



New Mexico Environment Department

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in New Mexico: New Regulations and Reducing Exposure

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Drinking Water Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department

NMML – Environmental Quality Association
September 17, 2025
Ruidoso, NM



PFAS in New Mexico

- What are PFAS and why do we care?
- Drinking water regulations
- New regulations in New Mexico
- How can I reduce my exposure to PFAS?
- Summary



What are PFAS?

- Per- and polyFluoroAlkyl Substances
- Human-made “forever chemicals” that do not break down easily
- PFOA + PFOS are the most studied out of 12,000 (+!)





What are PFAS?

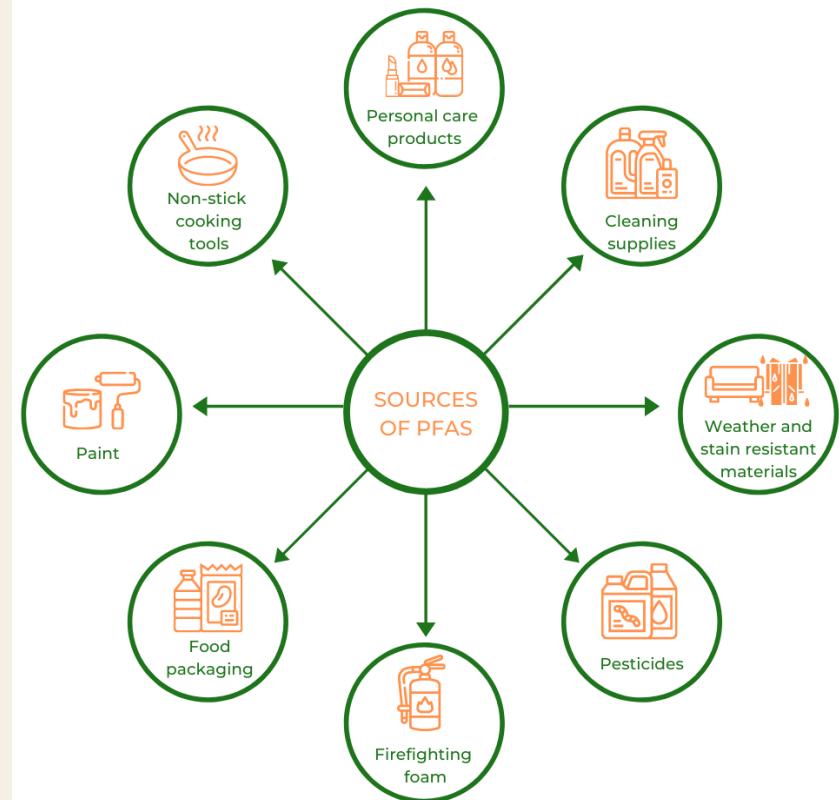
Primary Sources

- Industrial uses
- 1000s of tons used/exported
- Consumer products



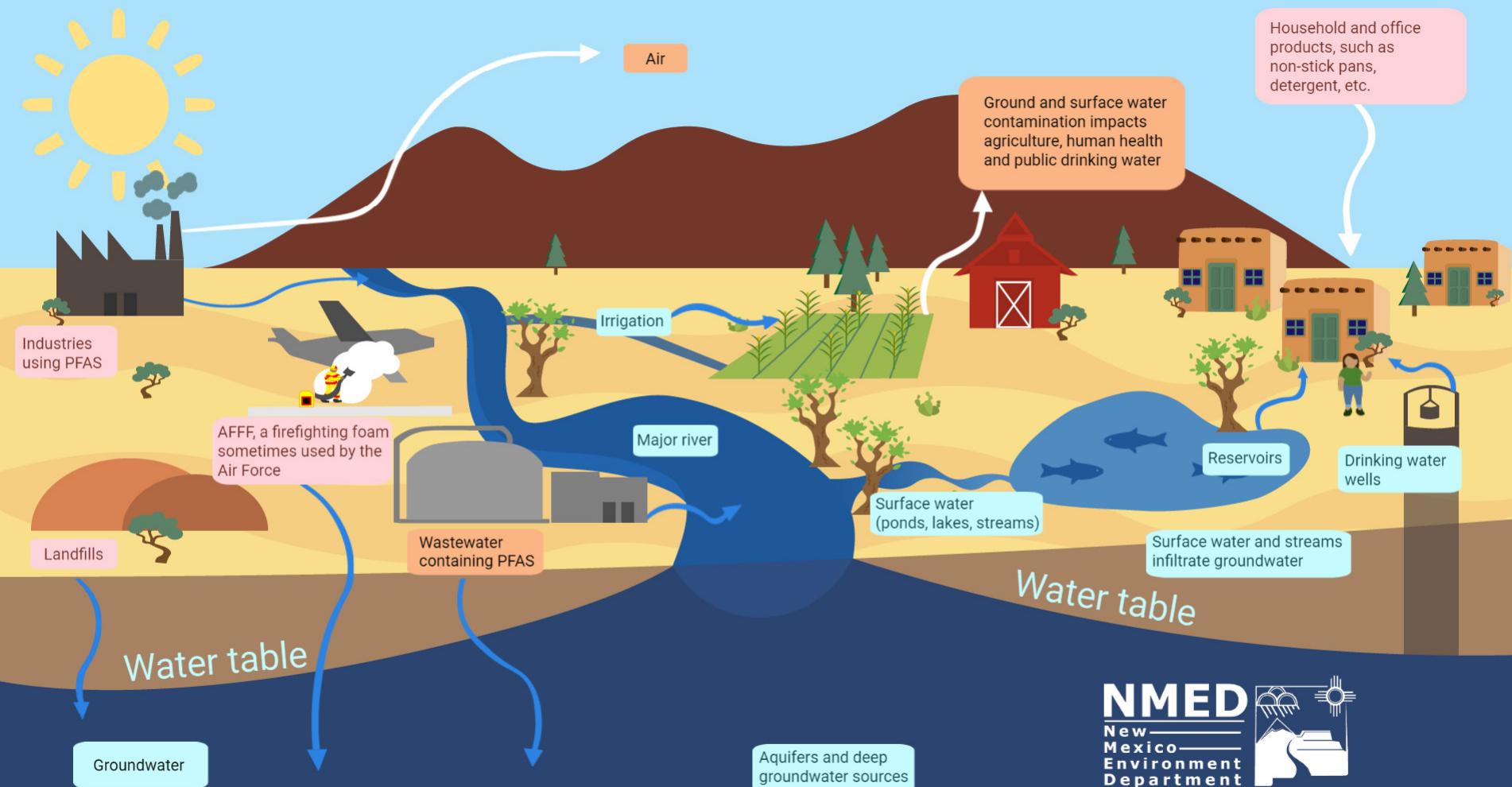
Secondary Sources

- Domestic sources
- Wastewater and landfills
- Dust





Why do we care?



Potential releases to the environment around us



Why do we care?

PFAS Chemical	Health Effects +
PFOA	Carcinogenic, cholesterol, immune system, kidney, liver, thyroid
PFOS	Cholesterol, immune system, liver, thyroid
PFBS	Developmental, kidney, reproductive, thyroid
PFHxS	Developmental, liver, thyroid
PFNA	Developmental, immune system, liver, reproductive
HFPO-DA (GenX)	Carcinogenic, hematological, immune system, kidney, liver



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PFAS and Drinking Water

New Mexico's drinking water regulations (20.7.10 NMAC) follow the federal Safe Drinking Water Act

20.7.10.100 ADOPTION OF 40 CFR PART 141:

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the regulations of the USEPA set forth at 40 CFR Part 141 apply.
- B. The term "state" means the New Mexico environment department when used in this section.

[20.7.10.100 NMAC - N, 12/04/2002; A, 04/16/2007; A, 10/15/2008; A, 10/28/2010; A, 01/06/2013]

20.7.10.101 ADOPTION OF 40 CFR PART 143:

- A. Except as otherwise provided, the regulations of the USEPA set forth at 40 CFR Part 143 apply.
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[20.7.10.101 NMAC - N, 12/04/2002; A, 04/16/2007; A, 10/15/2008; A, 01/06/2013]



ANNUAL WATER
QUALITY
REPORT
Reporting Year 2024



Photo Credit: Mark Stambaugh and Terry Yarborough

Presented By

RUIDOSO WATER SYSTEM
VILLAGE OF
RUIDOSO
NEW MEXICO

PWS ID#: NM3513114



Drinking Water Regulations

New PFAS Drinking Water Regulations

Compound	MCL (enforceable)	MCL Goal
PFOA	4.0 ppt	zero
PFOS	4.0 ppt	zero

May 14, 2025 – “EPA is also announcing its ***intent to rescind the regulations and reconsider the regulatory determinations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and the Hazard Index mixture of these three plus PFBS*** to ensure that the determinations and any resulting drinking water regulation follow the legal process laid out in the Safe Drinking Water Act.”

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE D.C. CIRCUIT

AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION, ET AL.,
Petitioners,

v.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, ET AL.,
Respondents.

On Petition for Review of Actions by Environmental Protection Agency

RESPONDENTS' MOTION FOR PARTIAL VACATUR

Dated: September 11, 2025

ADAM R.F. GUSTAFSON
Acting Assistant Attorney General

Of Counsel:

ROBERT STANDER
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

MCL = maximum contaminant level

MCLG = maximum contaminant level goal (*non-enforceable*)

ppt = parts per trillion; equivalent to nanogram per liter (ng/L)



Drinking Water Regulations

New PFAS Drinking Water Regulations

Compound	MCL (enforceable)	MCL Goal
PFOA	4.0 ppt	zero
PFOS	4.0 ppt	zero
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (GenX)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mix of 2 or more: PFNA PFBS PFHxS HFPO-DA (GenX)	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index

What is a ppt?

