PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

JUNE 10, 2022

R4 Items:

R4 EPA/States Meeting - our next meeting will take place **Wednesday, June 29 from 11AM-Noon ET.** EPA will provide Roadmap updates. *Suggestions for additional topics continue to be welcomed, please email Aaryn Jones.*

NCDEQ's Action Strategy for PFAS: Congratulations to NCDEQ on the release of their new Action Strategy for PFAS on June 6. The plan contains three priorities: protecting communities, protecting drinking water and cleaning up existing contamination **Press release here.**

General EPA items:

TSCA Test Order: On June 6, EPA announced the first TSCA test order issued under the National PFAS Testing Strategy to require companies to conduct and submit testing for PFAS. EPA selected 6:2 Fluorotelemer Sulfonamide betaine for the first test order, which has been manufactured/imported in significant quantities (more than 25,000 pounds in a given year) according to TSCA Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) rule reports. This chemical substance is a surfactant used to make commercial fire-fighting foams and may be found in certain floor finishes. EPA's news release is here, including links to the test order itself and associated docs.

2022 Draft Aquatic Life Criteria for PFOA and PFOS:
EPA has extended the public comment periods for the published draft national recommended aquatic life criteria for both PFOA and PFOS in freshwater for an additional 30-days, through July 2, 2022.

Other Federal Agency Items:

DoD Posts Drinking-Water Sampling Data: To comply with Section 345 of the FY22 National Defense Authorization Act, DoD has begun to post reporting of off-base drinking-water PFAS sampling results it conducts at military sites across the U.S. Click here to learn more, and scroll to the bottom to search by state.

If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

MAY 27, 2022

R4 Items:

R4 EPA/States Meeting - our next meeting will take place **Wednesday, June 29 from 11AM-Noon ET.** Invitation and Agenda forthcoming. EPA will provide Roadmap updates. *Suggestions for additional topics welcomed, please email Aaryn Jones by Friday, June 10.*

General EPA items:

ICYMI - Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) News Release: On May 18, EPA's press release regarding the addition of five PFAS to the List of Regional Screening and Removal Management Levels went out. An email summary of key points was distributed to the R4 EPA/States PFAS workgroup last week, and is also attached to this week's PFAS Update distribution email.

EPA Ecolabel/Standards webpage:
EPA recently released a chart that characterizes how standards/ ecolabels included in EPA's Recommendations of Specifications, Standards and Ecolabels for Federal Purchasing address PFAS. The Recommendations help purchasers identify and use private sector environmental performance standards and ecolabels within federal procurement to help them meet various sustainability goals and requirements.

Review Article on Historical and Current Uses of PFAS Chemicals: On May 25, EPA's own Linda Gaines (OLEM) published an article entitled "Historical and current usage of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): A literature review". In the supplementary information, there is a useful Excel table that compiles the various use references by chemical. Both the article and table are directly attached to the PFAS Update distribution email in case anyone has limitations accessing via the link above.

If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

APRIL 28, 2022

General EPA items:

Office of Water News Release: On April 28, EPA announced three Roadmap actions

Draft Method 1621: EPA's new *Screening Method for the Determination of Adsorbable Organic Fluorine (AOF) in Aqueous Matrices by Combustion Ion Chromatography (CIC)* provides an aggregate measurement of chemical substances that contain carbon-fluorine bonds. This new method is especially useful for understanding the presence and forms of PFAS in wastewater when used in conjunction with methods that target individual PFAS and has successfully completed single laboratory validation. For more information on the Draft Method 1621, visit CWA Analytical Methods for Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS)

EPA Memo: *Addressing PFAS Discharges in EPA-Issued NPDES Permits and Expectations Where EPA is the Pretreatment Control Authority.* This memo provides instructions for monitoring provisions, analytical methods, the use of pollution prevention, and best management practices to address discharges of PFAS. For more information on the NPDES memo, visit: Industrial Wastewater

Aquatic Life Criteria: EPA is proposing the first Clean Water Act aquatic life criteria for PFOA and PFOS. States and Tribes may use EPA-recommended water quality criteria to develop water quality standards that protect and restore waters, issue permits to address PFAS discharges, and assess the impact of PFAS pollution on local communities and the environment. For more information on aquatic life criteria for PFOA and PFOS, visit: Aquatic Life Criteria - Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Aquatic Life Criteria - Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS)

PFASTT database: In February, ORD released the PFAS Thermal Treatment Database (PFASTT). PFASTT is a growing database that contains over 2,000 records of 80 sources documenting the treatability of PFAS in different media via various thermal processes.

