Protecting Public Health & Addressing PFAS Chemicals

https://epa.gov/pfas

EPA is committed to supporting states and tribes to address Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) like PFOA and PFOS. EPA is collecting and assessing the available data on these chemicals and alternative chemicals like GenX, to share information with the public.

Is My Water Safe to Drink?

- Over 91 percent of the population supplied by community water systems receives drinking water that meets all health-based standards all of the time.
- Customers who are concerned about their drinking water should contact their water utility – which can provide information on the contaminants they test for, possible known health effects, and the source of your drinking water.
- If you own a private well: Even if you have safe, pure water, regular testing of household wells is highly recommended. To learn more: www.epa.gov/privatewells.

PFAS in Drinking Water

- EPA has recently formed an Agency-wide committee to address PFAS.
- EPA has established non-regulatory drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS based on the agency's assessment of the latest peer-reviewed science. These advisories provide drinking water system operators, and state, tribal and local officials who have the primary responsibility for overseeing these systems, with information on the health risks of these chemicals, so they can take the appropriate actions to protect people.
- EPA has collected data on six PFAS substances in public drinking water systems and is evaluating this information to determine the next steps to protect public health.

Alternative/Replacement PFAS Chemicals

- U.S. manufacturers committed to voluntarily phasing out the manufacturing of PFOA and PFOS completely by 2015. EPA remains focused on the health and safety of alternative /replacement chemicals, including GenX.
- The Agency is ramping up its work to gather and evaluate additional scientific information about chemicals, like GenX, to identify risks and determine if it is necessary to set drinking water health advisory levels or take other actions.

GenX in North Carolina

- In its review of the GenX Pre-manufacture Notice (PMN), EPA determined that the chemical could be commercialized if the conditions of the consent order were met. Other replacements for older PFAS chemicals submitted as PMNs also went through review.
- EPA has initiated an investigation into Chemours' compliance with a 2009 order issued under the Toxic Substances Control Act for the production of GenX to determine if the company is in compliance with the order to control releases at the Fayetteville facility.
- EPA has received the data from Chemours and is using it to update its risk assessment.
- At the request of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, EPA is also performing independent laboratory analysis for GenX and several other compounds in water samples being collected by NCDEQ along the Cape Fear River, including: wastewater, surface water, ground water, and treated drinking water samples.
- EPA will also continue to coordinate with the state to ensure that Chemours appropriately addresses the issues raised in the Notice of Violation the state issued on November 13.