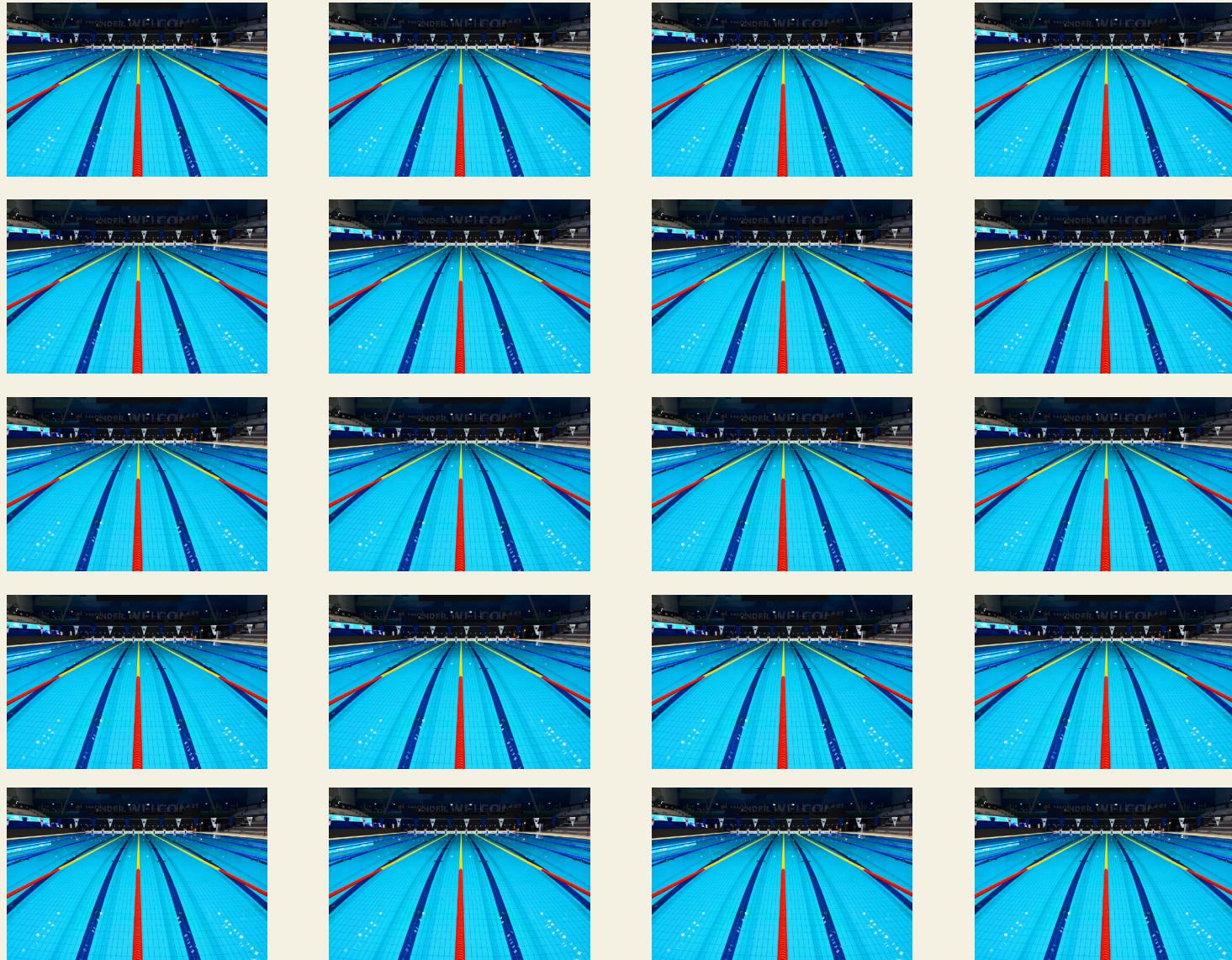
MCL = maximum contaminant level

MCLG = maximum contaminant level goal (*non-enforceable*)

ppt = parts per trillion; equivalent to nanogram per liter (ng/L)



PFAS and Drinking Water





PFAS and Drinking Water

→ 1 part per trillion (ppt) is about the same as a single drop of water in **20** Olympic-size swimming pools!

→ Certain PFAS chemicals are toxic at very low amounts when consumed regularly over a long period of time.



→ YES, it is worth it to reduce your exposure!

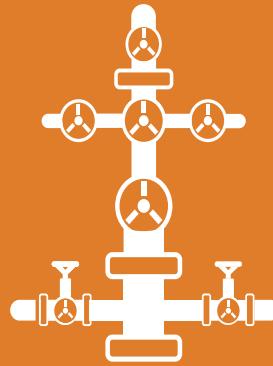


Utility Monitoring Requirements



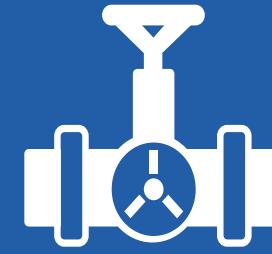
Surface Water Systems

- Serving all population sizes
- Quarterly sampling within 12-month period
- Samples collected 2 to 4 months apart



Large Groundwater Systems

- Serving over 10,000 customers
- Quarterly sampling within 12-month period
- Samples collected 2 to 4 months apart



Small Groundwater Systems

- Serving 10,000 or fewer customers
- Semiannual sampling within a 12-month period
- Samples collected 5 to 7 months apart



Utility Monitoring Requirements

Initial Monitoring
of EPTDS
(Due 4/26/27)

Ongoing Compliance
Monitoring of EPTDS
(Starting 4/26/27)

Trigger Levels (= 1/2 MCLs)

Yes

Any sample from initial
monitoring \geq trigger level?