PFAS Science bimonthly call: Took place this past Monday, April 25. Two presentations are attached to the newsletter email (PA's MCL Proposal and EPA's PFASTT tool). EPA ORD hosts a bimonthly call with our state partners at ECOS and ASTHO on PFAS science. Topics include analytical methods, human health and toxicity, site characterization, exposure, remediation and treatment. If you would like to present on an upcoming call, please contact Lisa Matthews. If you would like to be added to the email distribution list for these calls, please send requests to Erin McCabe. Next call is **June 27, 4PM ET**.

Draft IRIS assessment for PFHxA: This week, ORD announced an upcoming peer review meeting for the draft IRIS assessment of PFHxA. The peer review meeting will take place via Zoom and is open to anyone who would like to attend as an observer and will include a brief public comment period on Day 1: Monday, May 16, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT; Day 2: Tuesday, May 17, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EDT. Deadline to register to present oral comments is **May 9, 2022**.

Previous Updates, with upcoming dates:

SAB PFAS Review Panel releases Draft Report and upcoming public meetings: On April 1, the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) released the PFAS Review panel's draft report (attached to email) and announced that public meetings will be held on **May 3 from Noon-5PM ET, and May 6 from 1PM-5PM ET**. The SAB PFAS Review Panel will discuss their draft report reviewing the EPA's four documents about (1) the health effects data to inform the derivation of proposed Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG) for PFOA and PFOS; (2) the analysis of health risk reduction benefits of potential decreases in drinking water concentrations of PFOA and PFOS and (3) approaches to assess the cumulative risk among mixtures of PFAS.

If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

APRIL 15, 2022

Region 4 Items:

R4 EPA/States Meeting - Thursday, April 28 from 11AM-Noon ET. R4 will provide Roadmap updates, and a PFAS Methods update (consideration/challenges with Draft Method 1633 and other R4 Lab PFAS Method capabilities). *Suggestions for additional topics welcomed, please email Aaryn Jones.*

General EPA items:

SAB PFAS Review Panel releases Draft Report and upcoming public meetings: On April 1, the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) released the PFAS Review panel's draft report (attached to email) and announced that public meetings will be held on **May 3 from Noon-5PM ET, and May 6 from 1PM-5PM ET**. The SAB PFAS Review Panel will discuss their draft report reviewing the EPA's four documents about (1) the health effects data to inform the derivation of proposed Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG) for PFOA and PFOS; (2) the analysis of health risk reduction benefits of potential decreases in drinking water concentrations of PFOA and PFOS and (3) approaches to assess the cumulative risk among mixtures of PFAS.

President's Proposed FY23 Budget: On March 30, a White House press release announced the requested funding for "Tackling Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Pollution" in the Proposed FY23 Budget". *As part of the President's commitment to tackling PFAS pollution, the Budget provides approximately $126 million in FY 2023 for EPA to increase its understanding of human health and ecological effects of PFAS, restrict uses to prevent PFAS from entering the air, land, and water, and remediate PFAS that have been released into the environment. EPA will continue to act on the Agency's PFAS Strategic Roadmap to safeguard communities from PFAS contamination.*"

New ECOS White Paper on State PFAS Standards: On April 1, ECOS released an updated version of their white paper on state PFAS standards. Link to ECOS's updated white paper.

PFAS Definitions Publication: On April 5, an article authored by EPA scientists was published that explores the various lists and definitions of "PFAS" chemicals. The title of the publication is: "Assembly and Curation of Lists of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) to Support Environmental Science Research". The publication is open access and available here.

Previous Updates, with upcoming dates:

Environmental Justice Considerations Related to Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS: Public comments related to environmental justice and the development of the proposed Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for PFAS can be submitted through April 20.

