



# PFAS MEDIA BRIEFING #5

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## DHEC STAFF

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*“Our number one goal is to have all of South Carolina’s water systems operate in compliance with all federal and state drinking water standards that help protect people’s health, including this newest standard related to PFAS compounds,” said Myra Reece, Director of DHEC Environmental Affairs. “We understand how important it is for system operators, especially small and rural ones, to have the resources and assistance they need to meet and maintain compliance, which is why we will continue to work with state and local officials about this new federal rule.”*

DHEC is committed to keeping South Carolinians informed about the latest PFAS information, efforts and actions. We will continue to work with state and local officials and water providers; continue to hold [statewide media briefings](#) to share updates and recommendations with our state’s media outlets; post our latest data and findings at [scdhec.gov/pfas](#); share information on social media; and provide informational resources to communities at the local level.

- Ways to reduce exposure to PFAS compounds can be found on the DHEC website: [scdhec.gov/pfas](#)
- EPA’S PFAS webpage: [epa.gov/sdwa/and-poyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas](#)

On April 10, 2024, the EPA announced a final rule for maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) in drinking water for five individual PFAS compounds, as well as a Hazard Index formula for a mixture of four PFAS compounds. MCLs are legally enforceable primary drinking water standards that public water systems must meet. Primary standards protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in drinking water.

## 1 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- EPA will publish this ruling in the Federal Register. Regulated public water systems across the nation will have an implementation period of three years (2027) to perform initial monitoring of existing PFAS levels and an additional two years (2029) to implement treatment processes, if necessary, to ensure their drinking water meets the federal MCLs for PFAS.

## 2 WHAT ARE THE ENFORCEABLE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVELS (MCLs) for PFAS?

- This rule will not become enforceable until 2029, when the implementation process is complete.
- The announced MCLs are for five PFAS compounds. An MCL is established for a mixture of 4 other PFAS using a Hazard Index calculation. This is the first time this process has been used to regulate drinking water.

Compound	Final MCL (enforceable levels)
PFOA	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	10 ppt
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	1 (unitless) Hazard Index

- These MCLs for PFAS represent chronic, or long-term health hazards and assume that a person drinks 2.5 liters of impacted water a day, 365 days per year, for 70 years.

## 3 WHY ARE THESE PFAS COMPOUNDS THE FIRST TO BE REGULATED?

- These five PFAS compounds are the most studied by scientists around the world.
- There is evidence of an association with adverse health effects at low concentrations for these chemicals in drinking water. Health effects for the most sensitive population are the basis for MCL determination.