WA State Response to PFAS contamination

AAAS EPI Center and the National Governors Association

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and Drinking Water

June 10, 2021

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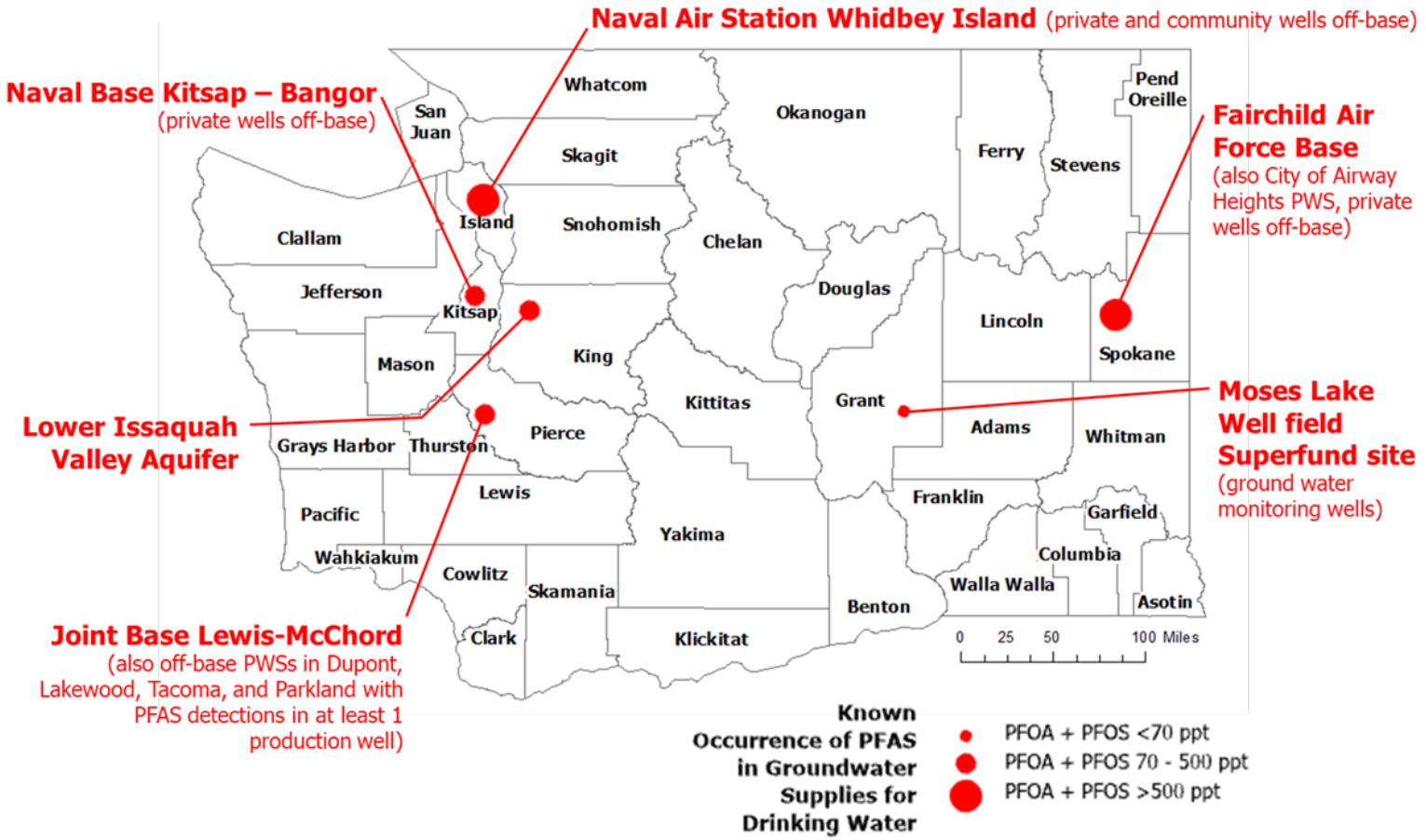
Known occurrence of PFAS in Washington drinking water supplies



PFAS Impacts

Draft State Action Levels (SALs) for PFAS in Drinking Water

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
Working for a safer and healthier Washington since 1889

