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
Office of Drinking Water

Drinking Water Advisory Group
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Some History

- 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, but not as much information as we’d like
- Rulemaking may be iterative
- Next step is determining the type of regulatory standard (SAL vs. MCL) we will pursue

Federal and State PFAS-Related Activities

- 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 four 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 an MCL requires
  - Treatment—or
  - Abandoning the contaminated source—and
  - Constructing new source or intertie with a nearby system
- Exceeding an 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
- The Board supported the DOH recommendation to move forward with 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

- **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

- 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
SAL Sampling Project Updates

- Eighty-five utilities are participating prior to updated advisory considerations
- We emailed updates to all 85 utilities
  - Impacts to notification for more than just PFAS and PFOA
  - September 14 deadline to withdraw from project
- Responses received
  - Thirty-six systems confirmed
  - One system withdrew
  - One system requested additional information
  - Forty-seven systems have not yet contacted us

Next Steps

- Support for water systems
  - Prepare 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
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