



DWA WG Update on EPA PFAS Actions

- July 12, 2022

What are PFAS?

- PFAS = per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
- Synthetic chemicals used by a broad range of industries
- Unique physical properties include:
 - Resistance to high and low temperature
 - Resistance to degradation
 - Nonstick characteristics
- PFOA and PFOS phased out in the 2000s
 - Replaced by GenX chemicals and PFBS in manufacturing

What are Drinking Water Health Advisories?

- Provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water
- Non-enforceable and non-regulatory
- Provide technical information to PWS operators
 - Health effects
 - Analytical methods
 - Treatment technologies

What are Drinking Water Health Advisories? (cont)

- Identify levels to protect all people, including sensitive populations, from adverse health effects resulting from a lifetime of exposure
- Take into account other potential sources of exposure beyond drinking water for additional protection

Summary of EPA's Four New PFAS Health Advisories

Chemical Name	Chemical Abbreviation	Lifetime Health Advisory Level (parts per trillion or ppt)
Perfluorooctanoic acid	PFOA	0.004 (Interim)
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid	PFOS	0.02 (Interim)
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid	GenX	10 (Final)
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	PFBS	2,000 (Final)

PFOA and PFOS

- In 2016, EPA published health advisories based on evidence available at the time
- The 2022 interim updated health advisories replace the 2016 advisories
- The 2022 advisories are based on human epidemiology studies in populations exposed to these chemicals

PFOA and PFOS (cont)

- The 2022 advisories are below the levels at which analytical methods can measure PFOA and PFOS
- The EPA Science Advisory Board is reviewing EPA's analyses
- The interim advisories are subject to change, but EPA does not anticipate changes that will result in advisories greater than the minimum reporting levels

GenX Chemicals and PFBS

- The 2022 advisories are based on final agency toxicity assessments (2021)

What are the EPA recommended actions for Drinking Water Systems?

Where Can I Learn More?

- EPA's drinking water health advisories: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-health-advisories-has>
- EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rules: <https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/>
- PFAS NPDWR consultations and stakeholder engagements: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>
- EPA's PFAS website: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

Where Can I Learn More? (cont.)

- EPA's stewardship program for PFAS related to the TSCA: <https://www.epa.gov/reviewing-new-chemicals-under-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca/pfas-low-volume-exemption>
- EPA's research activities on PFAS: <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/status-epa-research-and-development-pfas>
- The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's (ATSDR) Perfluorinated Chemicals and Your Health webpage: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

Funding to Address PFAS

- EPA is announcing \$1 billion (B) in grant funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
 - For communities on the frontlines of PFAS contamination
 - Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program
- \$3.4 B in funding through the Drinking Water SRFs/\$3.2 B in funding through the Clean Water SRFs
- For additional information on the SRFs, visit:
 - <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf>
 - <https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf>

Other EPA Actions Related to PFAS and Drinking Water

- Developing proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for PFOA and PFOS
 - Proposed rule expected to be issued in Fall 2022
 - Final rule expected to be issued in Fall 2023
- Evaluating additional PFAS and considering actions to address groups of PFAS
- UCMR5 requires monitoring for 29 PFAS between 2023 and 2025