

A second House bill, HB20-1119, targeted the regulation of firefighting foam as a possible source of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, which accumulate in the human body and may cause adverse effects. The original bill raised drinking water sampling and wastewater data collection concerns. The amended bill ad-

dressed and appears to have satisfied the previously expressed concerns, Petersen said. See <https://ocn.me/v20n3.htm#dwsd> for more information. Due to the coronavirus, the April 1 legislative session was cancelled and may reconvene in late April.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.  
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Board meetings are normally held on the third Thursday of the month. The next board meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., April 16. The meeting will likely be held as a conference call or online video meeting; call (719)488-3603 or access [www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org) to receive up-to-date meeting information. The district office is located at

15850 Holbein Drive, Colorado Springs. When the directors meet in person, meetings are held in the district office conference room. See [https://www.donalawater.org/images/docs/PUBLIC\\_NOTICE\\_2020.pdf](https://www.donalawater.org/images/docs/PUBLIC_NOTICE_2020.pdf) for the meeting schedule.

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Monument Board of Trustees, March 2

## Additional radium treatment process request fails

By Allison Robenstein

Representatives of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) were present at the March 2 meeting of the Monument Board of Trustees to answer questions about radium in the town's drinking water. They said this was a chronic, long-term problem, not a sudden emergency. During the meeting, the trustees voted down two requests for water system improvements, both of which were approved in the 2020 budget, mostly it seems because the trustees wanted to see a finalized solution from Public Works to send to CDPHE for approval before money was spent.

The BOT did approve a water system infrastructure request.

Trustee Jim Romanello was noted absent.

### Question-and-answer session regarding radium in water

CDPHE and EPA employees answered questions from the public and the board regarding a radium increase in the water from Well 9.

**Background:** During the Feb. 18 board meeting, Trustee Jeffrey Bornstein began a discussion on the increasing levels of radium in Well 9. He and other trustees suggested the town was not in compliance with CDPHE requirements regarding radium.

Public Works Tom Tharnish disagreed, saying the Monument Water Department, which provides water to the town west of the interstate, has consistently tracked radium levels being discharged out of Water Treatment Plant (WTP) 3/9 for the last two years as part of CDPHE compliance quarterly sampling plan. Although the radium level has been rising slowly, on average the town is currently in compliance. See [www.ocn.me/v20n3.htm#mbot](http://www.ocn.me/v20n3.htm#mbot).

CDPHE Compliance Specialist Haley Orahood said her role is to ensure the town's drinking water meets the required standards. Also in attendance were Tom Simmons, CDPHE health assessor; Tyson Ingels, CDPHE lead drinking water engineer; and Dr. Bob Benson, EPA toxicologist Denver office.

The expert group explained it's not

uncommon to have radium in water because the element is found all along the Front Range, similar to the occurrence of radon. Orahood said, "We do have a number of water systems in El Paso County that I personally do compliance for, probably about the range that Monument has," that have had to be treated for radium.

Benson said he reviewed Monument's data from the last four quarters and said the "combined risk of drinking

this water in a lifetime is five in 100,000, meaning it is possible that five people in 100,000 could get cancer from drinking the water for their lifetime." He added that the normal risk of developing cancer over a lifetime living in the U.S. is 1 in 3 or 1 in 4.

Benson was asked if he would drink the water in Monument, and he replied, "If I lived in this community, I would drink the water. If it had a bad flavor though, I wouldn't drink it."

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