



*We work with others to protect the health of the people of Washington State by ensuring safe and reliable drinking water.*



## PFAS AND ADDRESSING UNREGULATED CONTAMINANTS

Washington State Board of Health

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# Presenters

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# At the last meeting...

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- PFAS science and health information is rapidly evolving, as is community concern
- PFAS in drinking water presents a public health risk
- Final EPA regulatory action (if any) is expected to be many years in the future
- We have too much information to ignore already, but not as much information as we would like
- Rulemaking may be iterative
- Next step is determining the type of regulatory standard (SAL v MCL) we will pursue

# Federal and State PFAS-related Activities

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## ● Federal Updates

- EPA to consider MCL for PFAS
- EPA using rapid assessment tools to develop info for 70 PFAS, will release toxicity values for PFBS and GenX
- ATSDR Assessment – MRLs for 4 PFAS

## ● State Updates

- Interim Chemical Action Plan published
- Two new PFAS-related laws passed legislature
- DOH launched voluntary drinking water testing

# Approach to Setting Health-based Standards

- Identify chemicals of concern
- Define action levels if sufficient information
- For similar chemicals, use default levels until more is known
- Assume PFAS in mixtures are additive unless data shows otherwise
- Explore ideas for regulating PFAS as a class or subclasses

# Comparing SAL and MCL

- Similarities
  - Monitoring
  - Public Notice (plus health advisory, when appropriate)
  - Use of an accredited lab and approved lab methods
  - State loan fund availability
  - DOH technical assistance

# Comparing SAL and MCL

## ○ Differences

- Exceeding a MCL requires:
  - Treatment; or
  - Abandoning the contaminated source and
  - Constructing new source or intertie with a nearby system
- Exceeding a SAL would not automatically require treatment
  - May be set at a level lower than what would require treatment
  - DOH has general authority (outside SAL framework) to take action as necessary

# Recommendation

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- DOH recommends the Board consider the SAL process for PFAS
  - Protects public health by requiring notification
  - Allows for developing science
  - Supports future MCL development if appropriate
    - Helps establish occurrence
    - Sets background framework for evaluating risk
  - Supports utilities
    - Values recognized by state and federal cleanup standards
    - Funding priority



# Update Rule Framework for SALs

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- Clarity in Rule
  - Identify criteria for pursuing a SAL
  - Specify sampling requirements for each SAL
  - Specify utility responsibilities when sampling results > SAL
- Transparency in Rule
  - Identify how SAL candidates are selected
  - Describe criteria used in establishing a SAL
  - Specify frequency to review/update existing SALs

# Next Steps

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- Update the SAL process in rule
- Department will follow process and set SALs with Board approval
  - Create SAL(s) for PFAS
  - Department will update existing SALs following this process
- Department will continue to evaluate contaminants with SALs to determine when or whether an MCL might be appropriate

# Next Steps

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- Support for Water Systems
  - Prepare in advance public notice template for each SAL
  - Identify best available treatment technology
  - Confirm analytical methods and lab capacity
- Continue to discuss approach with stakeholders
- Review ATSDR toxicological profiles and other risk assessments
- Determine which PFAS to address
- Derive drinking water advisory levels
- Develop recommendation for mixtures of PFAS

