



November 10, 2022

Re: EQB FINAL regulation #7-569 (IRRC #3334): "Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule"

Clean Water Action and our over 80,000 statewide members support the historic step taken by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to set a state maximum contamination level (MCL) in drinking water for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)—perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and encourage the members of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission to adopt the final rulemaking.

Access to safe drinking water is an environmental right recognized in the Pennsylvania Constitution and vital to maintaining healthy and sustainable communities. The health effects of PFOA and PFOS are documented in the proposed rulemaking, verified by health studies and data, and thoroughly analyzed in scientific literature. These compounds should have been removed from drinking water years ago and further delays in providing relief are unjustifiable. This combined with our knowledge that the major exposure route for PFAS in Pennsylvania is through drinking water, makes finalizing this rulemaking extremely important to Pennsylvania's future.

The rulemaking is not without its shortcomings though. We sought to have the final rulemaking include setting MCLs for more PFAS compounds, at least for PFNA, PFHxA, PFHxS, PFHpA, PFUnA, and PFBS which were all identified in the Department's Water Testing Results that were finalized in May 2021. We also sought to have the final rulemaking require more rigorous and continual monitoring in order to achieve protective early detection, especially given how highly mobile in water and persistent in the environment PFOA and PFOS are- making their migration from a source of contamination a threat that is unpredictable and can occur rapidly. Finally, we sought to have the final rulemaking guarantee equal protection by applying to all water supplies because excluding private water wells as the current plan does leaves about one quarter of Pennsylvania's population out of the sampling and in the dark about whether their drinking water contains PFAS

However, none of these shortcomings should preclude you from joining us in supporting the EQB FINAL regulation #7-569 (IRRC #3334): "Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule". Instead, we hope adoption of this policy is just the first step by the Department toward taking additional actions that will help ensure the most robust protections for public health and our water from exposure to PFAS compounds.

Steven Hvozdoch
 Pennsylvania Campaigns Director
 100 5th Ave, Ste 1108
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222

PHILADELPHIA
 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1650
 Philadelphia, PA 19107
 Tel. 215.545.0250

PITTSBURGH
 100 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1108
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222
 Tel. 412.765.3053

NATIONAL
 1444 Eye Street NW, Suite 400
 Washington, DC 20005
 Tel. 202.895.0420