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Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

NEW On March 14, 2023, EPA announced the proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA, commonly known as GenX Chemicals), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS). The proposed PFAS NPDWR does not require any actions until it is finalized. EPA anticipates finalizing the regulation by the end of 2023. EPA expects that if fully implemented, the rule will prevent thousands of deaths and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable illnesses.

EPA is requesting public comment on the proposed regulation. The public comment period will open following the proposed rule publishing in the Federal Register. Public comments can be provided at that time at www.regulations.gov  under Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114. Information on submitting comments to EPA dockets can be found here <<https://epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>>.

EPA held an informational general overview webinar of the proposed PFAS NPDWR on March 16, 2023, and will be holding another informational webinar about the proposed PFAS NPDWR specifically for water utilities and the drinking water professional community on March 29, 2023. Registration is required to attend. The webinar recordings and presentation materials will be made available following the webinars at this website. For questions related to the public webinars, contact PFASNPDWR@epa.gov.

- March 16, 2023 General Overview Webinar on the Proposed PFAS NPDWR
 -  General Overview Webinar Presentation: Proposed PFAS NPDWR (pdf)
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/pfas%20npdwr%20public%20presentation_overview_3.16.23_508.pdf> (861.12 KB, March 2023)
- March 29, 2023 (2:00-3:00 pm Eastern Time) Webinar Registration: Technical Overview of Proposed PFAS NPDWR  <<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drinking-water-professional-community-webinar-on-epas-proposed-pfas-npdwr-tickets-551527432397>>

EPA will also be holding a public hearing on May 4, 2023, where members of the public can register to attend and provide verbal comments to EPA on the rule proposal. Registration is required to attend and the last day to register to speak at the hearing is April 28, 2023. For questions related to the public hearing, contact PFASNPDWR@epa.gov.

- May 4, 2023 Proposed PFAS NPDWR Public Hearing Registration 
<<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/proposed-pfas-npdwr-public-hearing-tickets-549335536377>>

Summary

EPA is proposing a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) to establish legally enforceable levels, called Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs), for six PFAS in drinking water. PFOA and PFOS as individual contaminants, and PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS, and HFPO-DA (commonly referred to as GenX Chemicals) as a PFAS mixture. EPA is also proposing health-based, non-enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) for these six PFAS.

Compound	Proposed MCLG	Proposed MCL (enforceable levels)
PFOA	Zero	4.0 parts per trillion (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	Zero	4.0 ppt
PFNA	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index
PFHxS		
PFBS		
HFPO-DA (commonly referred to as GenX Chemicals)		

The proposed rule would also require public water systems to:

- Monitor for these PFAS
- Notify the public of the levels of these PFAS
- Reduce the levels of these PFAS in drinking water if they exceed the proposed standards.

Supporting Materials

-  Pre-Publication Federal Register Notice: PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (pdf) <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/pre-publication%20federal%20register%20notice_pfas%20npdwr_nprm_final_3.13.23.pdf> (2.02 MB, March 2023)

-  **Fact Sheet: EPA's Proposal to Limit PFAS in Drinking Water (pdf)**
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/fact%20sheet_pfas_npwr_final_3.14.23.pdf> (240.74 KB, March 2023)
 -  **بيان الحقائق: مقترح وكالة حماية البيئة للحد من استخدام مواد الالكايلات المشبعة (pdf)**
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/fact%20sheet_pfas_npwr_3.13.23%20ara_0.pdf> (326.76 KB, March 2023)
 -  **常見問題: PFAS 國家主要飲用水法規》提案常見問答 (pdf)**
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/public%20faqs_pfas_npwr_3.13.23_v1cht_0.pdf> (502.88 KB, March 2023)
 -  **常见问题: 拟议 PFAS 国家主要饮用水条例常见问题和解答 (pdf)**
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/public%20faqs_pfas_npwr_3.13.23_v1%20chs_0.pdf> (421.29 KB, March 2023)
 -  **HOJA INFORMATIVA: Propuesta de la EPA para limitar las PFAS en el agua potable (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/fact%20sheet_pfas_npwr_3.13.23%20spa.pdf> (251.25 KB, March 2023)
 -  **ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ БЮЛЛЕТЕНЬ: Предложение EPA об ограничении содержания PFAS в питьевой воде (pdf)**
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/fact%20sheet_pfas_npwr_3.13.23%20rus.pdf> (261.19 KB, March 2023)
 -  **Ang Mungkahi ng EPA na Limitahan ang PFAS sa Iniinom na Tubig (pdf)**
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/fact%20sheet_pfas_npwr_3.13.23_embargoed%20-%20tag.pdf> (225.06 KB, March 2023)
 -  **팩트 시트: 식수 유입 PFAS를 제한하는 EPA 제안서 (pdf)**
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/fact%20sheet_pfas_npwr_3.13.23_kor.pdf> (452.99 KB, March 2023)
 -  **Câu Hỏi Thường Gặp: Đề Xuất Quy Định Nước Uống Cơ Bản Quốc Gia PFAS Các Các Câu Hỏi và Đáp Thường Gặp (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/public%20faqs_pfas_npwr_3.13.23_v1%20vie.pdf> (377.21 KB, March 2023)