In process

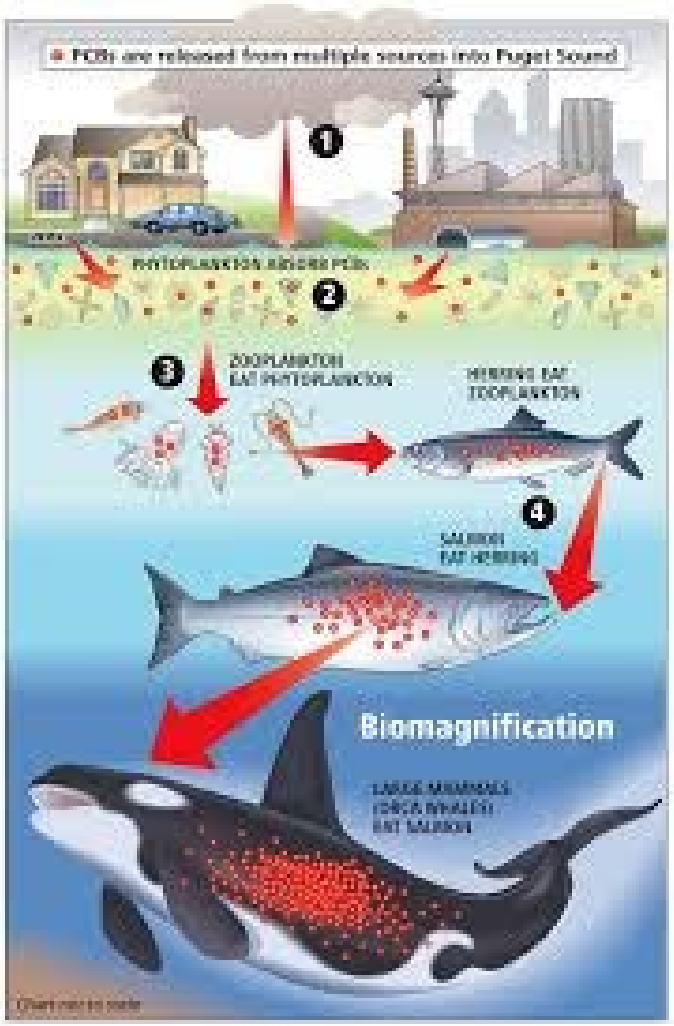
SAL is a "bridge" to an MCL

- Enforceable requirements
- Advice for protecting public health

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

Contaminant	Draft SAL (parts per trillion)
PFOA	10
PFOS	15
PFNA	13
PFHxS	65
PFBS	345

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.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY State of Washington

https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-toxic-chemicals/Addressing-priority-toxic-chemicals

PFAS CAP – Agency Collaboration

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Hazardous Waste Management and Prevention

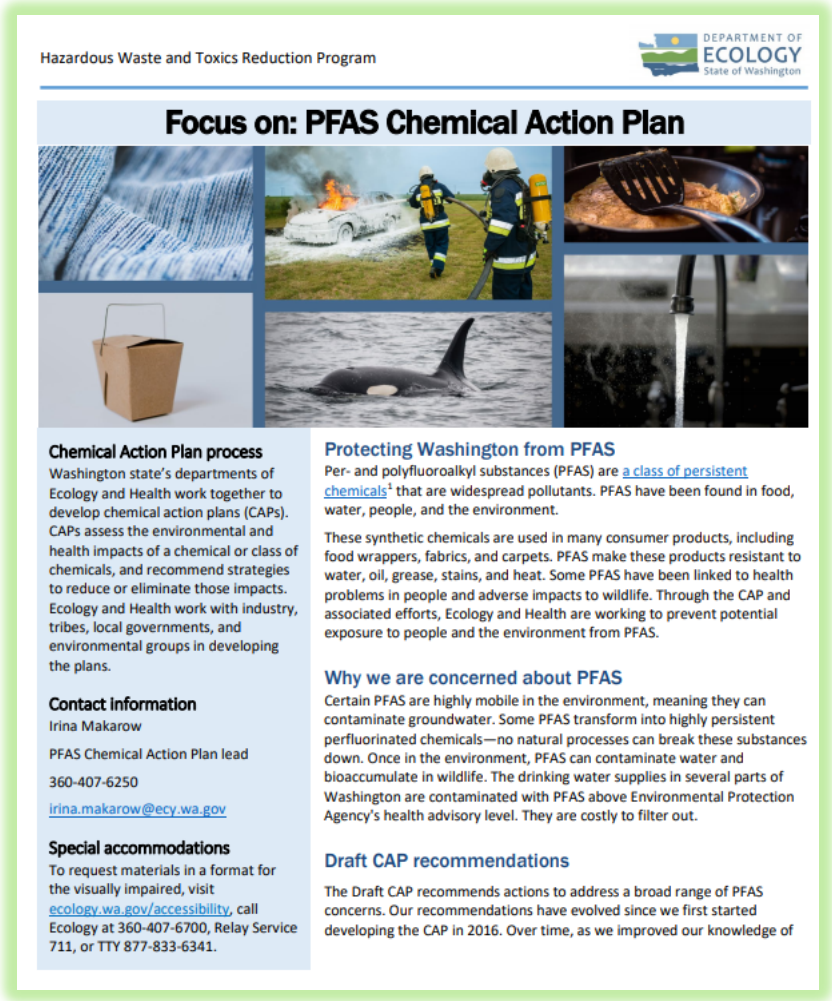
Water Quality

Environmental Assessment

Air toxics

Solid Waste-Biosolids

Toxics Clean-up



Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY State of Washington

Focus on: PFAS Chemical Action Plan

Chemical Action Plan process

Washington state's departments of Ecology and Health work together to develop chemical action plans (CAPs). CAPs assess the environmental and health impacts of a chemical or class of chemicals, and recommend strategies to reduce or eliminate those impacts. Ecology and Health work with industry, tribes, local governments, and environmental groups in developing the plans.

