



# PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitments to Action 2021-2024

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**Northeast-Midwest Institute Webinar**

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# Overview of Today's Briefing

- **EPA Council on PFAS:** Roadmap and Early Actions
- **EPA's Approach to Tackling PFAS:** Principles and Goals
- **Actions:** Commitments and Timelines
- **Next Steps:** Engagement and Implementation

# EPA Council on PFAS: Roadmap and Early Actions

- EPA Administrator Michael Regan established the EPA Council on PFAS in April 2021 and charged it to develop a bold, strategic, whole-of-EPA strategy to protect public health and the environment from the impacts of PFAS.
- The Council is comprised of senior technical and policy leaders from across EPA program offices and Regions and is chaired by Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox and Acting Region 1 Administrator Deb Szaro.
- The PFAS Council developed a strategic roadmap to lay out EPA's whole-of-agency approach to tackling PFAS and set timelines by which the Agency plans to take concrete actions during the first term of the Biden-Harris Administration. The Roadmap fills a critical gap in federal leadership, provides a basic floor of federal protection, and supports states' ongoing efforts to address PFAS.
- Complementing the strategic roadmap, EPA has already taken bold actions on PFAS since January 2021, including on drinking water, hazardous substance designation, effluent guidelines, and chemical safety.

# EPA's Approach to Tackling PFAS: Principles

**PFAS contamination poses unique challenges, and EPA must use every tool in its tool box. EPA's approach is centered around the following principles:**

- Consider the Lifecycle of PFAS.
- Get Upstream of the Problem.
- Hold Polluters Accountable.
- Ensure Science-Based Decision-Making.
- Prioritize Protection of Disadvantaged Communities.

# EPA's Approach to Tackling PFAS: Goals

## RESEARCH

Invest in research, development, and innovation to increase understanding of PFAS exposures and toxicities, human health and ecological effects, and effective interventions that incorporate the best available science.

## RESTRICT

Pursue a comprehensive approach to proactively prevent PFAS from entering air, land, and water at levels that can adversely impact human health and the environment.

## REMEDiate

Broaden and accelerate the cleanup of PFAS contamination to protect human health and ecological systems.

# Actions: Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

- **Publish a national PFAS testing strategy.** Expected Fall 2021.
- **Ensure a robust review process for new PFAS.** Efforts ongoing.
- **Review existing PFAS under TSCA.** Expected Summer 2022 and ongoing.
- **Enhance PFAS reporting under the Toxics Release Inventory.** Expected Spring 2022.
- **Finalize new PFAS reporting under TSCA Section 8.** Expected Winter 2022.

# Actions: Office of Water

- **Undertake nationwide monitoring for PFAS in drinking water.** Final rule expected Fall 2021.
- **Establish a national primary drinking water regulation for PFOA and PFOS.** Proposed rule expected Fall 2022, final rule expected Fall 2023.
- **Publish final toxicity assessment for GenX and five additional PFAS (PFBA, PFHxA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFDA).** Expected Fall 2021 and ongoing.
- **Publish health advisories for GenX and PFBS.** Expected Spring 2022.
- **Restrict PFAS discharges from industrial sources through a multi-faceted Effluent Limitations Guidelines program.** Expected 2022 and ongoing.
- **Leverage National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting to reduce PFAS discharges to waterways.** Expected Winter 2022.
- **Publish improved analytical methods.** Expected Fall 2022 and Fall 2024.
- **Publish final recommended ambient water quality criteria for PFAS.** Expected Winter 2022 and Fall 2024.
- **Enhance data availability on PFAS in fish tissue.** Expected Summer 2022 and Spring 2023.
- **Finalize risk assessment for PFOA and PFOS in biosolids.** Expected Winter 2024.

# Actions: Office of Land and Emergency Management and Office of Air and Radiation

## Land and Emergency Management

- **Propose to designate certain PFAS as CERCLA hazardous substances.** Proposed rule expected Spring 2022, Final rule expected Summer 2023.
- **Issue advance notice of proposed rulemaking on various PFAS under CERCLA.** Expected Spring 2022.
- **Issue updated guidance on destroying and disposing PFAS.** Expected Fall 2023.

## Air and Radiation

- **Build the technical foundation to address PFAS air emissions.** Expected Fall 2022 and ongoing.



# Actions: Office of Research and Development

- **Develop and validate methods to detect and measure PFAS in the environment.** Ongoing actions.
- **Advance the science to assess human health and environmental risks from PFAS.** Ongoing actions.
- **Evaluate and develop technologies for reducing PFAS in the environment.** Ongoing actions.

# Actions: Cross-Program

- **Engage directly with affected communities in every EPA Region.** Expected Fall 2021 and ongoing.
- **Use enforcement tools to better identify and address PFAS releases at facilities.** Ongoing actions.
- **Accelerate public health protections by identifying PFAS categories.** Expected Winter 2021 and ongoing.
- **Establish a PFAS voluntary stewardship program.** Expected Spring 2022.
- **Educate the public about the risks of PFAS.** Expected Fall 2021 and ongoing.
- **Issue an annual public report on progress towards PFAS commitments.** Winter 2022 and ongoing.

# Next Steps

- **EPA is committed to transparent, equitable, and inclusive engagement with all stakeholders to inform the Agency's work.**
- **EPA is beginning a national engagement effort as it seeks to partner for progress on PFAS.**
  - **National webinars** to share the strategic roadmap and its actions.
  - **Stakeholder listening sessions** with non-governmental organizations; Congressional stakeholders; federal partners; Tribal, state, and local governments; environmental justice organizations; and industry groups
  - **A focus on impacted communities**, engaging directly with communities in every EPA Region.
- **Through the roadmap, EPA seeks to harness the collective resources and authority across federal, Tribal, state, and local governments to empower meaningful action now.**



# PFAS Strategic Roadmap

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