommendation of a lower threshold for multi-walled carbon nanotubes, which were recommended as a higher-hazard substance with a suggested reporting threshold of 1 pound
- An estimation of potential users in Massachusetts
- TUR opportunities for carbon nanomaterials
- Other applicable regulations
- The implications and advantages of listing categories under TURA
- The expected costs to filers and program revenue that would result from the listing

Discussion was opened to Council members.

A member asked whether there are substitutes and alternatives for these substances. A program staff member responded that the applications are very specific, so on an application-by-application basis, there might not be a single material that might meet all the requirements, but there are many active lines of research to develop new materials or alter products to meet specifications and improve safety. The member also asked whether these would mostly be new filers, and how they would find out about the process. We have to appreciate that the cost is more than just the filing. Program staff acknowledged the concern and stated that typically when a new substance is added, the program would attempt to notify facilities in SIC codes likely to include users to alert them to the new requirements as well as to TURA program resources. It is also worth noting that there are other TUR techniques besides substitution, such as improved operation and maintenance, that can reduce use and limit exposure.

The Chair noted that the program could also do other types of outreach to raise companies' awareness about the new additions. OTA's Director stated that OTA has contacts it can use to communicate about these changes, including not only companies but trade associations and other stakeholders. The Chair also asked whether TURI has learned anything about the efficacy of the European reporting programs or any other lessons learned that the program can take to heart. A TURI staff member responded that it was informative to see how the lower thresholds were more effective to gather useful information. It was also helpful to learn about how the EU entities sought out specific information like the shape or other characteristics of nanomaterials, and that it was very difficult for them to obtain that information, but that TURA does not require the same specificity of information.

A member asked for confirmation that the anticipated filers are not expected to already be TURA filers, as well as whether they were small or large operations. Program staff confirmed this, reiterated that new filers would be subject to the facility fee as well as the per-chemical fee, and replied that all anticipated filers for these substances appear to have under 50 employees. Program staff also clarified that only the multi-walled carbon nanotubes would be affected by the 1 lb. threshold; some of the identified potential filers would likely not fall above the usage threshold. The member expressed a desire to learn more about the potential new filers and about how listing would affect them.

A member asked whether there are plans for outreach to potentially-affected facilities before this makes its way through the process for a vote. Program staff noted that stakeholders including potentially affected facilities are already receiving information about these public meetings, and will also receive this information during the public participation process, of which the Council vote is the first step.

TURA Program Update

The Executive Director provided an update on program activities, including the open public health seat on the Advisory Committee; the outcomes of the Ad Hoc Committee process, including the program's economic health, the cost of planning, and the TUR plan review pilot; and potential additions to the TURA list.

TURI staff offered updates on recent TSCA rule changes; the effects of recent federal funding cuts on TURA activities; TURI grants; TURI laboratory, training, and research activities; and the Science Advisory Board.

OTA staff offered updates on new projects, including developing tabletop exercises for chemical safety and climate change resiliency, update GIS maps, revitalize OTA's Right From The Start program for new and expanding businesses, and update its Massachusetts Clean Auto Repair Guide. OTA also provided updates on its environmental justice work and gave a staffing update.

DEP staff provided updates on Reporting Year 2024 TURA reporting, the upcoming TURA reporting training, and recent changes to the Toxics Release Inventory program. DEP also gave a staffing update.

The Chair invited any final questions or comments from members. A member asked if there was any discussion about the fees issue today. The Chair invited Tiffany Skogstrom to discuss follow-up from the Ad Hoc work. Skogstrom said that program staff plan to talk with planners who feel they have no way out of the program to initiate a pilot program, to consider planning cycles in light of roadblocks to TUR, and to help companies that perceive roadblocks with a second set of eyes. Skogstrom noted that the program also plans to examine the overall cost of TUR planning to understand the financial implications of changes to the funding structure, and wants to respond to stakeholder and filer concerns and needs during this time of economic turmoil.

The Chair invited any final questions or comments from attendees; none were offered.

Adjourn

The Director invited input following the meeting and thanked participants. The Chair invited any final comments. Meeting adjourned.