If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

MARCH 18, 2022

General EPA items:

Amendment of Standards and Practices for All Appropriate Inquiry: EPA is taking direct final action to reference ASTM International's E1527-21 "Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process" and allow for its use to satisfy the requirements for conducting all appropriate inquiries under the CERCLA. This rule is effective on **May 13, 2022**, without further notice, unless EPA receives adverse **comment by April 13, 2022**. Of note for PFAS (from the comparison document in the docket): *"Another significant difference of this new updated standard is the discussion around emerging contaminants. ASTM E1527-21 notes in Sections 13.1.5.15 and X6.10 that substances not defined as hazardous substance under CERCLA, including some substances generally referred to as emerging contaminants because human understanding is evolving (e.g., per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS), are not included in the scope of a Phase I report. However, emerging contaminants may want to be assessed in connection with commercial real estate, because once these contaminants are defined as a hazardous substance under CERCLA, then these substances must be evaluated within the scope of E1527-21."*

March 16 - EPA news release - Two TSCA Items:
TSCA Compliance Notification Letter to Industry on PFAS in High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) Containers

EPA notified manufacturers (including importers), processors, distributors, users, and those that dispose of fluorinated HDPE containers and similar plastics (i.e., fluorinated polyolefins) that the presence of PFAS formed as a byproduct in these containers may be a violation of TSCA. EPA has updated its webpage, now entitled "PFAS in Pesticide and Other Packaging", and you can also learn more about yesterday's action by visiting EPA's webpage for "Risk Management for PFAS under TSCA".

Removing PFAS from the Safer Chemical Ingredients List

EPA will also remove two PFAS first listed on the SCIL in 2012 under EPA's Safer Choice program to better protect consumers and ensure that products certified under this program are free from PFAS. Below are the CAS# and names of the chemicals.

34455-29-3	1-Propanaminium, N-(carboxymethyl)-N,N-dimethyl-3-[[(3,3,4,4,5,5,6,6,7,7,8,8,8-tridecafluorooctyl)sulfonyl]amino]-, inner salt
452080-67-0	Boron, trifluoro(tetrahydrofuran)-, (T-4)-, polymer with 3-methyl-3-[(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropoxy)methyl]oxetane, ether with 2,2-dimethyl-1,3-propanediol (2:1), bis(hydrogen sulfate), diammonium salt

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Previous Updates, with upcoming dates:

Public Meetings on Environmental Justice Considerations Related to Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS: First meeting was held March 2, and another opportunity coming up on April 5, 2022 (5-8PM ET). EPA invites the public to participate in two identical virtual public meetings related to environmental justice and the development of the proposed Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for PFAS. Click here for the Meeting Registration Link. Public comments can be submitted through April 20.

PFAS IRIS Assessment: On **February 2,** EPA released the **draft PFHxA** IRIS assessment for public comment. Click here for more information. The deadline for public comment is **April 4, 2022**.

If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

MARCH 10, 2022

General EPA items:

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law State Revolving Fund Implementation Memorandum released on March 7, 2022:

- EPA's memorandum outlines a strategy for collaborative implementation with state, local, and Tribal partners of $43 billion in water infrastructure funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including PFAS and Emerging Contaminants. The BIL provides $5 billion through the SRFs, with no state match required, to reduce people's exposure to PFAS and other emerging contaminants through their drinking water and to help address discharges through wastewater and, potentially, nonpoint sources.
- From the Memo: *For a project or activity to be eligible for funding under this appropriation, it must be otherwise DWSRF eligible and the primary purpose must be to address emerging contaminants in drinking water. Given the clear Congressional intent that these funds focus on projects addressing PFAS, EPA expects states to actively solicit and prioritize PFAS-focused projects. States, however, have the flexibility to fund projects for any contaminant in any of EPA's Contaminant Candidate Lists.*
- Register to attend two upcoming webinars for more information: **March 10, 2022** @ 4pm ET or **March 16, 2022** @ 2pm ET.

Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Press Release: On March 3, 2022, EPA released the 2020 TRI data, which included PFAS reporting for the first time. Facilities reported managing 800,000 pounds of PFAS chemicals in 2020, but of that, only around 9,000 lbs were reported as releases. EPA continues to work to better understand the seemingly limited scope of PFAS reporting. EPA plans to enhance PFAS reporting under the TRI by proposing a rulemaking this summer that would, among other changes, remove the eligibility of the de minimis exemption for PFAS.

Other Federal Agency Items:

New DOI Memo on PFAS Drinking-Water Sampling: On January 28, DOI sent a memo to DOI's subcomponents (Park Service, BLM, etc.) requiring initial PFAS drinking water sampling from all DOI drinking-water suppliers by the end of 2022, based on methods in EPA's fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. The memo also announces that DOI will discontinue purchasing PFAS-containing products, with a special focus on AFFF.

FDA Updates on PFAS in Food: FDA recently posted updated results from its efforts to test the general food supply for PFAS. Results are here (click "Testing Results for PFAS in Food from the General Food Supply").