No

Take 1 sample at
EPTDS every
quarter

Quarterly Sampling

Running annual
average $>$ MCL?

Take 1 sample at
EPTDS every year

Annual Sampling

Any
Sample
 \geq MCL?

Take 1 sample at
EPTDS every 3
years

Triennial Sampling

Any sample
 \geq trigger
level?

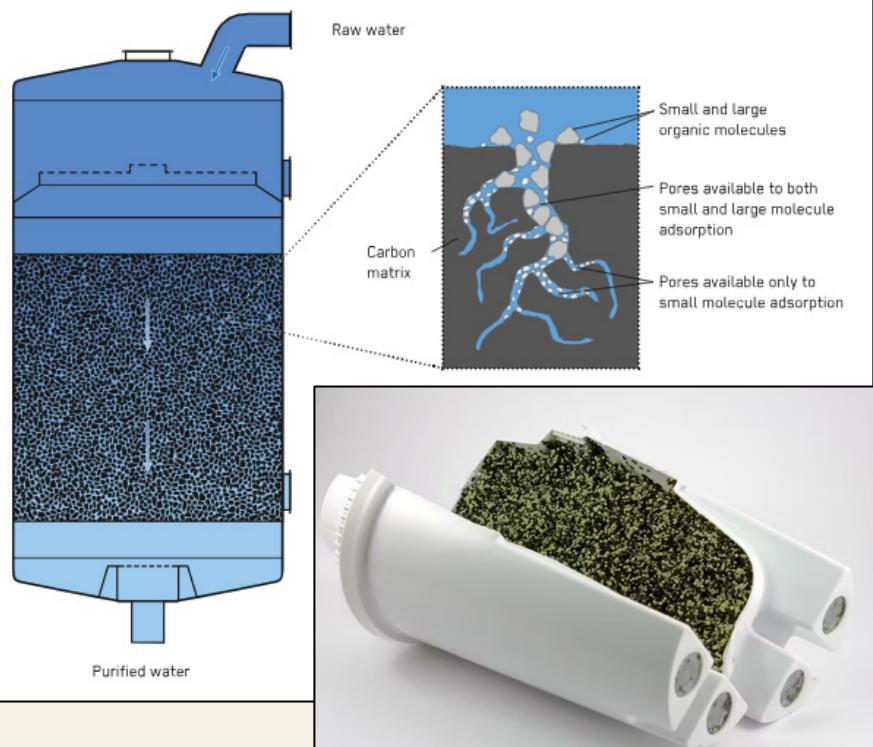
EPTDS: Entry point to the distribution system.



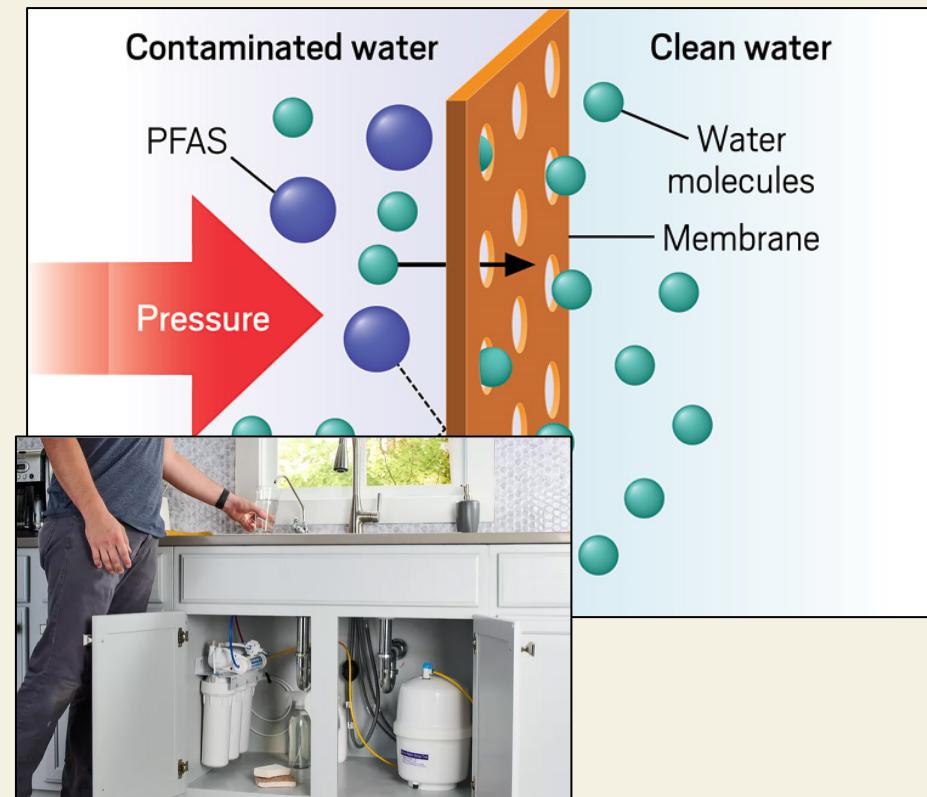
PFAS and Drinking Water

□ Treating drinking water for PFAS

Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)



