

A Message from the IRIS Program

December 19, 2018

The IRIS Program is committed to producing assessments in a timely and transparent manner. Since January 2017, IRIS has been working to modernize its workflow. As part of this modernization, IRIS has moved away from one-size-fits-all assessments to a portfolio of chemical evaluation products to meet specific decision contexts. This approach optimizes the application of best practices in systematic review in the IRIS Program.

As part of its commitment to transparency, the IRIS Program is providing an updated outlook of program activities. Table 1 describes assessments that are currently in development and their projected milestone dates. The IRIS Program is providing this information for stakeholders to be aware of upcoming products, and to allow the public and research community an opportunity to communicate relevant research to EPA. The anticipated dates are based on several factors, including complexity of the assessment products and the availability of resources. While projected dates reflect the IRIS Program's best estimate based on available information, they are subject to change. Accordingly, updates to the table below will be provided as needed.

For more information on public meetings and comment periods, visit the [IRIS website](#) or subscribe to [EPA's Integrated Risk Information System Bulletin](#).

Table 1. IRIS Program Outlook – December 2018

Current Status	Assessment	Next Anticipated Public Step(s)	Projected Date
Peer Review	Ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) ¹	Step 7: Final	TBD
	tert-Butyl Alcohol ¹	Step 7: Final	TBD
Draft Development	Arsenic, Inorganic ²	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q2
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q1
	Chromium VI ²	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q2
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY20 – Q3
	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs; noncancer) ²	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q2
	Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA) ³	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	TBD
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	TBD
		Step 4: External Peer Review	TBD
	Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA) ³	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	TBD
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	TBD
		Step 4: External Peer Review	TBD
Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA) ³	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	TBD	
	Step 4: Public Comment Draft	TBD	
	Step 4: External Peer Review	TBD	

Current Status	Assessment	Next Anticipated Public Step(s)	Projected Date
Draft Development	Perfluorohexane Sulfonate (PFHxS) ³	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	TBD
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	TBD
		Step 4: External Peer Review	TBD
	Perfluorodecanoic Acid (PFDA) ³	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	TBD
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	TBD
		Step 4: External Peer Review	TBD
Scoping and Problem Formulation	Mercury salts	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	FY19 – Q3
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY20 – Q1
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q2
	Methylmercury	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	FY19 – Q2
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY20 – Q1
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY22 – Q1
	Vanadium and Compounds	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	TBD
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	TBD
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	TBD
		Step 4: External Peer Review	TBD

¹The IRIS assessments of ethyl tert-butyl ether and *tert*-butanol are currently undergoing external peer review by EPA’s Science Advisory Board-Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee (SAB-CAAC). Upon receipt of the final external peer review report, the IRIS Program will update Table 1 with the projected date for the next public milestone. Assessments in peer-review incorporate elements of systematic review consistent with the practices of the IRIS Program at the time of assessment development. These mature assessments may not reflect all the current IRIS Program systematic review feature.

²In line with recent advancements in IRIS systematic review practices, assessments already in draft development will publish a systematic review

protocol for public comment to promote consistency with assessments started more recently. The publication of assessment protocols conforms to well-established systematic review practices and implementation of National Academies' systematic review recommendations within the IRIS Program.

³Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) assessments under development are in support of [EPA's Actions to Address PFAS](#). For more information, visit [EPA's Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) website](#).