- FDA's summary: *"As part of FDA's on-going testing of the general food supply for PFAS, we will be posting our fifth set of results from testing Total Diet Study samples (89 of 92 food samples had no detectable levels of PFAS. Three seafood samples— tilapia, cod, and shrimp—had detectable levels of certain PFAS. Based on the best available current science, the FDA has no scientific evidence that the levels of PFAS found in the TDS samples tested to date indicate a need to avoid any particular food.). We'll also note that we extended FDA's testing method to analyze for 20 types of PFAS (up from 16). In addition, we will share an update on the progress of the voluntary market phase-out of certain short-chain PFAS used in food packaging."*
- There is also an informative FDA webpage on authorized uses of PFAS in food contact applications.

Publication of USGS PFAS sampling data in Eastern US: Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Groundwater Used as a Source of Drinking Water in the Eastern United States Fourteen PFAS were detected in 254 groundwater samples from the eastern United States. Sixty and twenty percent of public-supply and domestic wells, respectively, contained at least one PFAS detection. Using these data, USGS scientists considered 57 additional chemical and land-use variables, which are known or suspected to be important factors for PFAS occurrence in groundwater. Of these 57 factors, tritium concentration, distance to the nearest fire-training area, percentage of urban land use, and concentrations of dissolved organic carbon and volatile organic compounds were the top five predictors of PFAS detections. Results indicate it may be possible to predict PFAS detections in groundwater using existing data sources.

Previous Updates, with upcoming dates:

Public Meetings on Environmental Justice Considerations Related to Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS: First meeting was held March 2, and another opportunity coming up on April 5, 2022 (5-8PM ET). EPA invites the public to participate in two identical virtual public meetings related to environmental justice and the development of the proposed Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for PFAS. Click here for the Meeting Registration Link. Public comments can be submitted through April 20.

EPA Release of Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR) 5: December 20 press release on final rule release; rule was published in the Federal Register on December 27. Public Webinars will be held **March 16 from 9AM-12:30PM ET, and March 17 from 1-4:30PM ET**. Click here to find more info and links to register.

PFAS IRIS Assessment: On **February 2**, EPA released the **draft PFHxA** IRIS assessment for public comment. Click here for more information. The deadline for public comment is **April 4, 2022**.

If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

FEBRUARY 25, 2022

Region 4 items:

EPA Region 4 States PFAS Points of Contact Meeting: Thank you for joining us for this week, and a big thanks to Tim Bahr with the FDEP Division of Waste Management for giving such a great update on their Draft PFAS Dynamic Plan! Tim's presentation slides are attached to the email.

General EPA items:

Upcoming PFAS Science bimonthly call: Monday, February 27, 4PM ET. EPA ORD hosts a bimonthly call with our state partners at ECOS and ASTHO on PFAS science. Topics include analytical methods, human health and toxicity, site characterization, exposure, remediation and treatment. If you would like to present on an upcoming call, please contact Lisa Matthews. If you would like to be added to the email distribution list for these calls, please send requests to Erin McCabe. Agenda topics for the **Feb. 27** meeting include: Middle Chickahominy Watershed PFAS Response (VA DOH); Other Test Method 45 and Related Work for PFAS Air Emissions (EPA ORD); and IRIS Toxicological Review of Perfluorohexanoic Acid and Related Salts (EPA ORD).

Previous Updates, with upcoming dates:

Public Meetings on Environmental Justice Considerations Related to Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS: March 2, 2022, (1-4PM ET) and April 5, 2022 (5-8PM ET). EPA invites the public to participate in two identical virtual public meetings related to environmental justice and the development of the proposed Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for PFAS. Click here for the Meeting Registration Link. Public comments can be submitted through April 20.

EPA Release of Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR) 5: December 20 press release on final rule release; rule was published in the Federal Register on December 27. Public Webinars will be held **March 16 from 9AM-12:30PM ET, and March 17 from 1-4:30PM ET**. Click here to find more info and links to register.

PFAS IRIS Assessment: On **February 2,** EPA released the **draft PFHxA** IRIS assessment for public comment. Click here for more information. The deadline for public comment is **April 4, 2022**.

