

USEPA Per- and Poly-Fluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan

February 2019



On February 14, 2019, USEPA published its Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan (www.epa.gov/pfas). The Action Plan provides a roadmap for USEPA's actions to address PFAS in municipal water supplies, at hazardous waste sites (both state and federal), and at Department of Defense sites. The PFAS Action Plan represents input from stakeholders throughout the country including 120,000 written comments received on the USEPA's May 2018 National Leadership Summit in Washington, DC.

Overall, the PFAS Action Plan identifies priority, short-term and long-term actions EPA plans to take to address PFAS in the environment.

Priority Actions (and estimated timeframes)

- Develop a regulatory determination for an MCL for PFOA and PFOS (end of 2019)
- List PFOA and PFOS as CERCLA hazardous substances (ongoing)
- Develop interim cleanup recommendations for PFOA and PFOS in groundwater (anticipated 2019)
- Finalize draft toxicity assessment for GenX and PFBS (2019)
- Develop toxicity values for PFBA, PFHxA, PFHxS, PFNA and PFDA (2020)
- Issue supplemental proposed Significant New Use Rules (SNUR) (ongoing)

Short-term Actions

EPA has indicated that it will implement these activities within 2 years.

- Understanding and Addressing PFAS Toxicity and Occurrence
 - Update USEPA's CompTox Chemistry Dashboard (ongoing)
 - Development of a new drinking water method for short-chain PFAS not measured by Method 537 (2019)
 - Develop and validate methods for matrices other than drinking water (2019-2021)

The actions, which may have the most immediate substantial impact at your site(s) are:

- 1) Determination of a PFOA and PFOS maximum contaminant level (MCL) for drinking water, and
- 2) Listing PFOA and PFOS as CERCLA hazardous substances.

These actions are expected to result in more thorough site investigations including sampling requests if it is suspected that PFAS was used/stored, and more specifically would require remedial action if concentrations exceeded MCLs or other regulatory limits.

- Participate in cross-federal-agency working group on PFAS (2019)
- Identifying and Addressing PFAS Exposures
 - Identify new and additional treatment and remediation options (2019)
 - Incorporate latest research into the EPA's online drinking water treatability database (ongoing)
 - Use federal enforcement authorities, where relevant and appropriate, to hold responsible parties accountable (ongoing)
 - Partner with ECOS to create an interactive map with publicly available data on PFAS sources and occurrence (2019)
- Risk Communication and Engagement
 - Coordinate an interagency PFAS risk communication workgroup (ongoing)
 - Create a risk communication toolbox to inform the public (2019)

Long-term Actions

- Explore the listing of PFAS chemical to the Toxics Release Inventory (start 2019)
- Determine if data supports the development of ambient water quality criteria (2021)
- Explore potential regulation through national ELGs (start 2019)
- Use new approaches to generate PFAS toxicology data (ongoing)
- Propose nationwide drinking water monitoring under the next UCMR monitoring cycle (anticipated 2020)
- Develop a data standards best practice to share monitoring data (start 2019)
- Where appropriate, develop benchmarks and threshold for ecological toxicity (2022)
- Understand potential for atmospheric transport of PFAS (2022)

Key contacts

For further information on how ERM can provide you with up-to-date PFAS information and solutions, please contact:

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