What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are man-made chemicals used to manufacture consumer and industrial products that are known to cause many adverse health issues at very low levels. PFAS are known as forever chemicals because they do not break down in nature. Unsafe levels of PFAS have been detected in raw water used to supply drinking water to approximately 700,000 West Virginians.

What can you do about it?

A West Virginia study showing unsafe levels of PFAS in the raw water supply for 130 community water systems presents a serious public health concern. The responsibility for addressing PFAS contamination should not be placed on water utilities or ratepayers. The state must take immediate action to reduce PFAS pollution at the source.

Pass the PFAS Protection Act!
Raw versus finished water

The West Virginia study sampled **raw water**, which is the water pumped from rivers, streams, and groundwater before it is treated. In contrast, **finished water** is the water distributed to people's taps after treatment.

The Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Health and Human Resources are now sampling the finished water at many community water systems to determine whether unsafe PFAS levels are being distributed to customers.

**PFAS health effects**

- Weakened immune system
- Elevated cholesterol levels
- Liver damage
- Kidney and testicular cancer
- Thyroid disease
- Breast cancer
- Delayed mammary gland development
- Reduced response to vaccines
- Lower birth weight
- Delayed mammary gland development
- Reduced response to vaccines
Eastern Panhandle community water systems with PFAS exceeding health advisories in raw water
Southern West Virginia community water systems with PFAS exceeding health advisories in raw water
The PFAS Protection Act

The PFAS Protection Act helps hold polluters responsible for cleaning up PFAS, not water utilities or their ratepayers.

The PFAS Protection Act:

- Requires the Department of Environmental Protection to develop action plans to identify and address the sources of PFAS in raw water
- Requires industry to monitor and report PFAS discharges
- Establishes statewide limits on PFAS discharges into water supplies immediately upon EPA's issuance of recommended criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>The Legislature passed SCR 46, requesting a study of PFAS in the raw water for all community water systems in West Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>USGS published the West Virginia PFAS study in Scientific Investigations Report 2022-5067. EPA published draft recommended aquatic life water quality criteria for PFOA and PFOS. EPA proposed to designate PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances. EPA issued drinking water health advisories for four PFAS. Two of these PFAS, PFOA and PFOS, have negative health effects at near-zero concentrations. EPA issued guidance to state permitting authorities to address PFAS in Clean Water Act permits to reduce discharges to waterways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>USGS is expected to publish results from its finished water PFAS study. EPA has committed to establishing drinking water standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act for PFOA and PFOS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2024</td>
<td>EPA has committed to publishing recommended human health water quality criteria under the Clean Water Act for PFOA and PFOS.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PASS THE PFAS PROTECTION ACT

WEST VIRGINIA RIVERS

CONTACT US:

(304) 637-2701
wvrivers@wvrivers.org
3501 McCorkle Ave. SE #129 Charleston WV 25304

FOREVER CHEMICALS
PASS THE PFAS PROTECTION ACT