Contact information

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Special accommodations

To request materials in a format for the visually impaired, visit ecology.wa.gov/accessibility, call Ecology at 360-407-6700, Relay Service 711, or TTY 877-833-6341.

Protecting Washington from PFAS

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of persistent chemicals[1] that are widespread pollutants. PFAS have been found in food, water, people, and the environment.

These synthetic chemicals are used in many consumer products, including food wrappers, fabrics, and carpets. PFAS make these products resistant to water, oil, grease, stains, and heat. Some PFAS have been linked to health problems in people and adverse impacts to wildlife. Through the CAP and associated efforts, Ecology and Health are working to prevent potential exposure to people and the environment from PFAS.

Why we are concerned about PFAS

Certain PFAS are highly mobile in the environment, meaning they can contaminate groundwater. Some PFAS transform into highly persistent perfluorinated chemicals—no natural processes can break these substances down. Once in the environment, PFAS can contaminate water and bioaccumulate in wildlife. The drinking water supplies in several parts of Washington are contaminated with PFAS above Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory level. They are costly to filter out.

Draft CAP recommendations

The Draft CAP recommends actions to address a broad range of PFAS concerns. Our recommendations have evolved since we first started developing the CAP in 2016. Over time, as we improved our knowledge of

Washington State Department of Health

Environmental Public Health Sciences

Drinking Water - Regulators

Advisory Committee

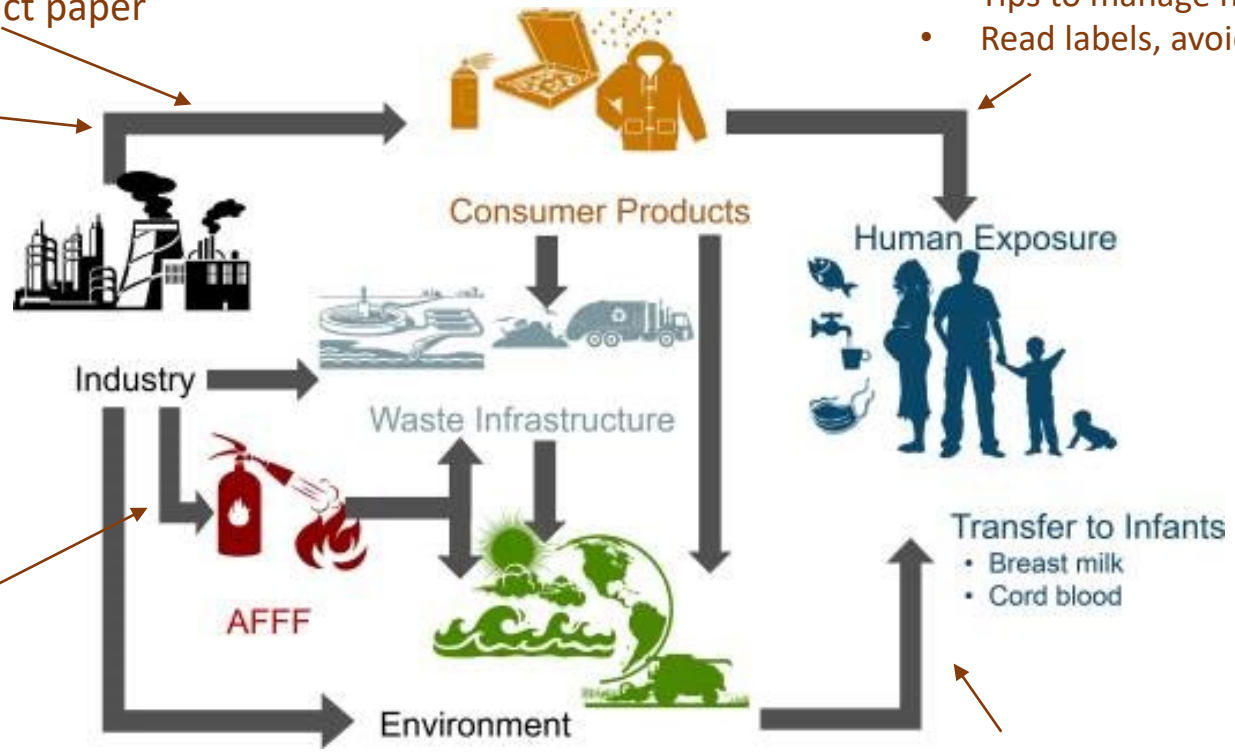
Diverse stakeholders

State Action to Address PFAS

RCW 70A.222.070 Ban on PFAS in food contact paper

RCW 70A.350 - Safer Products for WA

