

**A Message from the IRIS Program  
February 2020**

The IRIS Program is committed to producing assessments in a timely and transparent manner. 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. The IRIS Program Outlook will be updated three times each calendar year. Additionally, the IRIS Program has added information regarding other pertinent products and activities in Table 2.

In December 2019, EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) completed its FY2020 annual solicitation for input on EPA program and regional office priorities for the IRIS Program. Through that process, two additional chemicals (chloroform - inhalation, vanadium and compounds - inhalation) were identified and added to the table below.

**Table 1. IRIS Program Outlook – February 2020**

<b>Current Status</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Next Anticipated Public Step(s)</b>	<b>Projected Fiscal Year Quarter</b>
Post-Peer Review	Ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) <sup>1</sup>	Step 7: Final	FY20 – Q4
	tert-Butyl Alcohol <sup>1</sup>	Step 7: Final	FY20 – Q4
Draft Development	Arsenic, Inorganic	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	<a href="#">Released May 28, 2019. NAS review meeting July 16, 2019.</a>
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY22 – Q2
	Chromium VI	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	<a href="#">Released March 15, 2019. Public Science Meeting April 24, 2019.</a>
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q4
	Chloroform (Inhalation)	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	<a href="#">Released September 18, 2017. Public Meeting on September 27, 2017.</a>
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	<a href="#">Released January 31, 2018.</a>
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q4
	Methylmercury	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	<a href="#">Released April 4, 2019. Public Science Meeting May 15, 2019.</a>
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY20 – Q3
Step 4: Public Comment Draft		FY22 – Q4	
Step 4: External Peer Review		FY23 – Q3	

Current Status	Assessment	Next Anticipated Public Step(s)	Projected Fiscal Year Quarter
	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs; noncancer) <sup>2</sup>	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	<a href="#">Released on December 19, 2019.</a>
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY23 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY23 – Q4
Draft Development	Perfluorononanoate (PFNA)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	<a href="#">Released on November 8, 2019.</a>
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft <sup>3</sup>	FY21 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q4
	Perfluorobutyrate (PFBA)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	<a href="#">Released on November 8, 2019.</a>
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft <sup>3</sup>	FY20 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q1
	Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	<a href="#">Released on November 8, 2019.</a>
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft <sup>3</sup>	FY20 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q1
	Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	<a href="#">Released on November 8, 2019.</a>
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft <sup>3</sup>	FY21 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q3
Perfluorodecanoate (PFDA)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	<a href="#">Released on November 8, 2019.</a>	
	Step 4: Public Comment Draft <sup>3</sup>	FY21 – Q1	

Current Status	Assessment	Next Anticipated Public Step(s)	Projected Fiscal Year Quarter
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q2
Scoping and Problem Formulation	Inorganic Mercury salts	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	<a href="#">Released October 8, 2019. Public Science Meeting December 5, 2019.</a>
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY20 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q4
	Vanadium and Compounds (Oral)	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	FY20 – Q3
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY20 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q4
	Vanadium and Compounds (Inhalation)	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	TBD
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	TBD
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	TBD
		Step 4: External Peer Review	TBD

<sup>1</sup>ETBE and tert-Butyl Alcohol completed peer review by EPA’s Science Advisory Board in February 2019. These two assessments will be finalized in FY20.

<sup>2</sup>EPA anticipates convening a workshop/meeting on mixture modeling and tools in FY21 to inform assessment development.

<sup>3</sup>Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) assessments under development are in support of [EPA’s PFAS Action Plan](https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epas-pfas-action-plan): <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epas-pfas-action-plan>. In addition to the PFAS IRIS assessments listed in Table 1, EPA is developing assessments on the potential health effects associated with two other PFAS compounds, GenX chemicals and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS). For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/genx-and-pfbs-draft-toxicity-assessments>. The release of draft PFBA, PFHxA, PFHxS, PFNA, and PFDA assessments for public comment addresses a Priority Action in [EPA’s PFAS Action Plan](#).

**Table 2. Other Upcoming IRIS Products or Activities**

<b>Product or Activity</b>	<b>Next Anticipated Public Step(s)</b>	<b>Projected Fiscal Year Quarter</b>
ORD Staff Handbook for Developing IRIS Assessments (“IRIS Handbook”)	Public Comment Version	FY20 – Q3
	External Peer Review Version	FY20 – Q3