-  **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/public%20faqs_pfas_npdwr_final_3.14.23.pdf> (268.2 KB)
 -  **제안된 PFAS 국가 1차 식수 규정에 관한 자주 묻는 질문과 답변 (pdf)**
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/public%20faqs_pfas_npdwr_3.13.23_v1_kor.pdf> (477.67 KB, March 2023)
-  **Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation FAQs for Drinking Water Primacy Agencies (pdf)**
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/faqs_pfas_states_npdwr_final_3.14.23_0.pdf> (267.89 KB)
-  **Fact Sheet: Understanding the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Proposal Hazard Index (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/how%20do%20i%20calculate%20the%20hazard%20index._3.14.23.pdf> (157.93 KB)
- **EPA PFAS Drinking Water Health Advisories** <<https://epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>>
- **Press Release: Biden-Harris Administration Proposes First Ever National Standard to Protect Communities from PFAS in Drinking Water** <<https://epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-proposes-first-ever-national-standard-protect-communities>>
 -  **Chính Quyền Biden-Harris Đề Xuất Tiêu Chuẩn Quốc Gia Đầu Tiên để Bảo Vệ Cộng Đồng Khỏi PFAS trong Nước Uống (pdf)**
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/press%20release_pfas%20rule%20final%203.13.23_vie.pdf> (200.05 KB, March 2023)
 -  **바이든-해리스 정부에서 지역사회를 식수의 PFAS로부터 보호하기 위한 최초의 국가 기준 제안 (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/1_press%20release_pfas%20rule%20final%203.13.23%20-%20kor.pdf> (218.12 KB)
 -  **Iminungkahi ng Biden-Harris Administration ang Kauna-unahang Pambansang Pamantayan para Protektahan ang Mga Komunidad mula sa PFAS sa Iniinom na Tubig (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/1_press%20release_pfas%20rule%20final%203.13.23%20-%209am%20-%20tag_1.pdf> (129.07 KB)

Technical Materials

-  **Public Comment Draft: Proposed Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for PFOA (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/main_proposed%20mclg%20for%20pfoa%20in%20drinking%20water_3.9.23_for%20proposal.pdf> (12.83 MB)
-  **Public Comment Draft - Appendix: Proposed Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for PFOA (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/main_proposed%20mclg%20for%20pfos%20in%20drinking%20water_3.9.23_for%20proposal.pdf> (15.58 MB)
-  **Public Comment Draft: Proposed Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for PFOS (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/main_proposed%20mclg%20for%20pfos%20in%20drinking%20water_3.9.23_for%20proposal_0.pdf> (11.74 MB)
-  **Public Comment Draft - Appendix: Proposed Maximum Contaminant Level Goal for PFOS (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/appendix_proposed%20mclg%20for%20pfos%20in%20drinking%20water_3.9.23_for%20proposal.pdf> (13.18 MB)
-  **Framework for Estimating Noncancer Health Risks Associated with Mixtures of PFAS (pdf)** <<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/pfas%20mix%20framework%20public%20review%20draft%2009%20march%202023.pdf>> (3.24 MB)
-  **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal Summary Document for a Mixture of Four PFAS: GenX Chemicals, PFBS, PFNA, and PFHxS (pdf)** <<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/pfas%20hi%20mclg%20public%20review%20draft%2009%20march%202023.pdf>> (1015.7 KB)
-  **Economic Analysis for the Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/proposed%20pfas%20npdwr%20ea_final_03_09_2023_0.pdf> (5.65 MB)
-  **Economic Analysis for the Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation Appendices (pdf)** <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/appendices_proposed%20pfas%20npdwr%20ea_final_03_09_2023.pdf> (6.53 MB)

-  Response to SAB Recommendations on Draft Documents for the Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (pdf)
<https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-03/response%20to%20sab%20recommendations_3.9.23_for%20proposal_1.pdf> (912.77 KB, March 2023)
- All other Technical Support Documents for the Proposed PFAS NPDWR will be available at www.regulations.gov  under Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114 after the proposed regulation publishes in the Federal Register.

Background

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act <<https://epa.gov/sdwa>>, EPA has the authority to set enforceable National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) for drinking water contaminants and require monitoring of public water systems. In March 2021, EPA published Regulatory Determinations for Contaminants on the Fourth Contaminant Candidate List <<https://epa.gov/ccl/regulatory-determination-4>> which included a final determination to regulate PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. As a part of that final determination, EPA indicated it would also evaluate additional PFAS and consider regulatory actions to address groups of PFAS.

