

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

**Date:** August 10, 2022

**To:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**From:** Keith Grellner, Chair

**Subject:** Update—Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Rule Implementation and Related Issues, Group A Public Water Supplies, Chapter 246-290 WAC

## Background and Summary:

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals used or found in many industrial processes and consumer products ranging from carpets and clothing to cookware and fire-fighting foam. Among other qualities, PFAS are stain resistant, water repellent, and heat stable.

Unfortunately, some PFAS also have known health effects and are considered PBTs—persistent in the environment, bio-accumulative in organisms, and toxic at relatively low levels. The synthetic chemicals are now found globally in the environment often associated with releases from manufacturing sources or use of fire-fighting foam at military installations, airports, and fire-training stations. PFAS are increasingly detected in drinking water sources across the country and have been detected in drinking water in Washington state. These include drinking water sources near several military installations in Washington.

In 2021, the State Board of Health (Board) working closely with the Washington Department of Health (Department), adopted revisions to Board rules on Group A Drinking Water Supplies, chapter 246-290 WAC, and companion rules on Drinking Water Laboratory Certification and Data Reporting, chapter 246-390 WAC. The rulemaking reset procedures and requirements for developing and adopting State Action Levels (SALs) and state Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for drinking water. The rulemaking also established SALs for five PFAS. There currently are no federal drinking water MCLs for PFAS, but work on such standards is underway. In the absence of federal PFAS MCLs, many states have taken action to regulate PFAS in drinking water.

Today, Mike Means of the Department's Office of Drinking Water will update the Board on early efforts implementing the new state drinking water rules for PFAS and possible future action by the Board. The update will include results of voluntary PFAS drinking water monitoring that is currently underway in Washington that precedes the rule's initial required monitoring in 2023-2025. Staff will update the status of work at the federal level on revised PFAS health advisory levels (HALs) and PFAS drinking water MCLs. Staff will also cover other related work in Washington, including recent PFAS drinking water

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detections near the Yakima Training Center involving work with the local community, Department of Defense, and other partners.

Today's update is informational only. There is no formal Board action. Meeting material includes a fact sheet from the Department on the 2021 state PFAS rulemaking; an FAQ from the Department on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 2022 PFAS HALs; and a fact sheet from the Washington Department of Ecology on recommended PFAS soil and groundwater cleanup levels for Washington state.

#### Staff

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