EPA ORD Water Research Webinar: *Assessing the Toxicity of PFAS Chemicals to Aquatic Organisms.* ORD hosted a webinar on **February 23.** ***In case you missed it, recording available here.***

If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

Region 4 items:

Upcoming meeting with EPA Region 4 States PFAS Points of Contact — February 24, 2022 at 10AM ET. Draft agenda below. Please send additional agenda requests/topics to Aaryn Jones.

Welcome/Introductions – 5 minutes
EPA PFAS Roadmap updates – 5 minutes
FDEP Division of Waste Management PFAS Dynamic Plan Update – 10 minutes
PFAS Methods Update – 10 minutes
States Roundrobin updates/Open Discussion – 30 minutes

EPA STAR grantees publication: Researchers from the University of Florida recently published an article in *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry* that describes a new method to better characterize PFAS in the environment, including previously unreported species. **Title**: FluoroMatch 2.0—making automated and comprehensive non-targeted PFAS annotation a reality

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General EPA items:

Public Meetings on Environmental Justice Considerations Related to Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS: March 2, 2022, (1-4PM ET) and April 5, 2022 (5-8PM ET). EPA invites the public to participate in two identical virtual public meetings related to environmental justice and the development of the proposed Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for PFAS. Click here for the Meeting Registration Link. Public comments can be submitted through April 20.

General Updates:

The **Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC)** has updated its PFAS Technical and Regulatory Guidance Document. This update includes a broad expansion in the discussion of PFAS in several contexts, including naming conventions, bioaccumulation, treatment technologies and sampling and analytical methods.

Previous Updates, with upcoming dates:

PFBA draft IRIS assessment public peer review meeting: **February 22 at 10:30AM EST; February 23 at 10:30AM ET.** Click here to learn more and register. The deadline to register to attend the peer review meeting is Feb 23.The deadline to register for oral comments is Feb 15.

EPA Release of Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR) 5: December 20 press release on final rule release; rule was published in the Federal Register on December 27. Public Webinars will be held **March 16 from 9AM-12:30PM ET, and March 17 from 1-4:30PM ET**. Click here to find more info and links to register.

PFAS IRIS Assessment: On **February 2,** EPA released the **draft PFHxA** IRIS assessment for public comment. Click here for more information. The deadline for public comment is April 4, 2022.

EPA ORD Water Research Webinar: ***Assessing the Toxicity of PFAS Chemicals to Aquatic Organisms.*** The Office of Research and Development invites you to attend a free webinar on **Wednesday, February 23 from 2-3PM ET**. Feel free to share the flyer (attached to email) and/or forward the calendar invite. **Register here**

If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

FEBRUARY 4, 2022

Region 4 items:

Upcoming meeting with EPA Region 4 States PFAS Points of Contact — February 24, 2022 at 10AM ET. Meeting invite and agenda to follow. Please send agenda requests/topics to Aaryn Jones.

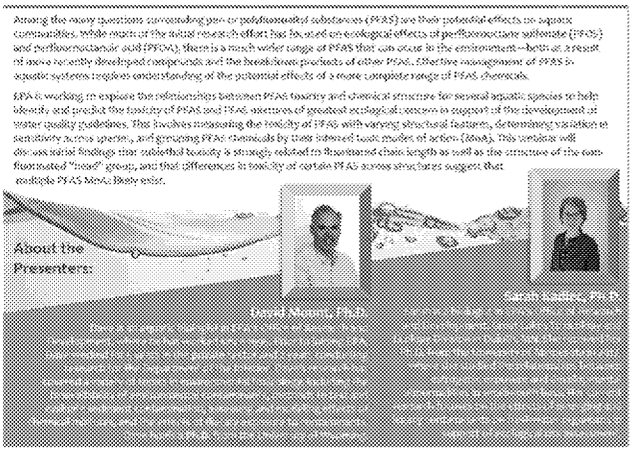
General EPA items:

Additional PFAS added to Toxics Release Inventory: PFBS and its potassium salt, along with two other PFAS, were added to the TRI, see press release here.

PFAS IRIS Assessment: On **February 2,** EPA released the **draft PFHxA** IRIS assessment for public comment. Click here for more information. The deadline for public comment is April 4, 2022.

PFAS BOSC Report: On January 26, EPA ORD received a report containing recommendations from EPA's Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) on the implementation of EPA's PFAS research and development activities. The report is available here.