Reverse Osmosis (RO)





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PFAS Regulations

- House Bills (HB) 140 and 212 passed March 2025
 - Signed into law on April 8, 2025
- HB 140: Hazardous Waste Act Amendments
- HB 212: PFAS Protection Act
- NMlegis.gov



PFAS Regulations

- HB 140: Hazardous Waste Act Amendments

EPA Responds to New Mexico Governor and Acts to Address PFAS Under Hazardous Waste Law

October 26, 2021



provided that,

except as authorized by Sections 74-4-3.3 and 74-8-2 NMSA 1978,
the board shall not identify or list any solid waste or
combination of solid wastes as a hazardous waste that has not
been listed and designated as a hazardous waste by the federal
environmental protection agency pursuant to the federal
Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as
amended;



PFAS Regulations

□ HB 212: PFAS Protection Act

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT; ENACTING THE PER- AND POLY-FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES PROTECTION ACT; PROHIBITING CERTAIN PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN AN INTENTIONALLY ADDED PER- OR POLY-FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE; AUTHORIZING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD TO ADOPT RULES PROHIBITING CERTAIN PRODUCTS THAT CONTAIN AN INTENTIONALLY ADDED PER- OR POLY-FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE; REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION AND TESTING OF PRODUCTS SOLD, OFFERED FOR SALE OR DISTRIBUTED FOR SALE IN THIS STATE THAT CONTAIN AN INTENTIONALLY ADDED PER- OR POLY-FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCE; PROVIDING PENALTIES.



PFAS Regulations

- HB 212: PFAS Protection Act
 - What's included beginning in 2027?





PFAS Regulations

- HB 212: PFAS Protection Act
 - What's NOT included?





PFAS Regulations

- HB 212: PFAS Protection Act
 - ▣ Implementation ([NMED Hazardous Waste Bureau](#))
 - Product registry
 - Education and outreach
 - Rulemaking for:
 - Exemptions and currently unavoidable uses
 - Reporting standards
 - AFFF inventories (HB 140)
 - Product labeling
 - Interstate reciprocity



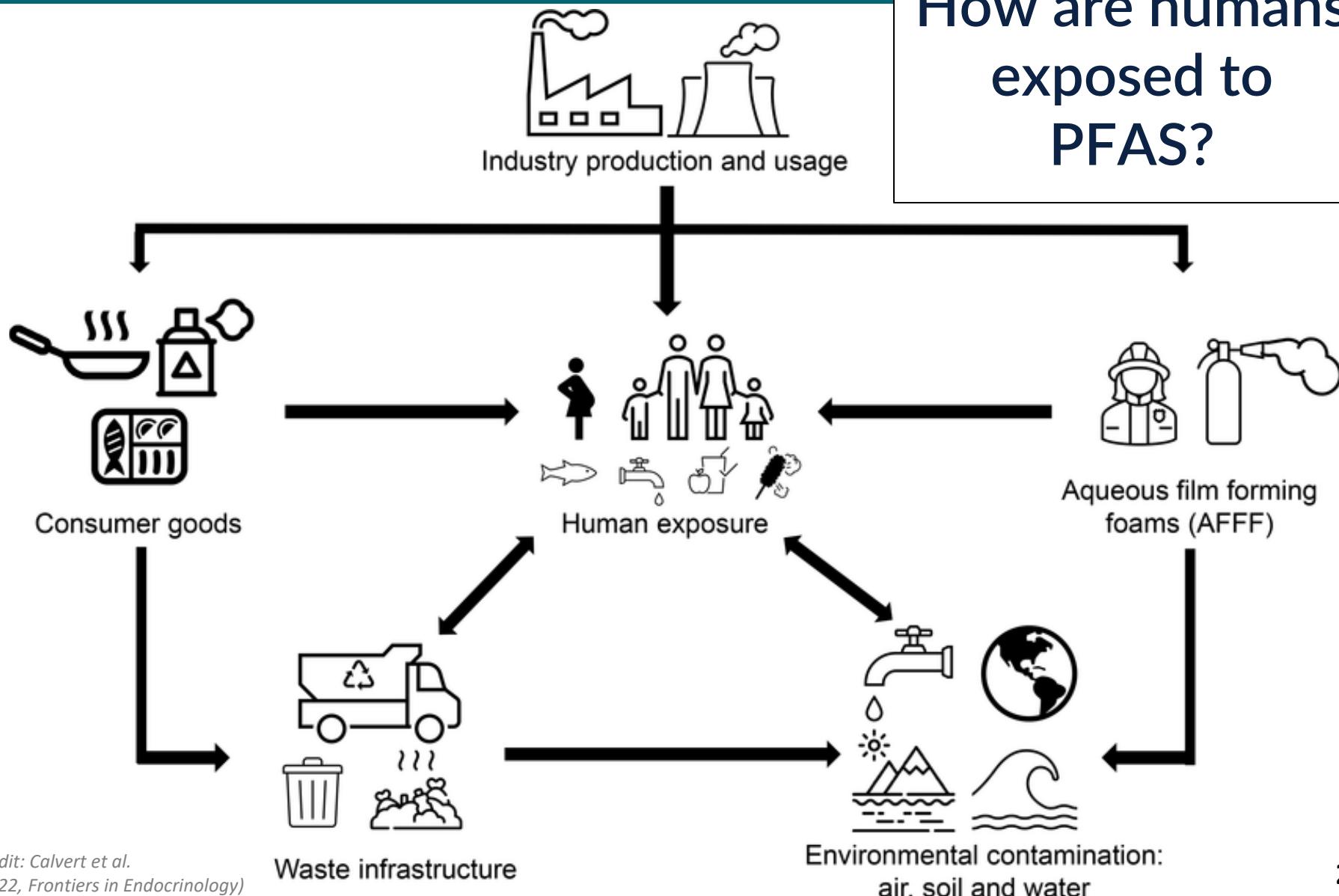
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PFAS Exposure

