

# WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

**Date:** June 14, 2023

**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 repellant, 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 Public 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 analytes. There currently are no national drinking water MCLs for PFAS. In March 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFAS. The Board and Department both submitted comments in support of the proposed PFAS drinking water standards.

Today, Mike Means of the Department's Office of Drinking Water and Barb Morrissey of the Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences will update the Board on efforts implementing the Group A drinking water rules for PFAS. The update will include results of PFAS drinking water monitoring, related responses and resource needs, and evolving health guidance on PFAS. Department staff will also address EPA's proposed drinking water standards and optional approaches for future Board action on the standards. Complementing this, Shawn Magee, Environmental Health Director for the Yakima

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Health District will give added perspective from a local health jurisdiction responding to the needs and questions of local residents who are dealing with PFAS contamination of private wells near the Yakima Training Center.

Today's update is informational only. There is no formal Board action.

**Staff**

Stuart Glasoe

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