EPA ORD Water Research Webinar: ***Assessing the Toxicity of PFAS Chemicals to Aquatic Organisms.*** The Office of Research and Development invites you to attend a free webinar on **Wednesday, February 23 from 2-3PM ET**. Feel free to share the flyer (attached to email) and/or forward the calendar invite. **Register here**



Previous Updates, with upcoming dates:

PFBA draft IRIS assessment public peer review meeting: **February 22 at 10:30AM EST; February 23 at 10:30AM ET.** Click here to learn more and register. The deadline to register to attend the peer review meeting is Feb 23.The deadline to register for oral comments is Feb 15.

EPA Release of Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR) 5: December 20 press release on final rule release; rule was published in the Federal Register on December 27. Public Webinars will be held **March 16 from 9AM-12:30PM ET, and March 17 from 1-4:30PM ET**. Click here to find more info and links to register.

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PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

JANUARY 14, 2022

Region 4 items:

EPA Response to NC PFAS Testing Petition: December 28 press release referencing ongoing work under the National PFAS testing strategy.

Training for ADEM on PFAS Analytic Tool (OECA GIS tool) - February 8, 10-11AM EST - OECA will provide virtual training to approximately 50 ADEM PFAS Committee Meeting Members. **Let me know if you would be interested in a similar training for your state.*

General EPA items:

SAB Review of PFOA/PFOS Drinking-Water Science: 4 public meetings recently took place (December 16, January 4, 6, and 7). Click here for meeting materials and public comments.

PFBA draft IRIS assessment public peer review meeting: February 22 at 10:30AM EST; February 23 at 10:30AM EST. Click here to learn more and register.

PFAS Explainers are live on EPA PFAS Website:

Three explainers have been posted on the Web – https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained. They cover:

Our current understanding of the human health and environmental risks PFAS

Increasing our understanding of the health risks from PFAS and how to address them

Meaningful and achievable action steps that can be taken to reduce risk

EPA Release of UCMR 5: December 20 press release on final rule release; rule was published in the Federal Register on December 27 Public Webinars will be held March 16 from 9AM-12:30PM EST, and March 17 from 1-4:30PM EST. Click here to find more info and links to register.

Other Federal Agency PFAS updates:

EPA OIG on PFAS Drinking Water: In its FY22 oversight plan, released on December 16, EPA OIG said it plans to "[d]etermine why the EPA has not established a mandatory limit for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, which are commonly known as PFAS, in drinking water; what challenges may prevent the EPA from setting such a limit; and what the EPA's plan—if one exists—is for implementing such a limit." OIG FY22 plan

USGS PFAS Strategy: "The U.S. Geological Survey released a strategy today [December 22] that outlines the agency's future scientific role in the study of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, chemicals known as PFAS." December 22 press release | Direct link to strategy

New DOE Guidance on Reporting PFAS Spills: Following up on a September memo from DOE's Deputy Secretary, DOE released a memo on December 7 on how DOE should report spills of PFAS-containing AFFF. (Memo is very technical and focused on DOE's internal database.) Link to memo

ATSDR Health Consultation Report on New Hampshire/Saint Gobain: Released on December 15 for public comment, concluding the pre-2016 drinking water PFAS levels could have increased the risk of harmful health effects for some community members, and noting that harmful exposures to PFAS in private wells have been minimized by providing alternate water and taking other actions. Press release

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If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

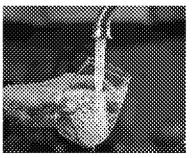
NOVEMBER 16, 2021

Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal - Emerging Contaminants Funding

On **November 15,** President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal into law. You can find general information on EPA's investments under the Deal here. please note that there is $4B for the Drinking Water SRF for Emerging Contaminants, $5B for Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Grants to address Emerging Contaminants, and $1B to the Clean Water SRF for Emerging Contaminants.

Notification of a Public Meetings of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Review Panel

On **November 10,** EPA published a Federal Register Notice announcing four public meetings of the SAB per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Review Panel (PFAS Review Panel) to review EPA's Proposed Approaches to the **Derivation of a Draft Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) in Drinking Water**; EPA's Proposed Approaches to the **Derivation of a Draft Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) in Drinking Water**; EPA's Analysis of Cardiovascular Disease Risk Reduction as a Result of Reduced PFOA and PFOS Exposure in Drinking Water; and EPA's Draft Framework for Estimating Noncancer Health Risks Associated with Mixtures of PFAS.



The public meetings of the SAB PFAS Review Panel will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2021, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 4, 2022, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 6, 2022, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, January 7, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All Times are EST. Closer to the date, the SAB webpage will be updated with meeting links.

