

# PFAS: A Rundown of Regulations and an Analysis of EPA's PFAS Roadmap

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Barr Engineering Co. acollier@barr.com Jefferson City, MO Midwest Environmental Compliance Conference Overland Park, Kansas September 26-27, 2023 Federal regulatory development highlights

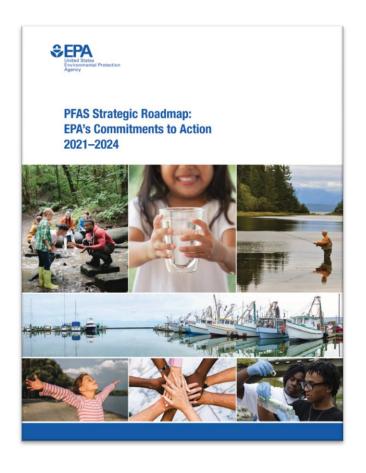
**Notable/nearby state actions** 

**Other Areas to Watch** 



## **EPA PFAS Strategic Roadmap**

- Released October 18, 2021
  - PFAS lifecycle
  - Prevent from entering environment
  - Hold polluters accountable
  - Science-based decision-making
  - Protect disadvantaged communities
- Multi-media focus
- Public engagement







## 2022 PFAS Accomplishments

- "Year of Progress" Report released November 2022
- Critical actions:
  - Proposed rule designating PFOS/PFOA "hazardous substances" under CERCLA
  - Issued drinking water health advisories for PFOA, PFOS, GenX, and PFBS
  - Issued first test order under National PFAS Testing Strategy
  - Distributed billions under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
- Another key action in December 2022 TRI de minimis proposed rule





## Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)

- ANPRM Designate seven additional PFAS (PFBAS, PFHxS, PFNSA, GenX, PFBA, PFHxA, PFDA) as CERCLA "hazardous substances" (April 13, 2023; extended comments to August 11, 2023)
- Reviewing comments received on NPRM designating PFOS/PFOA CERCLA "hazardous substances"







#### Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)

- Two rules currently under inter-agency review; have not been formally proposed:
  - White House OMB reviewing proposed rule to list PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, and GenX as RCRA "hazardous constituents"
  - White House OMB reviewing proposed rule clarifying RCRA corrective action authority







#### **Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)**

- Proposed Significant New Use Rule (SNUR) prevent resuming use of "inactive" PFAS without prior EPA review (January 2023)
- Proposed rule overhauling TSCA framework to prevent PFAS from qualifying for special low-volume and lowexposure exemptions (May 2023)
- New TSCA Section 5 framework for new PFAS and new uses of PFAS (as "PBT" chemicals)







#### **Clean Water Act (CWA)**

- Final Effluent Limitations Guidelines Plan 15 (January 2023)
  - But no specific proposal yet for certain industrial category
    PFAS ELGs (organic chemicals, plastics & synthetic fibers; metal finishing and electroplating; landfills; etc)
  - Electrical and Electronic Components category out for now







#### **Clean Water Act (CWA)**

- EPA Memo to address PFAS in EPA-Issued NPDES Permits (April 28, 2022)
- Draft Aquatic Life Water Quality Criteria for PFOA and PFOS (May 3, 2022)
- EPA Memo to States to address PFAS in NPDES permits (December 5, 2022)





## **Draft Aquatic Life Criteria – PFOA and PFOS**

| Criteria<br>Component | Acute Water<br>Column (CMC) <sup>1</sup>                              | Chronic Water<br>Column (CCC) <sup>2</sup>                            | Invertebrate<br>Whole-Body                                 | Fish Whole-<br>Body | Fish Muscle       |
|-----------------------|---|---|--|---------------------|-------------------|
| PFOA<br>Magnitude     | 49 mg/L   | 0.094 mg/L  | 1.11<br>mg/kg ww   | 6.10<br>mg/kg ww    | 0.125<br>mg/kg ww |
| PFOS<br>Magnitude     | 3.0 mg/L  | 0.0084 mg/L   | 0.937<br>mg/kg ww  | 6.75<br>mg/kg ww    | 2.91<br>mg/kg ww  |
| Duration              | 1-hour average  | 4-day average   | Instantaneous <sup>3</sup>                                 |                     |                   |
| Frequency             | Not to be<br>exceeded more<br>than once in three<br>years, on average | Not to be<br>exceeded more<br>than once in three<br>years, on average | Not to be exceeded more than once in ten years, on average |                     |                   |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Criterion Maximum Concentration.





