WA State Response to PFAS contamination

AAAS EPI Center and the National Governors Association

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Drinking Water

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Known occurrence of PFAS in Washington drinking water supplies

Naval Base Kitsap – Bangor (private wells off-base)

Lower Issaquah Valley Aquifer

Joint Base Lewis-McChord (also off-base PWSs in Dupont, Lakewood, Tacoma, and Parkland with PFAS detections in at least 1 production well)

Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (private and community wells off-base)

Fairchild Air Force Base (also City of Airway Heights PWS, private wells off-base)

Moses Lake Wellfield Superfund site (ground water monitoring wells)
PFAS Impacts

Whidbey Island drinking-water wells polluted with firefighting chemicals near Navy air strips

Chemical linked to cancer found in Tacoma well

Fairchild partners with Airway Heights to provide water to residents affected by water advisory

Two years after chemicals from Fairchild Air Force Base were found in drinking water, Airway Heights is still figuring out its long-term plan

3 JBLM wells shut after unacceptable levels of chemicals found in the water
Draft State Action Levels (SALs) for PFAS in Drinking Water

SAL is a “bridge” to an MCL
• Enforceable requirements
• Advice for protecting public health

Draft rule outlines process for setting State SALs/MCLs in the future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contaminant</th>
<th>Draft SAL (parts per trillion)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PFOA</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFOS</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PFNA</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFHxS</td>
<td>65</td>
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<tr>
<td>PFBS</td>
<td>345</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
WA State Chemical Action Plans (WAC 173-333)

• Persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic (PBT) chemicals.

• Dept of Ecology (lead) & Dept of Health

• Science-based recommendations to reduce or eliminate PBT uses, releases, and exposure.

PFAS CAP – Agency Collaboration

Hazardous Waste Management and Prevention

Environmental Assessment

Water Quality

Air toxics

Solid Waste-Biosolids

Toxics Clean-up

Environmental Public Health Sciences

Drinking Water - Regulators

Advisory Committee

Diverse stakeholders

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State Action to Address PFAS

PFAS Pathways of Exposure

- Tips to manage household dust
- Read labels, avoid PFAS ingredients
- Drinking water standards and health advisories
- Fish consumption advisories
- Livestock, game and gardening advisories

Source: Sunderland EM et al. (2019) A review of the pathways of human exposure to poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) and present understanding of health effects. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6380916/

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Reducing PFAS in food (2018)
RCW 70A.222.070

- Bans PFAS in food contact papers
- Class approach to PFAS
- Contingent on safer alternatives (FDA approved, feasible & available)
- Effective Feb 2023 – food boats, pizza boxes, plates, wraps and liners

Protecting drinking water from PFAS in firefighting foam
RCW 70.75A (2018)

- Bans use of PFAS foams in firefighter training after July 2018.
- No firefighting foams with intentionally added PFAS can be sold or distributed for use starting July 2020.
  - delayed compliance timetables for military, FAA Airports, oil refineries, chemical plants.
- Disclosure requirement for PFAS in firefighter gear

Safer Products for Washington
RCW 70A.350 (2019)

Five Year Cycle

Phase 1: Priority chemical classes
- First five priority classes
- PFAS, PCBs, phthalates, phenols, flame retardants

Designated 2019 by the legislature.

Phase 2: Identify priority consumer products
- Significant source of exposure to sensitive populations and species

Due: June 1, 2020
Report to legislature.

Phase 3: Determine regulatory actions
- No action
- Require notice
- Restrict or prohibit

Due: June 1, 2022
Report to legislature.

Phase 4: Rulemaking
- Restrict use of chemicals in products or require notification

Due: June 1, 2023
Rule adoption.

Public outreach, stakeholder engagement, environmental justice

Effective NGOs, firefighters, water systems, empowered citizens

PFAS Chemical Action Plan

Why Policy Success?

Persuasive arguments

• Need to act to protect drinking water, firefighters, communities
• Reduce non-essential uses, when safer alternatives
• Upstream solutions are less costly; prevent harms
• Class approach reduces regrettable substitutes