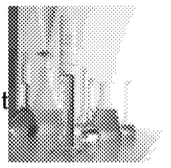
If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

NOVEMBER 10, 2021

GenX Chemicals Toxicity Assessment (added Public Webinar information and link below)



On **October 25**, EPA released a final human health toxicity assessment for GenX chemicals. The agency's final 2021 GenX assessment uses the state-of-the-art systematic review process, incorporates new data available since 2018, and applies revised uncertainty factors. These changes resulted in a lower, more protective toxicity value for GenX chemicals relative to EPA's 2018 draft toxicity assessment. EPA updated its GenX Human Health Toxicity Assessments Webpage and provided an informative Fact Sheet (see Table 2 below from the Fact Sheet that compares chronic reference doses for four PFAS).

EPA's release of the final GenX chemicals toxicity assessment is a key step toward developing a national drinking water health advisory for GenX chemicals, which the agency also committed to publishing in Spring 2022 as part of the PFAS Roadmap.

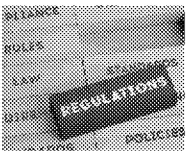
Table 2. Comparison of Reference Doses (RfDs) for Four PFAS

PFAS Chemical	Chronic RfD (mg/kg-day)
GenX chemicals (EPA 2021)	0.000003
PFBS (EPA 2021)	0.0003
PFOA (EPA 2016)	0.00002*
PFOS (EPA 2016)	0.00002*

*Note: EPA is currently reevaluating toxicity information for PFOA and PFOS and therefore this value is subject to change.

Please join EPA for a public webinar on the GenX Chemicals Human Health Toxicity Assessment on November 12, 2021 from 10:00am – 11:00am EST.

Notification of a Public Meetings of the Science Advisory Board (SAB) Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Review Panel



On **November 10,** EPA published a Federal Register Notice announcing four public meetings of the SAB per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Review Panel (PFAS Review Panel) to review EPA's Proposed Approaches to the **Derivation of a Draft Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) in Drinking Water**; EPA's Proposed Approaches to the **Derivation of a Draft Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) in Drinking Water**; EPA's Analysis of Cardiovascular Disease Risk Reduction as a Result of Reduced PFOA and PFOS Exposure in Drinking Water; and EPA's Draft Framework for Estimating Noncancer Health Risks Associated with Mixtures of PFAS.

The public meetings of the SAB PFAS Review Panel will be held on Thursday, December 16, 2021, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 4, 2022, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., Thursday, January 6, 2022, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, January 7, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. All Times are EST. Closer to the date, the SAB webpage will be updated with meeting links.

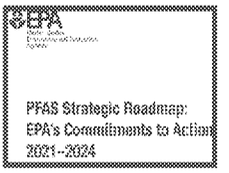
If you have questions about any items in this update, please contact Aaryn Jones via email at jones.aaryn@epa.gov or via phone at 470-423-2368.

PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

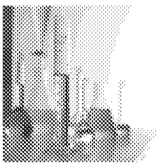
OCTOBER 27, 2021

EPA PFAS Strategic Roadmap



On **October 18**, EPA released the "PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitments to Action 2021-2024". Here are weblinks to EPA's press release and White House announcements on the Roadmap and PFAS actions. Please visit this link to view the entire video of Administrator Regan's announcement that was made right here in our Region. You can also join members of EPA's PFAS Council to learn more about the actions EPA plans to take by registering for the next week's webinar. Register to attend the November 2, 2021 webinar. Please also note that EPA PFAS webpage has been updated and there is a separate webpage on the Roadmap.

GenX Chemicals Toxicity Assessment



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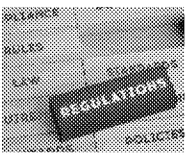
RCRA Corrective Action PFAS Update



On **October 26,** EPA announced that it will initiate the process to propose adding four PFAS chemicals as RCRA Hazardous Constituents under Appendix VIII of RCRA. These four PFAS include PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, and GenX.

If completed, this action would make these PFAS subject to RCRA corrective action requirements, and would be a key step toward listing them as hazardous wastes. EPA also announced that the Agency will initiate a separate rulemaking proposal to clarify in our regulations that the RCRA Corrective Action Program has the authority to require investigation and cleanup for wastes that meet the statutory definition of hazardous waste, as defined under RCRA section 1004 (5). This modification would clarify that emerging contaminants such as PFAS can be cleaned up through the RCRA corrective action process.

