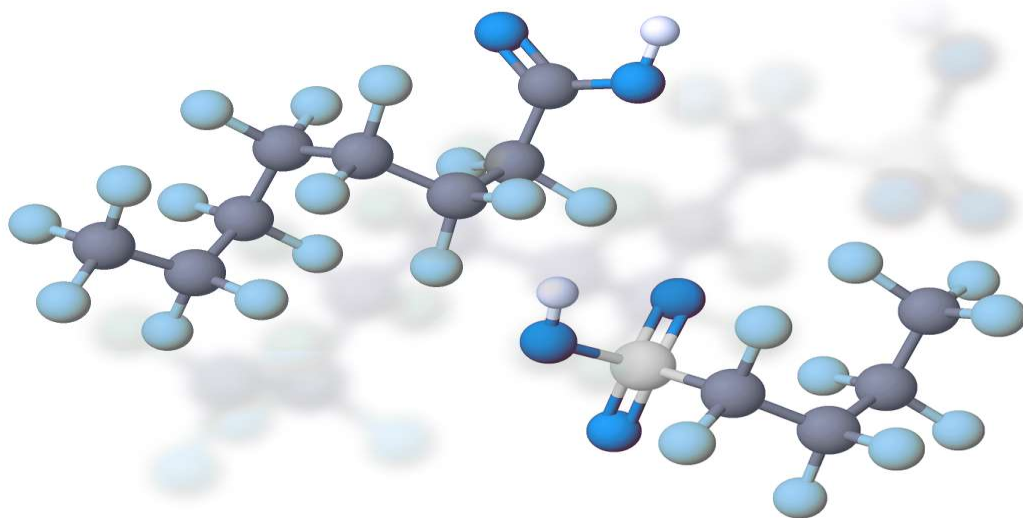


PFAS Background and Action Plan

July 24, 2020



Action Plan Background

- EPA's PFAS Action Plan was developed based on feedback from various community events in addition to information received from approximately 120,000 comments submitted to the public docket.
- The Action Plan is EPA's first multi-media, multi-program, national research, management and risk communication plan to address a challenge like PFAS.
- Over the past year, EPA has aggressively implemented the PFAS Action Plan and has made progress in all of the program areas.

Highlighted Actions

Drinking Water

- On February 20, 2020, EPA took another important step in implementing the Agency's PFAS Action Plan by proposing to regulate PFOA and PFOS drinking water.
- EPA is also asking for information and data on other PFAS substances, as well as seeking comment on potential monitoring requirements and regulatory approaches EPA is considering for PFAS chemicals.
 - The Agency will review and consider comments received on this action then take the next appropriate steps.
- On December 19, 2019, EPA accomplished a key milestone in the PFAS Action Plan by publishing a new validated method to accurately test for 11 additional PFAS in drinking water.
 - EPA's new validated Method 533 focuses on "short chain" PFAS, those PFAS with carbon chain lengths of four to 12. Method 533 complements EPA Method 537.1 and we can now measure 29 chemicals.

Highlighted Actions

Cleanup

- On December 19, 2019, EPA issued *Interim Recommendations for Addressing Groundwater Contaminated with PFOA and PFOS*, which provide guidance for federal cleanup programs (e.g., CERCLA and RCRA) that will also be helpful to states and tribes.
- The recommendations provide a starting point for making site specific cleanup decisions and will help protect drinking water resources in communities across the country.
- EPA will follow through on the regulatory development process for listing certain PFAS as hazardous substances under CERCLA.

Monitoring

- EPA will propose nationwide drinking water monitoring for PFAS under the next UCMR monitoring cycle.

Highlighted Actions

Toxics

- EPA added 172 PFAS to the Toxics Release Inventory and issued a supplemental proposal
 - On February 20, 2020, EPA released an updated list of 172 PFAS chemicals subject to Toxics Release Inventory reporting as required by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020.
 - On February 20, 2020, EPA issued a supplemental proposal to ensure that new uses of certain persistent long-chain PFAS chemicals in surface coatings cannot be manufactured or imported into the United States without notification and review under TSCA.

Highlighted Actions

Surface Water Protection

- EPA plans to develop national Clean Water Act human health and aquatic life criteria for PFAS, as data supports.
- EPA is examining available information about PFAS released into surface waters by industrial sources to determine if additional study is needed for potential regulation in this area.

Biosolids

- EPA will be developing risk assessments for PFOA and PFOS to understand any potential health impacts.

Highlighted Actions

Research

- EPA continues to compile and assess human and ecological toxicity information on PFAS to support risk management decisions.
 - EPA is completing peer-reviewed toxicity assessments GenX chemicals and PFBS.
 - EPA is developing peer-reviewed toxicity assessments for PFBA, PFHxA, PFHxS, PFNA, and PFDA to support stakeholders.
 - EPA is applying high-throughput toxicology testing to study the toxicity of the larger universe of PFAS.

Highlighted Actions

Research, continued

- EPA continues to develop new methods to test for additional PFAS in drinking water.
- The Agency is also validating analytical methods for surface water, ground water, wastewater, soils, sediments and biosolids; developing new methods to test for PFAS in ambient air and in emissions; and improving laboratory methods to discover unknown PFAS.
- EPA is developing exposure models to understand how PFAS moves through the environment to impact people and ecosystems.

Highlighted Actions

Research, continued

- EPA continues to assess and review treatment methods for removing PFAS in drinking water.
- EPA is working to develop tools to assist state and local officials with the cleanup of contaminated sites.
- EPA is evaluating the effectiveness of technologies and evaluating data on methods for managing the end-of life disposal of PFAS-contaminated materials e.g. via landfills, incineration, and other technologies.
- EPA is funding research to generate science-based recommendations for managing PFAS in rural and agricultural areas, and to expand the understanding of environmental risks posed by PFAS in water and waste streams.

Highlighted Actions

Enforcement

- EPA continues to use enforcement tools, when appropriate, to address PFAS exposure in the environment and assists states in enforcement activities.

Risk Communications

- EPA is working collaboratively to develop a risk communication toolbox that includes multi-media materials and messaging for federal, state, tribal, and local partners to use with the public.

Collaboration

EPA is collaborating with many federal and state partners to take action, including with:

- Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) to ensure state priorities are addressed.
- USDA and FDA to examine the impacts of PFAS on agriculture, rural communities, and food supplies.
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences' (NIEHS) National Toxicology Program on assessing PFAS toxicity.
- DOD on analytical methods and approaches for PFAS cleanup.

Thank you