



The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) defines a water contaminant as any physical, chemical, biological, or radiological substance or matter in water. The law enables the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set legal limits on the levels of certain contaminants in drinking water.

The SDWA sets a process that the EPA must follow to develop the national primary drinking water standards intended to control the level of contaminants in the nation's drinking water. The EPA currently has drinking water regulations for more than 90 contaminants.

Following years of scientific testing and evaluation, in February 2021, EPA implemented the national primary drinking water regulation development process for two PFAS contaminants, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). PFAS stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a group of thousands of man-made chemical compounds in use since the 1940s to make products resistant to high temperatures, water, and stains.

PFOA and PFOS are two PFAS compounds believed to have adverse health effects at very low concentrations. Because of these properties, PFOA and PFOS were phased out of production by U.S. manufacturers in the mid-2000s. However, PFOA and PFOS can still be imported into the U.S. through consumer goods. They also remain in some drinking water sources due to decades of industrial pollution and consumer product use. The EPA has stated that approximately 80% of a person's exposure to PFAS comes from consumer goods such as cookware, cosmetics, food wrappings, stain/water-resistant clothing, and carpet and furniture treatments.

Today/[On DATE], the EPA announced its proposed national drinking water standards – also known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) – for PFOA and PFOS. The announcement now starts public comment and scientific review processes that will take place over the next several months. After these processes are complete, the EPA's final drinking water standards may differ from the proposed MCLs announced today.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) were also announced. It is important to note the difference between an MCL and an MCLG. An MCL is an enforceable drinking water standard. An MCLG is NOT a drinking water standard; it is a public health goal. The EPA defines an MCLG as the maximum level of a contaminant in drinking water at which no known or anticipated adverse effect on the health of persons would occur.

When EPA issues the final MCLs later this year, it will also announce an effective date set in the future so water providers have time to meet the new standards. *The effective date for the final PFOA and PFOS MCLs is expected sometime in 20XX.*

The proposed MCLs announced today – X.X parts per trillion for PFOA and X.X parts per trillion for PFOS – are [above/below/both above and below] the levels found during a range of tests [Utility Name] conducted in accordance with current federal and state regulations. [[We are providing a range of results because PFAS test results can vary over time.]]

Our [[range of results/results]] for PFOA is/are X.X-X.X/X.X parts per trillion for tests conducted between [DATES]. Our [[range of results/results]] for PFOS is/are X.X-X.X/X.X parts per trillion for tests conducted [[between/on DATES]].

It is important to repeat that the proposed PFOA and PFOS MCLs are not enforceable drinking water standards at this time.

The EPA must follow the entire regulatory development process before the proposed MCLs become the final standards water utilities must meet. For more information about how the EPA determines their proposed and final PFOA and PFOS MCLs, we invite you to visit their website: [\[\[INSERT LINK TO EPA ANNOUNCEMENT/WEBPAGE FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT\]\]](#)

In the meantime, starting in 2023 and running through 2025, [Utility Name] will join with thousands of other water providers across the country to test for PFOA, PFOS, and 27 other PFAS compounds under the EPA’s Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, also known as UCMR 5.

UMCR 5 testing is intended to give the EPA and water providers a greater understanding of how pervasive PFAS are in our nation’s drinking water. As directed under UCMR 5, [Utility Name] will make our results publicly available and publish our findings in our water quality reports.

The EPA recommends public water systems that find PFOA or PFOS in their drinking water take steps to inform customers, undertake additional sampling to assess the level, scope, and source of contamination, and examine steps to limit exposure. That is what [Utility Name] will do.

[[IF APPLICABLE, DESCRIBE ANY ACTIONS YOU’VE ALREADY TAKEN TO MITIGATE PFAS HERE.]]

[Utility Name] will review our UCMR 5 testing results to determine if additional courses of action are necessary. Meanwhile, we will continue to operate as we always have, as a protector of public health that delivers high-quality drinking water to your taps.

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