



A Comparison Between EPA’s Proposed and Final Drinking Water Regulation to Limit PFAS in Drinking Water April 2024

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking a signature step to protect public health nationwide by establishing legally enforceable levels in public water systems for several PFAS known to occur individually and/or as a mixture in drinking water. This rule sets limits for five individual PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA (known as “GenX Chemicals”). And the rule sets a limit for mixtures of four PFAS: PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS.

Background on EPA’s PFAS NPDWR

On March 14, 2023, the EPA announced and sought public comment on the proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR). The EPA received over 120,000 total comments; all of which the agency considered to inform the final regulation. The following table presents a summary of key changes the EPA made after considering the comments on the proposed rule. To learn more about the final PFAS NPDWR, please visit www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas.

Comparison Summary of Proposed NPDWR and Final NPDWR

The key requirements of the proposed and final NPDWR are shown in the summary below. Italicized and highlighted blue text indicate changes made between the proposed NPDWR and the final NPDWR.

Topic Area	Proposed NPDWR	Final NPDWR	Available Resources
Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFOA and PFOS MCLGs at zero Hazard Index MCLG equal to 1.0 (unitless) (two significant figures) for mixtures containing 1 or more of 4 PFAS (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, PFBS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFOA and PFOS MCLGs at zero <i>Hazard Index MCLG at 1 (one significant figure) for mixtures containing 2 or more of 4 PFAS (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, PFBS)</i> <i>Individual MCLGs for 3 PFAS (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA) at 10 ppt each (one significant figure)</i> 	Section IV of the Final Rule Notice
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFOA and PFOS MCLs at 4.0 ppt (two significant figures) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PFOA and PFOS MCLs at 4.0 ppt (two significant figures) 	PFAS NPDWR General Fact Sheet

Topic Area	Proposed NPDWR	Final NPDWR	Available Resources
Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazard Index MCL at 1.0 (unitless) (two significant figures) for mixtures containing 1 or more of 4 PFAS (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, PFBS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Hazard Index MCL at 1 (one significant figure) for mixtures containing 2 or more of 4 PFAS (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, PFBS)</i> <i>Individual MCLs for 3 PFAS (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA) at 10 ppt each (one significant figure)</i> 	PFAS NPDWR Hazard Index Fact Sheet Section V of the Final Rule Notice
Compliance Deadlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems must comply with the initial monitoring requirements within three years following rule promulgation Systems must comply with all other NPDWR requirements starting three years after rule promulgation, including regular compliance monitoring, compliance with MCLs, and CCR and public notification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Systems must comply with the initial monitoring requirements within three years following rule promulgation and must begin regular compliance monitoring and reporting of monitoring results in CCRs starting three years following rule promulgation <i>Nationwide two-year capital improvement extension for MCL compliance; systems must comply with MCLs five years after rule promulgation, including providing associated public notification for MCL violations</i> 	PFAS NPDWR Monitoring and Reporting Fact Sheet Section XI of the Final Rule Notice
Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EPA does not specify how water systems must comply with the PFAS MCLs or specific technologies that must be utilized. The EPA has identified GAC, AIX, NF, and RO¹ as Best Available Technologies that can be used to comply with the MCLs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EPA does not specify how water systems must comply with the PFAS MCLs or specific technologies that must be utilized. The EPA has identified GAC, AIX, NF, and RO¹ as Best Available Technologies that can be used to comply with the MCLs. 	PFAS NPDWR Treatment Fact Sheet Section X of the Final Rule Notice
SDWA Right-to-Know: Public Notification (PN) and Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 2 PN requirements for MCL violations and Tier 3 for violations of monitoring and testing procedures Community water systems required to report results of monitoring in CCRs beginning three years following rule promulgation PN for violations of the monitoring and testing procedures required starting three years following rule promulgation PN for violations of the MCLs required starting three years following rule promulgation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 2 PN requirements for MCL violations and Tier 3 for violations of monitoring and testing procedures Community water systems required to report results of monitoring in CCRs beginning three years following rule promulgation PN for violations of monitoring and testing procedures required starting three years following rule promulgation <i>PN for violations of MCLs required starting five years following rule promulgation</i> 	CCR Rule PN Rules PFAS NPDWR Monitoring and Reporting Fact Sheet Section IX of the Final Rule Notice

Topic Area	Proposed NPDWR	Final NPDWR	Available Resources
Monitoring and Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial monitoring requires four quarterly samples for all surface water systems and large groundwater systems (serving > 10K) and two semi-annual samples for small groundwater systems (serving ≤ 10K) • Allowance of previously collected data to satisfy some or all of the initial monitoring requirements • MCL compliance determined by running annual average calculation and sample results below Practical Quantitation Levels use zero as part of compliance calculation • Reduced compliance monitoring trigger levels set at 1/3 proposed MCLs • Ongoing compliance monitoring frequencies of only default quarterly and reduced triennial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial monitoring requires four quarterly samples for all surface water systems and large groundwater systems (serving > 10K) and two semi-annual samples for small groundwater systems (serving ≤ 10K) • Allowance of previously collected data to satisfy some or all of the initial monitoring requirements • MCL compliance determined by running annual average calculation and sample results below Practical Quantitation Levels use zero as part of compliance calculation • <i>Reduced compliance monitoring trigger levels set at ½ final MCLs</i> • <i>Addition of annual ongoing compliance monitoring frequency for water systems demonstrating that they are reliably and consistently below all regulated PFAS MCLs</i> 	<p>PFAS NPDWR Monitoring and Reporting Fact Sheet</p> <p>Section VIII of the Final Rule Notice</p>

¹GAC, AIX, NF, RO: GAC is granular activated carbon, AIX is anion exchange, NF is nanofiltration, RO is reverse osmosis.