



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

May 05, 2023

Marta Reczko
SEFLUC Chair
Southeast Florida Utilities Council

Dear Ms. Reczko:

Thank you for your letter and input on EPA's Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR).

Through EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap, the Agency is committed to addressing PFAS contamination, including through the development of the proposed PFAS NPDWR which is a key action within this whole-of-agency approach. The science is clear that long-term exposure to certain PFAS, including those proposed for regulation in this action, is linked to significant health risks, and when drinking water is contaminated it can be a significant portion of a person's total PFAS exposure. As the lead federal agency responsible for ensuring safe drinking water for Americans, EPA is following the process outlined in the Safe Drinking Water Act and proposing to regulate PFAS in drinking water is a significant step toward protecting the health of hundreds of millions of people. Moreover, EPA anticipates that over many years this action will save thousands of lives and prevent tens of thousands of serious illnesses that would otherwise result from long-term exposure to PFAS. Therefore, it is an EPA priority that the Agency finalize this regulation expeditiously to reduce PFAS exposure in communities across the country.

EPA announced the proposed PFAS NPDWR on March 14, 2023. To provide the public with additional time to review and prepare comments on the proposed rule and key supporting documents, the Agency simultaneously made publicly available a pre-publication version of the proposed rule Federal Register Notice (FRN), as well as several of the significant underlying technical supporting documents, including the Economic Analysis and Appendices, Toxicity Assessment and Proposed Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) for PFOA and Appendix, Toxicity Assessment and Proposed MCLG for PFOS and Appendix, Framework for Estimating Noncancer Health Risks Associated with Mixtures of PFAS, MCLG Summary Document for a Mixture of Four PFAS, and EPA's Response to Science Advisory Board Recommendations on Draft Documents for the Proposed PFAS NPDWR. Subsequently, the proposed rule published in the Federal Register on March 29, 2023, officially initiating the public comment period, which is scheduled to conclude on May 30th, for a total of 62 days. Therefore, commenters will have had access to the proposed rule FRN and these key supporting documents for a total of 77 days following the rule announcement.

During the proposed rule development, EPA sought to actively involve stakeholders and members of the public in the rulemaking process, seek their input, and provide information through various consultations and engagements. EPA greatly appreciates the feedback and information shared during

this time which meaningfully informed the proposed rule. Following the rule proposal announcement, EPA has also offered opportunities for the public to learn more about the rule proposal including through two public webinars that EPA hosted on March 16, 2023, and March 29, 2023, to provide an overview of the rule for both general public and technical stakeholders. These webinars, as well as other supporting materials, have been made available on EPA's PFAS NPDWR website as a resource (<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>). Additionally, EPA held a public hearing for the proposed NPDWR on May 4, 2023, where members of the public had the opportunity to share their comments with EPA on the proposed rule.

EPA deeply values public input on the proposed rule. The Agency believes the current public comment period time provided is reasonable while also allowing EPA to fulfill its mission of protecting people and the environment from exposure to negative PFAS health effects as quickly as possible. Therefore, EPA will not be extending the comment period for the proposed rule. EPA looks forward to your comments on the proposed rule which are due by May 30, 2023. EPA remains committed to continuing to work with federal, state, territorial, and Tribal governments and drinking water systems to address concerns about PFAS in drinking water and implement solutions to reduce human health risks.

Again, thank you for your input and commitment to protecting drinking water. If you have additional questions, please contact Ryan Albert at albert.ryan@epa.gov or 202-564-0763.

Sincerely,

Eric Burneson
Director, Standards and Risk Management Division,
Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water