

A Message from the IRIS Program

April 2019

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 needs. This approach optimizes the application of best practices of systematic review in the IRIS Program.

During fiscal year 2018, EPA prioritized its IRIS assessments to meet the highest needs of EPA Programs and Regions and to bring greater focus to assessments actively under development (see [December 2018 IRIS Program Outlook](#)). Accordingly, IRIS assessments for hexabromocyclododecane (HBCD), acrylonitrile, n-butyl alcohol, and phthalates (butyl benzyl phthalate, dibutyl phthalate, diethyl phthalate, di-isobutyl phthalate, and di-isononyl phthalate) were discontinued. New or updated assessments for these will not be added to the IRIS database at this time. Other assessments that were not identified as priorities for fiscal year 2019 have been suspended but may be restarted as Agency priorities change. These include ammonia, chloroform, ethylbenzene, formaldehyde, manganese, naphthalene, nitrite/nitrate, PAH mixtures, and uranium. Draft assessment materials previously released on the IRIS website will remain accessible for reference on individual chemical pages. Additionally, existing toxicity values found on IRIS will remain available for use. More information about these chemicals can be found on the IRIS website.

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 the IRIS process, public meetings and comment periods, visit the [IRIS Program website](#) or sign-up for the [EPA's Human Health Risk Assessments \(HHRA\) and/or IRIS Listservs](#).

Table 1. IRIS Program Outlook – April 2019

Current Status	Assessment	Next Anticipated Public Step(s)	Projected Fiscal Year Quarter
Post-Peer Review	Ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE)	Step 7: Final	FY20 – Q3
	tert-Butyl Alcohol	Step 7: Final	FY20 – Q3
Draft Development	Arsenic, Inorganic	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q3 (Anticipated release May 17, 2019. NAS review meeting July 16, 2019.)
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q2
	Chromium VI	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released March 15, 2019. Public Science Meeting April 24, 2019.
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q3
	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs; noncancer)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY22 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY22 – Q4
	Perfluorononanoate (PFNA) ¹	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q2
	Perfluorobutyrate (PFBA) ¹	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q1
Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) ¹	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q4	
	Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q3	
	Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q1	

Current Status	Assessment	Next Anticipated Public Step(s)	Projected Fiscal Year Quarter
Draft Development	Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS) ¹	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q2
	Perfluorodecanoate (PFDA) ¹	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY20 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q1
Scoping and Problem Formulation	Mercury salts	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	FY19 – Q4
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY20 – Q2
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY22 – Q1
	Methylmercury	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	FY19 – Q3 (Anticipated release April 4, 2019. Anticipated Public Science Meeting May 15, 2019.)
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY19 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY22 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY22 – Q1
	Vanadium and Compounds	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	FY20 – Q1
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	TBD
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	TBD
		Step 4: External Peer Review	TBD

¹Per- 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](#).