

New EPA health advisories for PFAS fall below current laboratory detection capabilities

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Last week, EPA announced (<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-new-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfas-chemicals-1-billion-bipartisan>) the long-awaited Health Advisories (HAs) for four separate PFAS. HAs are non-enforceable and non-regulatory levels that help inform state agencies and public health officials of the health effects of certain chemicals. According to EPA, these HAs are intended to offer a margin of protection to individuals from a lifetime of exposure to these PFAS from drinking water. AMWA has long supported actions to protect human health based on sound science and the best available data.

Final HA determinations were announced for GenX (10 ppt) and PFBS (2000 ppt), as well as interim HAs for PFOA (0.004 ppt) and PFOS (0.02 ppt). These values for PFOA and PFOS are several magnitudes lower than the previous HAs of 70 ppt and are currently below the detection limits of modern technology. For evaluating public health risks, these HAs assume 70 years of exposure time to these chemicals. AMWA questions how water utilities can assure customers their drinking water is safe, even when results indicate PFAS is undetectable.

EPA remains on track to propose a rule for PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) by the fall of 2022. While EPA will focus this proposed rule on PFOA and PFOS, it also has indicated the possibility of regulating groups of PFAS in the future. In April, AMWA submitted comments (<https://www.amwa.net/testimonycomments/amwa-comments-federalism-consultation-pfas-national-primary-drinking-water>) as part of a federalism consultation on the development of PFAS NPDWR focused on treatment, public notification, and monitoring requirements.

EPA also announced an informational webinar for water utilities on June 22, 2022, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. ET regarding this release. Registration (<https://track.amwa.net/y.z?l=https%3A//epa-pfas-water-utilities.eventbrite.com/&j=350365372&e=272&p=1&t=h>) is required to attend. EPA is hosting a separate webinar (<https://track.amwa.net/y.z?l=https%3A//www.eventbrite.com/e/new-drinking-water-health-advisories-for-pfas-chemicals-tickets-365683558367&j=350365372&e=272&p=1&t=h>) for the public about these actions on June 23, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. ET. More information, including a fact sheet for public water systems (<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-06/drinking-water-ha-pfas-factsheet-water-system.pdf>) and FAQs (<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-pfos-genx-chemicals-and-pfbs>), can be

pfoa-and-pfos).

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