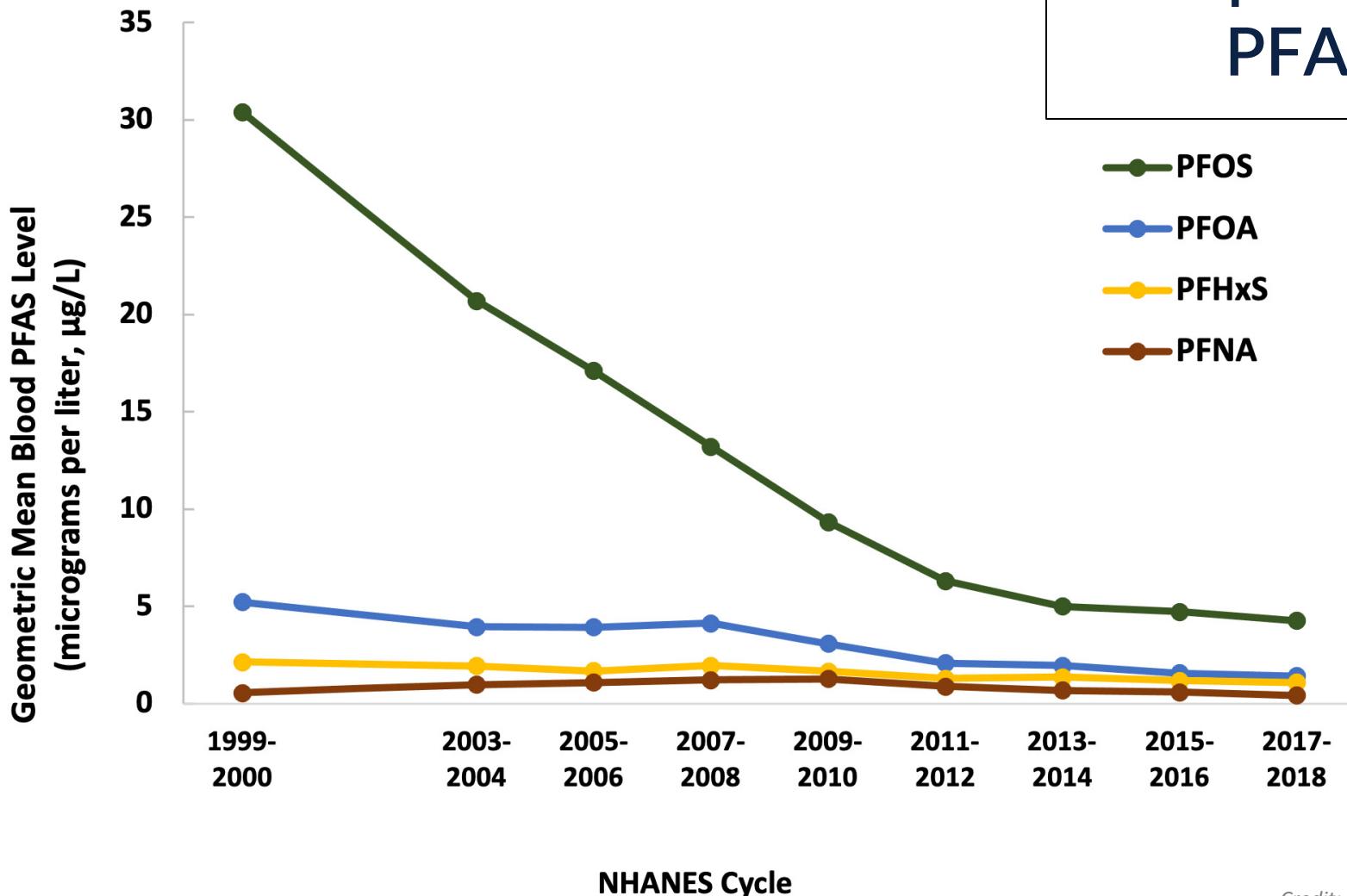
How are humans exposed to PFAS?