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Criterion Continuous Concentration.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Tissue data provide instantaneous point measurements that reflect integrative accumulation of PFOA or PFOS over time and space in aquatic life population(s) at a given site.



#### 2022 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) – Health Advisories

- Non-binding, but influence MCL development
- PFOA 0.004 ppt
- PFOS 0.02 ppt
- PFBS 10 ppt
- GenX 2,000 ppt







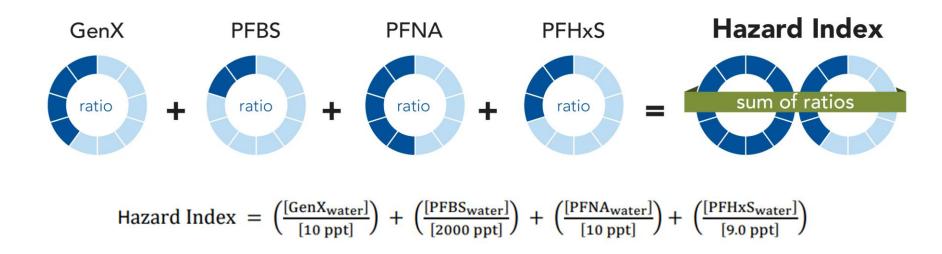
March 2023 SDWA – Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)

| PFAS  | MCLG                    | MCL   |  |
|-------|-------------------------|-------|--|
| PFOA  | 0                       | 4 ppt |  |
| PFOS  | 0                       | 4 ppt |  |
| GenX  |                         |       |  |
| PFNA  | Hazard Index (HI) = 1.0 |       |  |
| PFHxS | (unitless)              |       |  |
| PFBS  |                         |       |  |





## MCLs – Hazard Index and some implications



- MCLs are regulatory limits for treated water at Public Water systems – community and non-transient non-community
- Could impact NPDES effluent limits. Some state rules automatically adopt MCLs as

- Water Quality Criteria where there is a drinking water use ex: MN, ND, UT
- Will at least inform development of healthbased water quality criteria in other states
- Remediation targets



#### **SDWA - Final Regulatory Determination**

- Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR5, December 2021)
- Announced Contaminant Candidate List 5 (CCL5) on October 28, 2022
- Added PFAS as group/class 16 compounds added to list