PFAS tend to co-occur with each other. This regulation will also remove many other PFAS when they co-occur with these six regulated PFAS. EPA is following recent peer-reviewed science that indicates that mixtures of PFAS can pose a health risk greater than each chemical on its own. Concurrent with the proposed PFAS NPDWR released on March 14, 2023, EPA also announced it is making preliminary regulatory determinations for PFNA, GenX Chemicals, PFHxS, and PFBS in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory development process. EPA proposes in to regulate PFNA, GenX Chemicals, PFHxS, and PFBS using a Hazard Index formula

PFAS NPDWR Consultations and Stakeholder Engagements

As required under the Safe Drinking Water Act and other federal Statutes and executive orders, EPA engaged in multiple consultations and stakeholder engagement activities as a part of the development of the proposed NPDWR for PFAS. Key consultations and engagements included:

- **Webinar on Preparing Communities to Engage in EPA's Upcoming Proposed PFAS Drinking Water Regulatory Process:** EPA held a public webinar on November 2, 2022, to provide information to communities about PFAS in drinking water, actions under the Safe Drinking Water Act to develop the proposed PFAS NDPWR, and how to participate in the rulemaking process and offer EPA input on the proposed rule once it is published.
 - Webinar Presentation: Preparing for Engagement in EPA's Upcoming Proposed PFAS Drinking Water Regulatory Process (English)  Preparing for Engagement in EPA's Upcoming Proposed PFAS Drinking Water Regulatory Process (pdf) <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/community%20webinar%20presentation%20nov%202022_508_final_english.pdf> (1.31 MB)
 - Presentación del Seminario Virtual: Preparando para la Participación en el Próximo Proceso de Regulación del Agua Potable de Sustancias de Perfluoroalquilo y Polifluoroalquilo (PFAS) propuesto por la EPA (Español)  Preparando para la Participación en el Próximo Proceso de Regulación del Agua Potable de Sustancias de Perfluoroalquilo y Polifluoroalquilo (PFAS) propuesto por la EPA (pdf) <https://epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/community%20webinar%20presentation%20nov%202022_508_final_spanish_1.pdf> (1.84 MB)
 - Webinar Recording: Preparing for Engagement in EPA's Upcoming Proposed PFAS Drinking Water Regulatory Process (English )
 - Grabación del Seminario Web: Preparando para la Participación en el Próximo Proceso de Regulación del Agua Potable de Sustancias de Perfluoroalquilo y Polifluoroalquilo (PFAS) propuesto por la EPA (subtítulos en Español )

- **Science Advisory Board (SAB):** EPA transmitted to the Science Advisory Board four draft documents with recent scientific data and new analyses that indicate that negative health effects may occur at much lower levels of exposure to PFOA and PFOS than previously understood. The draft documents presented EPA's initial analysis and findings with respect to this new information. EPA made these draft documents available to the public to ensure a transparent and robust evaluation of the available information.
 - For more information about these documents or the SAB review, including the SAB's final report, please visit the SAB website.
 - Press release: EPA Advances Science to Protect the Public from PFOA and PFOS in Drinking Water <<https://epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-advances-science-protect-public-pfoa-and-pfos-drinking-water>>
- **Environmental Justice Considerations for the Development of the Proposed PFAS NPDWR:** EPA held two identical virtual public meetings to share information and provide opportunities for communities to offer input on environmental justice considerations related to the development of the proposed PFAS NPDWR. The meetings were held on March 2, 2022, and April 5, 2022.
 - Federal Register Notice - Notice of Public Meeting: Environmental Justice Considerations for the Development of the Proposed PFAS NPDWR [↗](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/09/2022-02733/notice-of-public-meeting-environmental-justice-considerations-for-the-development-of-the-proposed)
<<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/09/2022-02733/notice-of-public-meeting-environmental-justice-considerations-for-the-development-of-the-proposed>>
 - EPA also accepted written public comments in the public docket. The docket can be found at: www.regulations.gov, Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114 [↗](#).
 - Meeting materials and meeting summaries for both meetings are available in the public docket.

- **Regulatory Flexibility Act/Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act:** EPA invited small entities, specifically public water systems serving 10,000 or fewer people, to participate as Small Entity Representatives (SERs) for a Small Business Advocacy Review (SBAR) Panel that focused on the Agency's efforts to develop a proposed PFAS NPDWR. When taking action on PFAS, EPA intends to ensure that small entities, particularly those in disadvantaged communities, are fully engaged in solutions. For more information about the SBAR panel, please see <https://www.epa.gov/reg-flex/potential-sbar-panel-pfas-national-primary-drinking-water-regulation> <<https://www.epa.gov/reg-flex/potential-sbar-panel-pfas-national-primary-drinking-water-regulation>>.
- **Other Consultations and Engagements:** EPA consulted with other stakeholders in 2022, including the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, State and Local Government Officials, Tribal Officials, and others.

Further Information

To learn more about PFAS and to find important background information to support understanding the details of specific actions EPA takes to address PFAS and other emerging events related to PFAS visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained> <<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>>.

Contact Us <<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/forms/contact-us-about-safe-drinking-water-act>> to ask a question, provide feedback, or report a problem.

LAST UPDATED ON MARCH 22, 2023



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