

December 2019



WestFAST News

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Chair – Patrick Lambert; Federal Liaison – Deborah Lawler

EPA Moves Forward on Key Drinking Water Priority Under PFAS Action Plan

EPA 12/4/19. Yesterday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sent the proposed regulatory determination for perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in drinking water to the Office of Management and Budget for interagency review. This step is an important part of EPA's extensive efforts under the PFAS Action Plan to help communities address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) nationwide.

“Under President Trump, EPA is continuing to aggressively implement our PFAS Action Plan – the most comprehensive cross-agency plan ever to address an emerging chemical,” said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “With today’s action, EPA is following through on its commitment in the Action Plan to evaluate PFOA and PFOS under the Safe Drinking Water Act.”

The action will provide proposed determinations for at least five contaminants listed on the fourth Contaminant Candidate List (CCL4), including PFOA and PFOS, in compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

Background

The Safe Drinking Water Act establishes robust scientific and public participation processes that guide EPA’s development of regulations for unregulated contaminants that may present a risk to public health. Every five years, EPA must publish a list of contaminants, known as the Contaminant Candidate List or CCL, that are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems and are not currently subject to EPA drinking water regulations. EPA publishes draft CCLs for public comment and considers those prior to issuing final lists.

After issuing the final CCL, EPA determines whether or not to regulate five or more contaminants on the CCL through a process known as a Regulatory Determination. EPA publishes preliminary regulatory determinations for public comment and considers those comments prior to making final regulatory determinations. If EPA makes a positive regulatory determination for any contaminant, it will begin the process to establish a national primary drinking water regulation for that contaminant.

For more information: www.epa.gov/ccl

Background on the PFAS Action Plan

PFAS are a large group of man-made chemicals used in consumer products and industrial processes. In use since the 1940s, PFAS are resistant to heat, oils, stains, grease, and water—properties which contribute to their persistence in the environment.

The agency's PFAS Action Plan is the first multi-media, multi-program, national research, management and risk communication plan to address a challenge like PFAS. The plan responds to the extensive public input the agency received during the PFAS National Leadership Summit, multiple community engagements, and through the public docket. The PFAS Action Plan outlines the tools EPA is developing to assist states, tribes, and communities in addressing PFAS.

EPA is taking the following highlighted actions:

Highlighted Action: Drinking Water

- EPA is committed to following the national primary drinking water regulation rulemaking process as established by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).
- EPA has sent the proposed regulatory determination for PFOA and PFOS to the Office of Management and Budget for interagency review.
- The agency is also gathering and evaluating information to determine if regulation is appropriate for other chemicals in the PFAS family.

Highlighted Action: Cleanup

- On June 10, 2019, EPA concluded public comment on the draft Interim Recommendations for Addressing Groundwater Contaminated with PFOA and PFOS, when finalized it will provide cleanup guidance for federal cleanup programs (e.g., CERCLA and RCRA) that will be helpful to states and tribes.
- EPA is initiating the regulatory development process for listing certain PFAS as hazardous substances under CERCLA.

Highlighted Action: Monitoring

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

Highlighted Action: Toxics

- EPA has issued an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking that would allow the public to provide input on adding PFAS to the Toxics Release Inventory toxic chemical list.
- A supplemental proposal to ensure that certain persistent long-chain PFAS chemicals cannot be manufactured in or imported into the United States without notification and review under the TSCA is currently undergoing interagency review at the Office of Management and Budget.

Highlighted Action: Surface Water Protection

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

Highlighted Action: Biosolids

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

Highlighted Action: Research

- On November 22, 2019, EPA announced availability of \$4.8 million in funding for new research on managing PFAS in agriculture.
- EPA continues to compile and assess human and ecological toxicity information on PFAS to support risk management decisions.
- 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 air and emissions; and

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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.
- EPA continues to assess and review treatment methods for removing PFAS in drinking water.
- EPA is working to develop tools to assist officials with the cleanup of contaminated sites.

Highlighted Action: Enforcement

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

Highlighted Action: Risk Communications

- EPA will work 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.

A full summary of EPA's action to address PFAS can be found in the PFAS Action Plan:
<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epas-pfas-action-plan>

EPA Awards \$4 Million to Protect America's Estuaries and Coastal Waters

EPA 12/4/19. Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a \$4 million cooperative agreement with Restore America's Estuaries to help fund projects supporting National Estuary Program coastal watersheds and estuaries. Restore America's Estuaries will operate a competition that provides entities from across the country an opportunity to apply for funding for projects that will improve the health of our nation's waters.

