

## **Service Authority Responds to New Federal Drinking Water Standards**

On April 10, 2024, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the first federal standards that set limits on the amount of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances, often referred to as "forever chemicals," found in drinking water. The Prince William County Service Authority and other water utilities are passive recipients of PFAS compounds, which are used in common household products and industrial processes. Under the new standards, water utilities will be required to monitor for specified types of PFAS and must reduce these PFAS by 2029 if monitoring indicates levels above the new EPA limits. In partnership with our drinking water suppliers, the Service Authority will ensure that our water continues to meet all EPA standards.

"The Service Authority's mission is to provide safe, clean and reliable water to approximately 386,000 people we serve in Prince William County," said General Manager/CEO Calvin D. Farr, Jr. "We support the EPA's efforts to limit exposure to PFAS compounds, which enter the environment through industrial and household uses. We also encourage the EPA to redouble its efforts to keep PFAS compounds out of our environment and drinking water supplies. Along with our drinking water providers, the Service Authority will maintain our standard of excellence in drinking water."

Mr. Farr noted that eliminating PFAS pollution at the source is the best way to protect local drinking water supplies, the environment and human health. Targeting and eliminating PFAS at their source is cost effective and reduces or eliminates the need for extra treatment costs, which are paid for by water utility customers.

The new EPA rule:

- Limits two types of PFOA and PFOS compounds to four parts per trillion.
- Limits PFNA, PFHxS and GenX chemicals to 10 parts per trillion.
- Set a limit for mixtures of any two or more of PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS and GenX chemicals.
- Systems whose PFAS levels exceed the standards will have until 2029 to bring them to the regulated level.

The Service Authority has been collecting and testing samples from our water distribution system for PFAS compounds since 2021. The most recent round of testing was completed in February 2024, and all samples were found to be below EPA's newly announced limits for PFAS.

Service Authority customers and local residents can find more information about PFAS, including how to limit exposure to PFAS and our sampling results, at <https://www.pwcsa.org/pfas-drinking-water-faq>.

The April 10 EPA announcement is located here: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-first-ever-national-drinking-water-standard>