

On the cutting edge of emerging contaminant issues

Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have rapidly emerged as a constituent of concern since being added to U.S. EPA's Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule list in 2012. On February 14, 2019, U.S. EPA released the PFAS Action Plan, which addressed potential inclusion of PFAS chemicals under the Safe Drinking Water Act, Toxic Release Inventory, Toxic Substances Control Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act. However, to date, federal regulatory changes have not been promulgated. In addition to federal regulatory responses, some states have developed regulatory and guidance advisory and cleanup levels for PFAS, many of which are changing rapidly and sometimes contradictory.

That's why EnSafe monitors regulatory developments, identifies changes in laboratory methods, and assesses field technique impacts on data quality. Our vigilance ensures that our clients' investigation and remediation decisions are based on the most recent technically defensible science. We continually refine plans and procedures to adjust specific project action levels, guide field technique, and identify appropriate analytical methodology.

**\*OUR ROLE: To help our clients navigate this evolving regulatory arena and to manage their PFAS liabilities over the long term.**

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## WHAT ARE PFAS?

- **Man-made chemicals** widely manufactured since the 1950s.
- Used in many household & industrial products because of **stain- & water-repellant** properties.
- Present **virtually everywhere in the world** (soil, groundwater, surface water, rain, ice caps, air, plants, animal tissue, blood serum) because of wide-spread use & slow break-down.
- Found in fire-fighting foam, mist suppressants for metal plating operations, & in manufacture of furniture, carpets, & clothing.
- **Highest concentrations** linked to direct discharge from industries where PFAS are in use.

## CURRENT REGULATIONS

U.S. EPA has published **interim screening levels of 40 parts per trillion and health advisory levels of 70 parts per trillion for select PFAS**. However, both chemicals are currently classified as unregulated or "emerging" contaminants with no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements.

## COMMUNITY RELATIONS PROGRAMS

EnSafe works hand-in-hand with our clients, regulators, and government officials to establish community relation programs, particularly when private, potable wells have been adversely impacted.

## REMEDIATION OPTIONS

Because remediation options are currently limited to ex-situ treatment via specialty carbon-based treatment or ion exchange, which can be expensive, the majority of remedial efforts consist of point-of-use/point-of-exposure treatment. EnSafe's experts keep our clients apprised of best practices as technology advances to catch up with the latest findings on fate and transport as well as the evolving regulatory environment.

Continual monitoring/dissection of regulatory changes & framework

Up-to-date knowledge, experience, and resources for providing historical research, site investigations, conceptual site models, data quality objectives, sampling & analysis, remedial actions, emergency response support

Experience with PFAS impacts at various federal, municipal, and industrial clients

Coordination with regulators to determine action levels and inputs to human health and ecological risk models

Use of certified laboratories

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