"EPA is pleased to work with Restore America's Estuaries to advance our shared goal of protecting our nation's waters and supporting aquatic ecosystems," said EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler. "This cooperative agreement is the first of its kind and solidifies the partnership between EPA and non-governmental organizations as we work together to improve the health of our coastal waters."

The National Estuary Program is an EPA initiative committed to protecting and restoring the water quality and ecological integrity of 28 estuaries across the country. Estuaries play an important role in our environment, providing places for recreational activities, scientific study and aesthetic enjoyment. EPA is committed to working with our partners to protect estuaries from issues that threaten their stability, including coastal flooding and marine litter.

"Restore America's Estuaries is proud to have been selected to administer this critical new program. Combined, Restore America's Estuaries and EPA bring decades of knowledge and experience, and together, we'll have a significant impact on our nation's estuaries by strategically funding critical projects and programs that will have long-lasting impacts," said Restore America's Estuaries President Jeff Benoit.

EPA is providing \$4 million over four years to Restore America's Estuaries to fund a wide variety of projects. Projects will include those that apply new or innovative approaches and technologies to treat, remove, or prevent pollution before it enters estuaries; build on and implement existing nutrient management strategies; build local capacity to protect and restore coastal watersheds; and prevent trash from entering or removing trash that has entered coastal waters. Restore America's Estuaries will fund awards between \$75,000 and \$250,000.

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For more information about Restore America's Estuaries, visit <https://estuaries.org/>.

For more information about the Coastal Watersheds Grant, visit <https://www.epa.gov/nep>.

[Reclamation Announces Funding Opportunity for Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects](#)

USBR 12/18/19. The Bureau of Reclamation has released a funding opportunity for small-scale water efficiency projects as part of the WaterSMART Program. The projects funded with these grants include installation of flow measurement devices and automation technology, canal lining or piping to address seepage, municipal meter upgrades, and other projects to conserve water. This funding announcement supports small-scale water efficiency projects that have been prioritized through planning efforts led by the applicant.

These cost-shared projects conserve and use water more efficiently, help water resource managers make sound decisions about water use, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to a reliable water supply in the West. To learn more about small-scale water efficiency projects or learn more about projects that have been previously funded, please visit <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep>.

"With this funding opportunity, Reclamation will cost share with partners to accomplish meaningful small-scale on-the-ground projects that seek to conserve, better manage or otherwise make more efficient use of water supplies," said Robin Graber, program coordinator.

The funding opportunity is available at www.grants.gov by searching for opportunity number BOR-DO-20-F006. Applications are due by Mar. 04, 2020, 4 p.m. MST.

Funding of up to \$75,000 is available per project and total project costs should generally be \$200,000 or less. Recipients must also provide at least a 50% non-federal cost share. Those eligible to apply for funding include states, Indian Tribes, irrigation districts, water districts, or other organizations with water or power delivery authority located in the western United States or United States Territories as identified in the Reclamation Act of June 17, 1902, as amended. Alaska and Hawaii are also eligible to apply.

[Bureau of Reclamation makes funding available for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Projects](#)

USBR 12/19/19. The Bureau of Reclamation has published a new funding opportunity for sponsors of congressionally authorized Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse projects to request cost-shared funding for the planning, design, and/or construction of those projects.

"Reclamation is pleased to announce this funding opportunity to increase water recycling and reuse," said Program Coordinator Amanda Erath. "As part of these Title XVI projects, Reclamation will partner with local entities to take significant steps to ensure water supply reliability in their communities."

Reclamation expects to select approximately six to ten projects for funding. Applicants must provide a 75% non-federal cost share for the funding requested. The funding opportunity is available at www.grants.gov by searching for funding opportunity number BOR-DO-20-F008. Applications are due on Feb. 19, 2020 at 4 p.m. MST.

This funding opportunity is only open to sponsors of the 53 congressionally authorized Title XVI projects, provided that the Title XVI project has not reached its federal funding ceiling as specified in the Title XVI Act. A separate funding opportunity

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for Title XVI projects eligible under the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act will be released later in the fiscal year.