PFAS Exposure

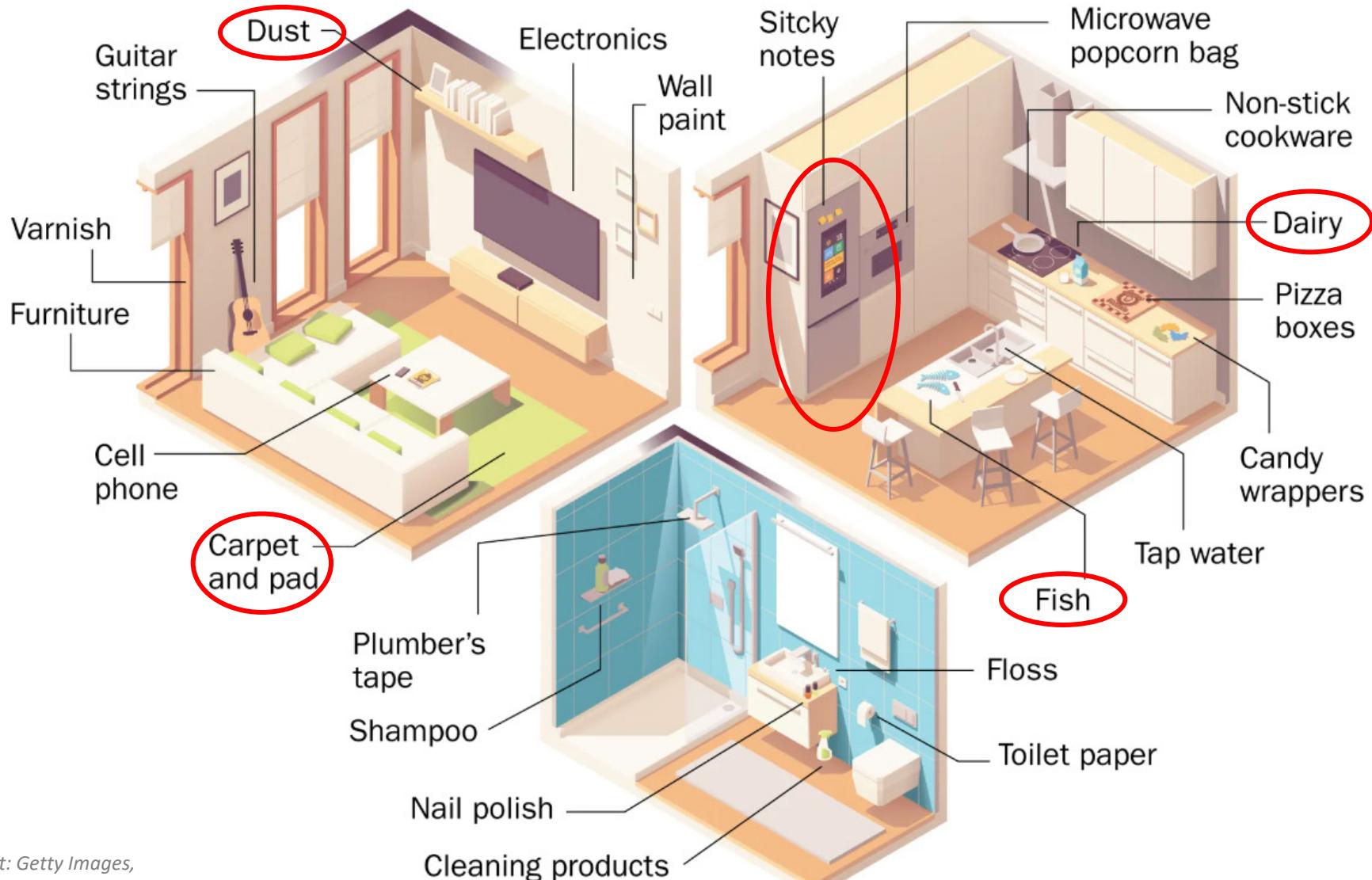
How are humans exposed to PFAS?





