



**Stephen Hoffman**

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**From:** ecomment@pa.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 27, 2022 9:12 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:

James Rice  
 (elainejimrice@comcast.net)

, PA US

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Comments entered:

RE: Proposed Rulemaking: Safe Drinking Water PFAS MCL Rule - April 26, 2022

"Pennsylvania state authorities first became aware of PFAS in 2013" - PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Late last year, the Environmental Quality Board recommended 14 parts per trillion for PFOA, and 18 for PFOS. Word has it DEP will set MCLs for two PFAS compounds at these recommended levels. Why has it taken so long to get an enforceable drinking water standard for PFAS in Pennsylvania?

In 2018, "Governor Tom Wolf today announced the establishment of a multi-agency PFAS Action Team and other executive actions to address growing national concerns surrounding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) ... I am using all the authority I have to address this emerging environmental and public health issue because our residents deserve clean air, pure water, and to know that the environment they live in is safe" - 2018 press release.

In 2018, the need for reelection votes in the Philly suburbs and past contamination from the military bases in the area triggered the executive actions. With haste affected public drinking

water supplies in nearby Horsham Township in Montgomery County and Warminster and Warrington Townships in Bucks County were treated. That's where the state focused most of its effort. A second term was secured.

DEP went on to test for PFAS in 412 drinking water systems. 412 systems of "about 3,000 public water systems in Pennsylvania" according to the agency. Of the 412 total samples, only two of the results were above the questionable U.S. EPA health advisory level of 70 ppt. Only those systems in proximity to military bases, fire training schools, airports, landfills, and manufacturing facilities were tested.

Is there an effort to expand the PFAS testing?

PFAS have been found in sewage sludge - renamed biosolids. The chemicals do not break down during conventional wastewater treatment. PFAS in the effluent from a treatment plant can impact downstream drinking water sources. PFAS in the sewage sludge can contaminate crops if applied on agricultural fields. Is sewage sludge tested for PFAS before application to farmland?

PFAS chemicals are used in a fracking operation. Has there been any testing of water sources near these fracking sites? What about private water systems?

Remediation of these chemicals is achieved by the installation of a granulated activated carbon system. Is there an effort to secure funding from the American Rescue Plan or Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to help ALL Pennsylvanians worried about their water and their health?

All of the above questions need to be answered in a positive and productive way.

Thanks for your time - Jim Rice, Harrisburg PA

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No attachments were included as part of this comment.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Shirley

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