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RESEARCH FOCUS ON DR. SUSAN RICHARDSON

Energy extraction and utilization practices, including conventional oil and gas, hydraulic fracturing, and coal-fired power plants produce large amounts of wastewater that contain high levels of bromide and iodide. Whether intentional or accidental, these wastewaters are often discharged to surface waters, leading to elevated bromide and iodide levels. At downstream drinking water treatment plants, these elevated halide levels lead to the formation of brominated and iodinated disinfection by-products (DBPs), which pose a greater risk to human health than their chlorinated analogues.

In this multi-lab collaboration, our objectives are to investigate the toxicological impacts of elevated bromide and iodide levels resulting from these energy extraction and utilization processes on ecosystems

PROJECT TITLE

NSF Collaborative Research: Impacts of Energy Extraction and Coal-Fired Power Plants on Disinfection By-Product Formation in Water

AIM

Characterize and quantify brominated and iodinated disinfection by-products formed in source waters, determine human and ecological health risks, use modeling to establish and quantify the linkage between waters and human exposures, and estimate maximum loadings of bromide and iodide that will minimize human risks.

AWARD ABSTRACT

https://www.nsf.gov/awardsearch/showAward?AWD_ID=1438625

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and human health, identify and quantify brominated and iodinated DBPs formed, and estimate maximum bromide and iodide discharge levels to minimize human and ecological risks.

As part of this \$330K NSF CBET grant, our lab is comprehensively characterizing and quantifying DBPs in waters impacted by coal-fired power plants and oil and gas wastewater. We collaborate with toxicologists who are working to assess the human health risks associated with DBPs formed in these waters, ecotoxicologists who study the impact of elevated bromide and iodide in surface waters on ecosystems, and engineers who will use modeling to estimate maximum loadings of halide discharge to protect human and environmental health.

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