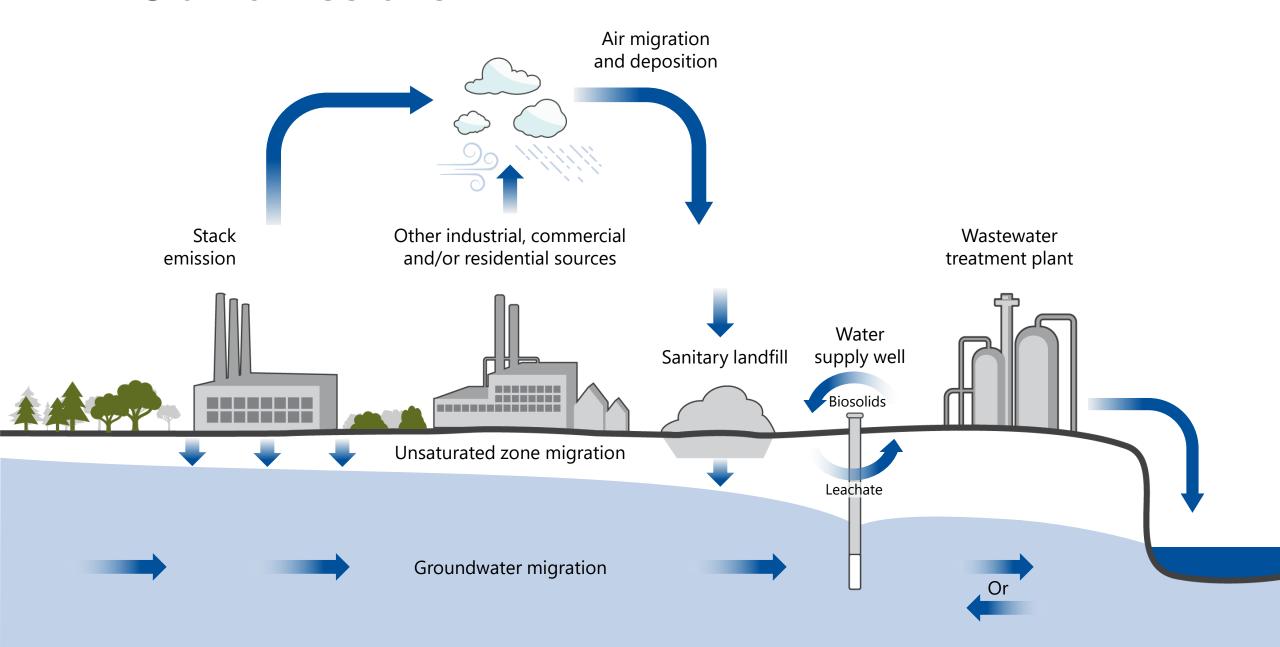
#### **Testing Methods**

- Draft Method 1633 all matrices except potable water
- Potable water existing Method 533 or 537.1
  - Methods are being used for non-potable water samples
- Accreditation (method) of labs vary
- Turnaround times: 3 21 weeks





#### **PFAS** air emissions



## PFAS regulatory developments - state



#### **Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)**

- December 5, 2022 Proposed Rule
  - De minimis threshold removal





#### Actions to Continue to Monitor in 2023 and Beyond

- CERCLA PFAS Hazardous Substance Rule
- RCRA two possible draft rules
- UCMR5 Monitoring under this rule 2023-2025
- SDWA MCLs/MCLGs
- Risk Assessment on PFOA/PFOS in Biosolids (2024)
- Clean Water Act
  - Aquatic Life Water Quality Criteria
  - Effluent Limit Guidelines for Industrial Categories (ELGs)





# Notable/nearby state actions





## PFAS developments - Missouri

- MDNR formed PFAS Stakeholder Workgroup in 2022, with recommendations end of 2023.
- Voluntary Monitoring program for NPDES permit holders ongoing
- Permit language proposed for NPDES permits for AFFF use and other BMPs
- MDNR posted public drinking water monitoring data in a geospatial database on website

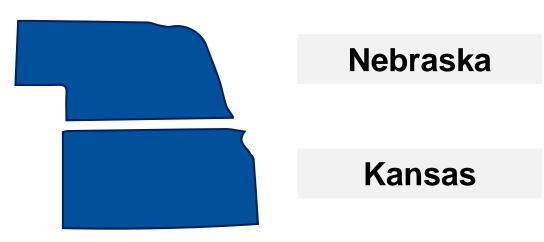






## PFAS developments – Kansas and Nebraska

- KDHE conducted an investigation Bureau of Environmental Remediation and Bureau of Water
  - Included statewide inventory and prioritization of potential PFAS sources
  - Information used to continue to inform monitoring programs
- NDEE and KDHE have been coordinating on PFAS investigations of impacted military and Superfund sites







## PFAS developments – lowa

- Implemented the Iowa PFAS Action Plan in 2020 for Public Drinking Water
  - Included a sampling plan and response protocol
- Interactive sample results map available on website compares results to Health Advisory levels







### PFAS air emissions regulatory developments - state

- Inclusion in air permits
- Targeted testing and monitoring numerous states





### Recent Minnesota actions – PFAS Monitoring Plan

- >100 named facilities
- Air, Wastewater, Waste Management, Stormwater, Remediation
- Implementation 2022-2023 and beyond









## Other Areas to Watch

- State enforcement some states taking actions
- Federal enforcement
  - EPA lists PFAS on National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives (2024-2027) for first time
  - Recent CWA PFAS enforcement
    - More NPDES permits to include PFAS?
      - EPA expanded resources for states discharge limit examples, monitoring requirements, and BMPs
- Congressional action
  - New PFAS legislation?
  - CERCLA liability carve-outs?



- Active regulatory climate for regulation of PFAS
- Continuing growth in sampling and analytical methods
- Important to track regulatory growth for your region and industry



## Thank you

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