Upcoming Meetings

[Western Governors Association 2020 Annual Meeting](#)

Medora, ND
June 29-July 2, 2020

[WSWC Spring \(192nd\) Meetings](#)

Washington, DC
March 31 – April 2, 2020

[WSWC Summer \(193rd\) Meetings](#)

Cody, WY
July 22-24, 2020

Upcoming Events

[WestFAST Webinar: October 19, 2018, Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West.](#)
January 29, 2020, 10AM Mountain

[WestFAST Webinar: 3 New USGS Priority Programs – NGWOS, IWP, and IWAA,](#) February 26, 2020, 10AM Mountain

[WestFAST Webinar: FAST 41: Best Practices for Permitting and Environmental Review Processes for Major Infrastructure Projects,](#) March 25, 2020, 10AM Mountain

[WestFAST Webinar: Leveraging Watershed Restoration to Improve Source Water Protection and Reduce the Risk of Wildland Fire,](#) April 29, 2020, 10AM Mountain

Other Federal News

BLM 12/2/19. [Department of the Interior approves withdrawal extension for Roosevelt Lake](#)

USBR 12/2/19. [In Case You Missed It: Reclamation remains focused on improving California's water supply](#)

BLM 12/3/19. [Michael Ryan Chatterton to lead BLM El Centro Field Office](#)

USBR 12/3/19. [Reclamation seeks input for Friant-Kern Canal fix](#)

USBR 12/3/19. [Reclamation selects Richard Welsh as Principal Deputy Regional Director](#)

USBR 12/3/19. [Rain in Lower Colorado River Basin forces cutback in releases from Davis, Parker dams](#)

USBR 12/4/19. [Reclamation, DWR move forward with seismic upgrades at B.F. Sisk Dam](#)

NIDIS 12/4/19. [Highlights From Drought and Outdoor Recreation Seminar](#)

USBR 12/5/19. [Reclamation announces public comment period for draft San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority operations and maintenance](#)

EPA 12/5/19. [EPA provides \\$20.5 million for Alaska plan to improve drinking water, wastewater infrastructure. State estimates \\$56 million for wastewater, \\$28.7 million for drinking water projects](#)

EPA 12/5/19. [EPA provides \\$18.8 million for Idaho plan to improve drinking water, wastewater infrastructure. State estimates \\$72 million for wastewater, \\$61 million for drinking water projects](#)

USBR 12/6/19. [Reclamation seeks public comment on the proposed Lake Powell Pipeline Project](#)

USBR 12/6/19. [Reclamation seeks public input on alternatives to reduce salinity and improve water quality in the Colorado River](#)

USBR 12/6/19. [Tim Brown named Chief of Civil Engineering Services](#)

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EPA 12/6/19. [EPA improves drinking water systems in New Mexico with over \\$11 million](#)

EPA 12/9/19. [EPA to provide Washington with \\$52.1 million for critical water projects. State estimates plans will cost \\$120 million for wastewater, \\$22 million for drinking water projects](#)

EPA 12/9/19. [EPA to provide Oregon with \\$32.3 million for critical water projects. State estimates plans will cost \\$190 million for wastewater, \\$35 million for drinking water projects](#)

[USDA/RD 12/10/19. USDA Helps Rural Businesses Make Energy Efficiency Improvements, Adopt Renewable Energy Systems](#)

[USBR 12/10/19. Reclamation announces Wayne Pullan as deputy regional director for its Interior Region 7 – Upper Colorado Basin](#)

[DOI 12/12/19. U.S. Senate Confirms Aurelia Skipwith as Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

[DOI 12/13/19. Following Year of Historic Progress in Colorado River Basin Interior Secretary Bernhardt Encourages Continued Cooperation to Protect Water Users and Environment](#)

[BLM 12/13/19. Department of the Interior Extends Protection for the Diamond Fork System's Water Delivery](#)

[BLM 12/18/19. BLM Announces Appointment of Al Elser as Farmington District Manager](#)

[WHITE HOUSE 12/18/19. President Donald J. Trump Announces Intent to Nominate and Appoint Individuals to Key Administration Posts](#)

[BLM 12/19/19. Dillon BLM taking public comment on East Pioneers and Madison watersheds](#)

[USDA/RD 12/19/19. USDA Highlights Investments and Accomplishments in 2019 to Build Rural Prosperity](#)

[USDA/FS 12/19/19. USDA Forest Service surpasses goals and breaks records in 2019](#)

[USDA/NRCS 12/19/19. USDA Farm Programs Help Farmers and Ranchers During 2019 Challenges](#)

[USBR 12/19/19. Reclamation uses latest science to improve water reliability in California](#)

[DOI 12/30/19. Interior Extends Platte River Recovery Implementation Program to Protect Endangered Species](#)

[EPA 12/19/19. EPA Announces New Method to Test for Additional PFAS in Drinking Water](#)

[EPA 12/20/19. EPA Releases PFAS Groundwater Guidance for Federal Cleanup Programs, Fulfilling PFAS Action Plan Commitment](#)

[USBR 12/20/19. Bureau of Reclamation awards \\$1.6 million to four water reclamation and reuse research studies](#)

[BLM 12/31/19. BLM Utah announces five-year agreement with the Utah Department of Natural Resources as a part of Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative](#)

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