



CONTACT:

Tracy Carluccio, Delaware Riverkeeper Network,
215.692.2329, tracy@delawareriverkeeper.org

Delaware Riverkeeper Network Statement
Environmental Protection Agency PFAS Health Advisory Level Updates
June 15, 2022

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated its health advisory levels (HALs) for PFOA and PFOS today and issued final HALs for two compounds that companies are currently using as replacements – the GenX compounds and PFBS. The new interim levels are dramatically lower than EPA’s previous PFOA and PFOS HALs – from 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS, singly or combined, to 0.004 ppt for PFOA and 0.02 ppt for PFOS.

EPA’s interim health advisories for PFOA and PFOS illustrate that the presence of these compounds in drinking water have adverse health effects at miniscule levels – levels so low that they can’t even be measured, based on EPA’s newest and most comprehensive research, employing human studies. This is a huge step forward by EPA in providing the public with needed protection from exposure to these highly toxic compounds in our drinking water but action to address the pressing need for mandatory and enforceable safe drinking water standards for PFAS is inexcusably still lacking. People across the nation are drinking water contaminated with PFAS because of EPA’s slow progress.

These interim HALs are non-enforceable and non-regulatory so they do not require any action. Because the HALs are advisory and interim, they could change. EPA has not completed the analysis required for a National Primary Drinking Water Standard to be proposed and adopted and we don’t have any idea what those final MCL numbers will be or how long it will take them to adopt such standards.

“We know, and EPA has confirmed today, no detectable level of PFAS is safe in drinking water and the EPA research supports its complete removal. However, more action is needed. It’s crucial that EPA move urgently forward with enforceable drinking water standards that will protect all Americans from these highly toxic compounds. In the meantime, our states must continue to pick up the slack and adopt regulations to remove PFAS from drinking water so that people are not exposed. EPA’s action proves one thing for certain – there is no longer any debate that PFAS cannot be tolerated in our drinking water, must be removed completely from our drinking water, and are linked to devastating human diseases,” said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

In the meantime, the HALs will likely be used as they have been in the past, as a guide for action by regulators and, of great importance, by the military bases that are the source of so much PFAS pollution across the nation. The HALs will help inform stronger cleanup standards for contaminated sites such as the military bases that released firefighting foams, and industrial sources such as DuPont, Solvay and 3M. It’s critical that the HALs be used to support getting these toxins out of our environment at the expense of the entities that caused the pollution.

###

DELAWARE RIVERKEEPER NETWORK
925 Canal Street, Suite 3701
Bristol, PA 19007
Office: (215) 369-1188
fax: (215) 369-1181
dm@delawareriverkeeper.org
www.delawareriverkeeper.org