PFAS Exposure

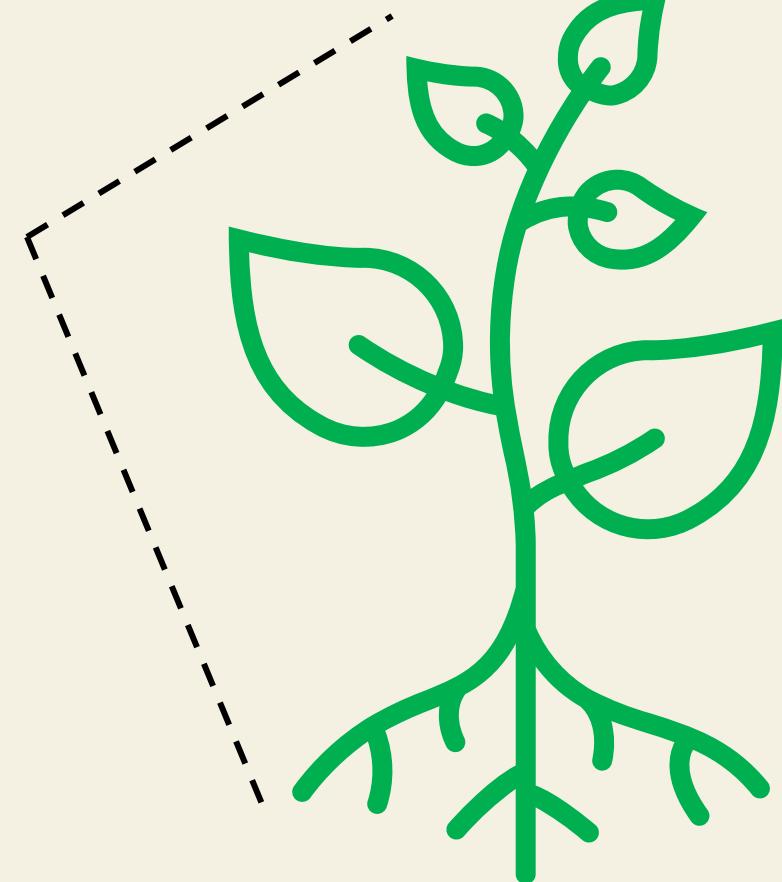
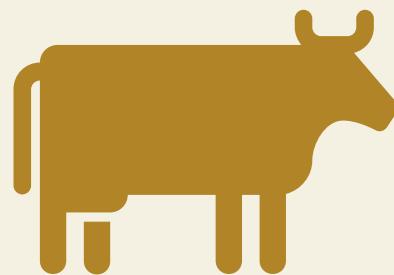
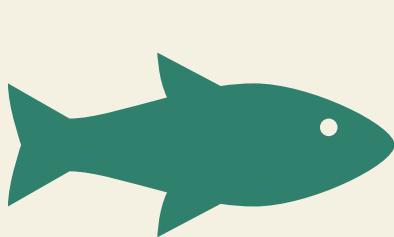
PFAS in home consumer products





PFAS Exposure

- How are we exposed to PFAS?
 - Food ingestion





PFAS Exposure

- How are we exposed to PFAS?
 - ▣ Inhalation
 - Probably less significant than food and water





PFAS Exposure

- Does PFAS absorb through the skin?
 - ▣ Research is not settled

- ▣ May depend on individual PFAS chemistry

- ▣ Dermal exposure in firefighters is minor compared to ingestion





PFAS Exposure

Can I reduce my exposure to PFAS?

→ YES! ←



PFAS Exposure

How can I reduce my exposure?



- ▣ Contact your drinking water utility for PFAS results
- ▣ Private wells: submit a sample for testing (\$)
- ▣ Install treatment
- ▣ Talk to your healthcare provider about PFAS



PFAS Exposure

How can I reduce my exposure?



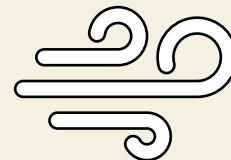
Food

- ▣ Avoid packaging that may contain PFAS
 - Popcorn bags, pizza boxes, takeout containers
- ▣ Home gardens: irrigate with rainwater, check hose materials
- ▣ Check FDA testing



PFAS Exposure

How can I reduce my exposure?



Inhalation

- ❑ Ask for specification sheets when buying upholstered products and carpeting
- ❑ Vacuum frequently using HEPA filters
- ❑ Check product guides



PFAS Exposure

How can I reduce my exposure?



Consumer products

- ❑ Ask for specification sheets when buying large items that may contain PFAS
- ❑ Watch toddlers and young children
- ❑ Check cookware that claims to be PFOA-free
- ❑ Check product guides



PFAS Exposure

Remember:

The toxic effects of PFAS happen when exposed over a long period of time.



It pays to prevent exposure
starting today!



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PFAS Summary



PFAS are a large family of human-made chemicals



Some PFAS have toxic effects when exposure occurs over long periods



New laws address PFAS in drinking water and commercial and industrial products



Exposure CAN be reduced!



What can utilities do now?

- Test for PFAS at your water utility
 - ▣ Emerging Contaminants Program (ECP)
 - Small *or* disadvantaged communities
 - FREE for eligible systems
 - initial monitoring requirements
 - To learn more and opt in:  
 - Or email Claudia Trueblood, ECP Program Manager:
 - emergingcontam.sdc@state.nm.us
 - Talk to your community about PFAS
 - ▣ Factsheets/flyers
 - ▣ CCRs ****including *UCMR 5 results (EPA)*****
 - ▣ NMED can help



 www.env.nm.gov/pfas/ecp





Thank You!



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