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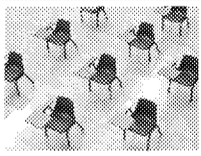
PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

OCTOBER 8, 2021



Total PFAS Analysis for Public Health Protection: Science, Applications, Benefits, and Challenges Virtual Workshop

Wednesday & Thursday, October 27 and 28, 2021; 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EDT each day

Registration Is Now Open!! Take the opportunity to reserve your virtual seat!

Non-targeted and other total PFAS analytic methods are being increasingly employed to more thoroughly characterize the total quantity and type of PFAS compounds that may be present in the environment.

* Get an overview of the state-of-the-science methods for environmental monitoring of PFAS
* Review techniques, analytics, and potential applications of total PFAS analysis: Non-Targeted Analysis (NTA), Total Organic Fluorine Assay (TOF), and Total Oxidizable Precursors (TOP)
* Explore the feasibility and effective implementation of total PFAS analysis technology transfers
* Determine how total PFAS data analysis and interpretations can be applied to your specific needs
* Learn from case studies from around the country that highlight the benefits and challenges of each analytical method for total PFAS
* Provide input on state and regional-level issues related to PFAS analytical methods

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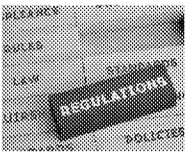
PFAS UPDATES

EPA Region 4

OCTOBER 1, 2021

Preliminary Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15

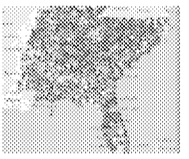


On **September 8**, EPA announced it is committing to limit PFAS in wastewater discharges by releasing the **Preliminary Effluent Guidelines Program Plan 15**, and has determined that revised **effluent limit guidelines (ELGs)** and pretreatment standards are warranted for:

- Organic Chemicals, Plastics and Synthetic Fibers category to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) discharges from **facilities manufacturing PFAS.**
- Metal Finishing category to address PFAS discharges from **chromium electroplating facilities.**

Also, Preliminary Plan 15 initiates detailed studies of PFAS discharges from the **Landfills and Textile Mills categories (including carpet manufacturers)**. Comments can be submitted on Preliminary Plan 15 through **October 14.**

PFAS Analytic Tools — Version 3.0 — Available NOW!



EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance is proud to announce **Version 3.0 release of PFAS Analytic Tools** – an application for Federal, state, local, and tribal agencies to analyze spatial and temporal data related to PFAS in the United States.

- Training for government employees will be on **October 26 from 2:30 to 4:00pm Eastern**. Please click here to register. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.
- **Please register using your EPA, state, or local government email address** - this webinar is for governmental employees only, please only share with those in your organization. "This webinar contains non-public law enforcement techniques, procedures or guidelines – confidential, do not distribute outside your organization."

To Access the App:

- Navigate to EPA's ECHO website.
- Log-in to ECHO Gov. Please visit https://echo.epa.gov/user/help to register or for issues with access.
- Navigate to the PFAS data navigation page through the Analyze Trends Button on the homepage or go to the following URL: https://echo.epa.gov/trends/pfas-analytics

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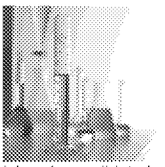
EPA PFAS Methods Update



SW-846 Method 8327 and 3512 (Hazardous Waste Test Methods):
SW-846 Methods 3512 and 8327 were validated together for 24 PFAS in **surface water, groundwater, and wastewater**. The final versions were published in the SW-846 Compendium on July 30, 2021 and are available for use.

Draft Method 1633:
On September 2, EPA announced that a partnership between EPA and the Department of Defense's Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program has produced draft Method 1633, a single-laboratory validated method to test for 40 PFAS compounds in **wastewater, surface water, groundwater, soil, biosolids, sediment, landfill leachate, and fish tissue.** EPA and DoD will continue to collaborate to complete a multi-laboratory validation study of the method in 2022. This draft method can be used in various applications, including National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The method will support NPDES implementation by providing a consistent PFAS method that has been tested in a wide variety of wastewaters and contains all the required quality control procedures for a Clean Water Act (CWA) method. While the method is not nationally required for CWA compliance monitoring until EPA has promulgated it through rulemaking, it is recommended now for use in individual permits.

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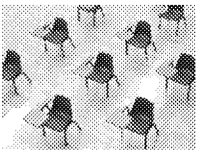

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