

PFAS Drinking Water Draft Standards Announced

LANSING – The Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy announced Friday that it will be moving forward in formally setting a threshold on certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in Michigan drinking water, becoming the first in the nation to do so and aiming for finalizing the policy as soon as April 2020.

These draft rules cover seven forms of PFAS and roughly 2,700 public water system operators around the state would be covered by this new rule. The standards were voted on last month and establish maximum contaminant levels based on research gathered through the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team.

These include:

Setting PFNA at an MCL of 6 ng/L (ppt)

Setting PFOA at an MCL of 8 ng/L (ppt)

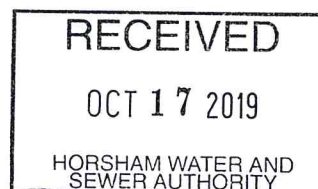
Setting PFHxA at an MCL of 400,000 ng/L (ppt)

Setting PFOS at an MCL of 16 ng/L (ppt)

Setting PFHxS at an MCL of 51 ng/L (ppt)

Setting PFBS at an MCL of 420 ng/L (ppt)

Setting GenX at an MCL of 370 ng/L (ppt)



EGLE Director Liesl Clark called the draft rules “an important milestone for the safety of Michigan’s drinking water.”

“These draft regulations represent the input from a diverse group of stakeholders who helped us shape regulations that are practical, science-driven and, most importantly, protective of public health,” she said. “Here in Michigan, we remain committed to working together to root out PFAS contamination, protect at-risk populations and drive down exposure levels.”

As these are only draft rules, they must be submitted through the administrative rules process and will be subject to a public comment period beginning in late 2019. An official date was not provided by EGLE, though the department did speculate a final rule on maximum contaminant levels could be set as early as April 2020.

“We can no longer wait for the federal government to act, which is why I directed EGLE to establish PFAS drinking water standards to protect Michiganders,” Governor Gretchen Whitmer said in a release Friday. “Moving forward with the rulemaking process moves us one step closer toward building public confidence and achieving real solutions that ensure every Michigander can safely bathe their kids and give them a glass of water at the dinner table.”

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