



For Immediate Release  
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**Groundwater Standard for Toxic PFNA Must Protect Public Health**  
**Delaware Riverkeeper Network submits expert technical analysis on NJDEP's proposed groundwater criterion for Perfluorononanoic Acid - PFNA (C9)**

*Trenton, NJ* – Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) submitted a technical analysis by an environmental scientist to New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) today in response to the public comment opportunity offered by NJDEP's Office of Science on a draft Interim Specific Ground Water Criterion for Perfluorononanoic Acid, also known as PFNA or C9. A copy of the comment and report is available at: <http://bit.ly/1fTIDaX>

NJDEP posted the draft criterion and other technical documents on March 14, 2014 with a comment period ending April 17, 2014. The period was extended to May 1, 2014. To see the documents: <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dsr/pfna/>

DRN commissioned a report from Dr. Fardin Oliaei, MPA, PhD., an expert in public health and environmental science, who reviewed the proposed criterion and provided DRN with a technical analysis. DRN submitted the report with an endorsement of the findings and recommendations, emphasizing the importance of protecting all populations, including children. DRN's submitted technical analysis concludes that NJDEP's proposed criterion would not be protective enough. Employing DEP's serum level data and standard technical methods, the criterion value yielded through the DRN expert's analysis was 1.7 ng/L employing exposure parameters of children and a more conservative "uncertainty factor". NJDEP is proposing a groundwater criterion of 20 ng/L.

"People rely on DEP to protect their drinking water but when it comes to PFCs the agency has fallen down on the job. Thousands of residents in the region surrounding Solvay Specialty Polymers have been exposed to toxic PFNA in their drinking water and knew nothing about it for years on end, increasing their risk of developing disease. The proposal to establish a groundwater criterion that will guide the cleanup of PFNA from the region's drinking water is

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urgently needed and a critically important step that will begin to turn around the current water crisis in these communities. We urge DEP to adopt a strict criterion that protects both children and adults; 1.7 ng/L is the criterion we are urging the agency to adopt based on the expert technical analysis we are submitting today,” said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

In other important news today, NJDEP has finally publicly released the Perfluorinated Chemical Occurrence Study (PFC) report that had been kept under cover by the agency since 2009. The report examines data from raw water samples taken from 31 public water supply systems in 20 of New Jersey’s 21 counties. To see the report: <http://bit.ly/1jIVqX0>. 10 PFCs were analyzed by NJDEP. PFCs were found in 22 of the 33 samples (67%), with PFOA being the most commonly found (in 18 of 33 samples, 55%). NJDEP reports that “PFCs were detected in 11 of 12 surface water samples and in 11 of 19 of the unconfined groundwater samples”.

The report’s raw data was obtained by DRN in July 2013 and posted on DRN’s website. At that time, DRN submitted a letter to NJDEP urging immediate action by the agency to remove PFCs from the state’s drinking water and other actions, to make the report public, and criticized the agency for inaction. To see the letter: <http://bit.ly/njdepltr>. An excerpt from DRN’s letter discusses some of the information found in the data DRN obtained:

PFOA levels in two water supplies, **Brick Township MUA (100 ng/L) and Bondie & Sons (57 ng/L)** were above the New Jersey guidance level of 0.04 ppb (40 ng/L). In reviewing this data, we note several other new concerns. First, since a large suite of PFCs were included in the 2009 testing, there are some obvious red flags in the results. Some water supplies had very high levels of PFCs for which no New Jersey drinking water data was available previously, and very high levels were found in the Delaware River Watershed.

The **highest groundwater levels of total PFCs were found in the water supplies for Paulsboro in Gloucester County and Bondie & Sons in Salem County**, both in the lower part of the Delaware River. Paulsboro is about 2 miles from the Solvay Solexis plant ([www.solvaysolexis.com](http://www.solvaysolexis.com)) in West Deptford, and Bondie & Sons is approximately 6 miles from the DuPont Chambers Works facility ([www.nj.gov/dep/swap/reports/swar\\_1706305.pdf](http://www.nj.gov/dep/swap/reports/swar_1706305.pdf)). Other notably high total groundwater levels were found in **Ridgewood, Camden City Water Department, Southeast Morris County MUA, West Milford MUA - Birch Hill and NJ American Elizabethtown-Netherwood Wellfield (all with totals of 69 ng/L or higher)**.

Very high levels of PFCs were also found in the **surface water supplies at Doughty Pond and Kuehnle Pond, reservoirs that provide Atlantic City** with drinking water. Brick Township MUA surface water showed a high PFOA level along with detection of three additional PFCs. The highest total of all PFCs in the State was Atlantic City’s Kuehnle Pond with a total of 174 ng/L. Bondie & Sons was the second highest overall, and Atlantic City’s Doughty Pond and Paulsboro followed close behind.

The **highest level of perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) was found at Paulsboro** on the Delaware River, near the Solvay Solexis plant ([www.solvaysolexis.com](http://www.solvaysolexis.com)) at 96 ng/L. Fluorocarbons and fluoropolymers are made at this plant (<http://www.epa.gov/region02/waste/fsausimo.htm>). DRN and a Coalition of partner groups brought PFOA sampling results taken from the drinking water system serving Thorofare and West Deptford near the Solvay Solexis plant to the attention of the Department in May 2007. In the Department’s

subsequent sampling of Paulsboro nearby, the PFNA levels are startling, considering the known toxicity of PFNA.

The 2009 NJDEP study includes the data that sparked the PFNA and PFC investigations now ongoing in the region around Solvay Specialty Polymers which includes municipalities in Gloucester County, the adjacent Delaware River region and beyond. NJDEP's website has background information on PFCs at: [http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc\\_quality\\_pfoa.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc_quality_pfoa.html) NJ Department of Health has issued downloadable fact sheets on PFCs and can be reached at 609-826-4920 or 609-826-4984 with specific health questions regarding PFCs: [http://nj.gov/health/eohs/pfc\\_in\\_drinkingwater.shtml](http://nj.gov/health/eohs/pfc_in_drinkingwater.shtml)

Of great importance this week also, New Jersey's Drinking Water Quality Institute reconvened for the first time since September 2010 on Tuesday, April 29. The agenda was focused on PFC contamination of drinking water in the state; a maximum contaminant level for some PFCs, including PFOA and PFNA, will be moved ahead by the Institute although the Institute does not expect to have a full meeting where recommended safe drinking water levels could be voted on until September.

An informative power point presentation at the meeting by NJDEP Office of Science toxicologist Gloria Post was promised to be posted on the Institute website but is not yet available: [http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/g\\_boards\\_dwqi.html](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/g_boards_dwqi.html) One of the presentation's key findings based on sampling data available through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) was that New Jersey has a higher incidence of PFC contamination than other states in the nation. For more information on the UCMR program and data: <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ucmr/ucmr3/index.cfm>

"Perfluorinated chemicals are an enormous problem in New Jersey and many thousands of people are unknowingly drinking contaminated water today because these toxic compounds are not regulated and so do not have to be removed from tap water. The state did nothing for years due to the shutdown of the Drinking Water Quality Institute and DEP's secreting away of new data that should have spurred prompt action. Finally the means to get these toxics out of the water and environment has been resurrected with the startup of the Institute and DEP's 2009 Occurrence Study now seeing the light of day. The public will continue to press for speedy and sound remedies that will deliver the clean water we all need," said Carluccio.

A copy of DRN's investigative Memo regarding PFNA and other PFCs is at: <http://bit.ly/pfnamemo>

A copy of a release about the federal agency that is beginning a public health investigation of PFNA is at: <http://bit.ly/1i1aO6M>

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