Desk Statement
PFAS Toxicity Discussion
March 9, 2018

On Friday, March 9, 2018, EPA briefed the Environmental Council of States (ECOS) and federal agencies with an interest in Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) on EPA's initial process for developing toxicity values that will be protective of human health for two PFAS chemicals of interest to states and regions: Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS) and GenX.

EPA scientists will evaluate the available toxicological data for PFBS and GenX to identify potential human health effects associated with exposure, and to establish a toxicity value for each chemical where adequate data are available. Specifically, these assessments will each develop an estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of a daily oral exposure to the human population, including sensitive subgroups, that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of harmful effects during a lifetime (oral reference dose).

The PFBS and GenX toxicity assessments will inform our understanding of what potential health effects are caused by these chemicals (hazard identification) and what health effects occur at different exposure doses and durations (dose-response assessment).

The PFBS and GenX human toxicity assessments will be used by state, tribal, and federal risk assessors to evaluate risk for specific sites and populations of interest. This will inform decisions to protect human health and the environment and enable appropriate risk communication to states, stakeholders, and citizens.