PFAS Pathways of Exposure



RCW 70.75A Ban on PFAS in firefighting foam

- 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/

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

Washington becomes first state to ban nonstick chemicals in food packaging

by Anna Giaritelli | April 10, 2018 12:00 AM

Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee in March signed a bill into law that will phase out perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in food packaging such as popcorn bags and burger wrappers. (AP photo)

Washington has become the first state in the nation to ban nonstick chemicals in food packaging that have been linked to serious health problems and are showing up in the water supplies of many states

- 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

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https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37610/pfas_in_food_packaging_alternatives_assessment.aspx

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

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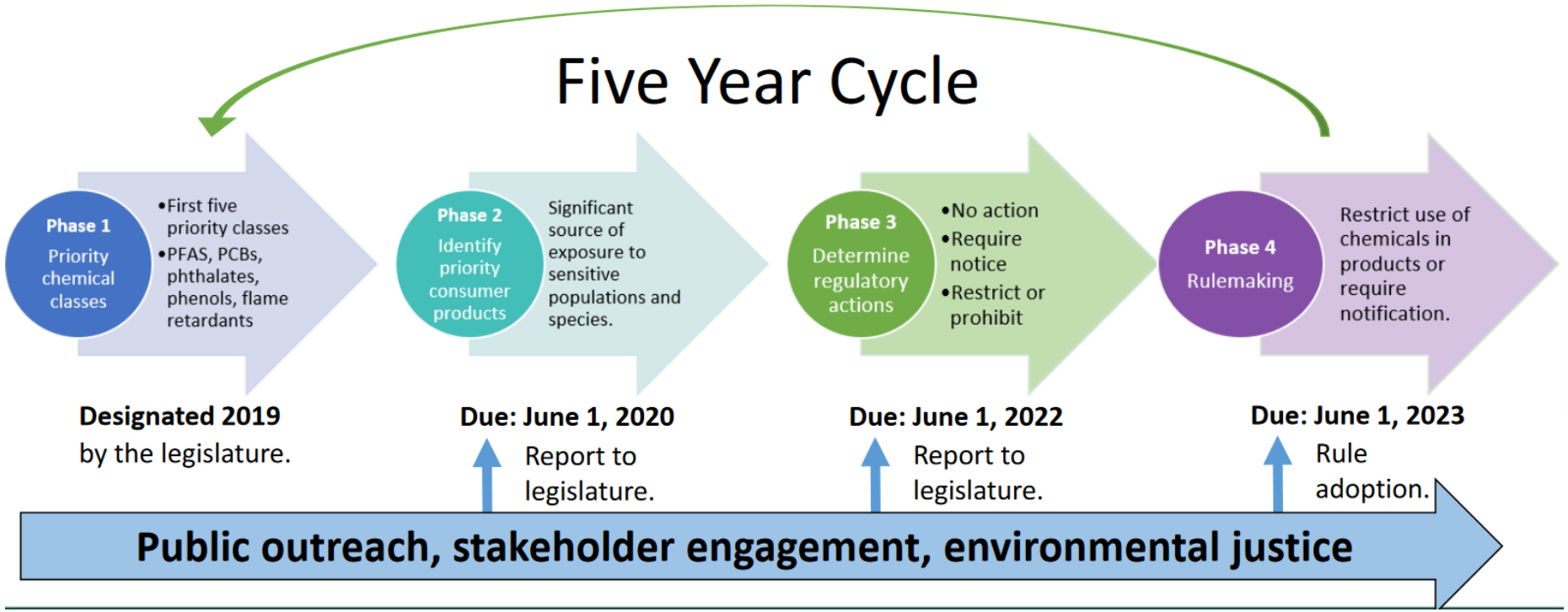
https://ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Reducing-toxic-chemicals/Addressing-priority-toxic-chemicals/PFAS/Toxics-in-firefighting

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



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https://www.ezview.wa.gov/site/alias__1962/37555/safer_products_for_washington.aspx

Why Policy Success?

Effective NGOs, firefighters, water systems, empowered citizens

Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program

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Chemical Action Plan process

Protecting Washington from PFAS

Why we are concerned about PFAS

Draft CAP recommendations

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PFAS Chemical Action Plan

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