

**Stephen Hoffman**

From: ecomment@pa.gov
Sent: Thursday, April 21, 2022 10:36 AM
To: Environment-Committee@pasenate.com; environmentalcommittee@pahouse.net; regcomments@pa.gov; Troutman, Nick; Glendon King; Franzese, Evan B.; Eyster, Emily; IRRC
Cc: c-jflanaga@pa.gov
Subject: Comment received - Proposed Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule (# 7-569)

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**Re: eComment System**

The Department of Environmental Protection has received the following comments on Proposed Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule (#7-569).

Commenter Information:

Terrie Baumgardner
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620 Grand Ave
Aliquippa, PA 15001 US

Comments entered:

Dear DEP Regulatory Comments,

I am writing to support stronger Safe Drinking Water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) rules. It is critical that Pennsylvania adopt strong drinking water safeguards for these harmful compounds.

PFAS are a group of toxic man-made chemicals broadly used in industry, and the entire group is known to pose health risks in humans. These chemicals do not easily degrade in the environment, and they accumulate in soil, groundwater, drinking water, food products, and in our human bodies. PFAS can lead to adverse health impacts, including cancer and hormone disruption. In Pennsylvania, sampling by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) suggests that hundreds of public drinking water sources contain PFAS compounds in concentrations that are harmful to human health.

Pennsylvanians are guaranteed the right to pure water by Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, to which all government officials swear an oath. A committee of medical and environmental experts was engaged by the DEP (the Drexel PFAS Advisory Group) to develop a set of maximum contaminant level goals for a number of PFAS compounds in

drinking water. These reflect the potential of the compounds to harm people, in particular children.

Yet, the proposed rule would propose standards for only two compounds in drinking water: Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). Pennsylvanians need full--not partial or piecemeal--protection from the toxic chemicals in this group.

The DEP should propose standards for at least four additional compounds: Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), and Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS). The Drexel group, which was engaged by the DEP, found that these compounds are also harmful to human health. The DEP has identified these compounds in drinking water at levels higher than health-based goals developed by that group. Still, the DEP is incorrectly assuming that regulating only two PFAS compounds would provide sufficient protection against the others. Also, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state agencies have found that the effect of these compounds is additive, making the need to limit their concentrations even more critical.

The DEP should be serving the people, not industry. Along with air, water is fundamental to the life of all residents, and the top job of the government is to protect residents from needless harm. I strongly support the DEP taking action to regulate PFAS compounds in Pennsylvania drinking water, and urge the DEP to add new standards to the proposed rule for at least four additional compounds.

Sincerely,

No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Jessica Shirley

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