

MIDDLESEX WATER COMPANY STATEMENT ON PROPOSED PFAS DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

March 15, 2023 -- We are aware of the new USEPA proposed drinking water regulations, which propose a new standard for poly-and perfluoroalkyl chemicals, commonly referred to as PFAS. We support efforts to keep harmful contaminants out of drinking water, to hold polluters accountable and support standards intended to keep our customers safe. We appreciate the opportunity to evaluate the potential impact of the proposed regulations to our customers and the dialogue that will occur among stakeholder groups about the science on which the regulations are based.

We look to the regulatory community to provide further sound guidance and further clarity regarding any perceived risks to public health. We encourage our customers to learn more about their water quality through our [Annual Water Quality Reports](#) and the testing and monitoring efforts, we conduct to ensure that our drinking water meets all state and federal standards.

AWWA STATEMENT ON PROPOSED PFAS DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

March 14, 2023

General, Press Releases

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) issued the following statement regarding new national primary drinking water regulations for six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances proposed this morning by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The regulation includes standards for six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS): perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS), and hexafluoropropylene dimer acid (HFPO-DA).

As a community of water professionals, AWWA and its members share EPA's desire to keep harmful levels of PFAS out of the nation's drinking water. We support setting national drinking water standards for PFAS that protect all consumers, including the most sensitive populations, using the best available science. We stand for transparency, and support requirements for utilities to actively share PFAS monitoring results and other water quality information with consumers. We support sound scientific process to create regulations in which the public health benefits outweigh the costs.

To date, a mosaic of state standards and guidelines have been established for multiple PFAS compounds at varying levels. As proposed, EPA's standards would be stricter than any of those state regulations. AWWA appreciates EPA's progress on this rulemaking as states, water systems, and consumers have been waiting for a clear and consistent path forward to address PFAS.

AWWA will carefully review EPA's proposal over the next 60 days and provide comments informed by the latest research and water system experiences. While it is too soon to offer a detailed analysis of the rule, a few important points stand out.

Under the proposed rule, EPA would establish three new drinking water standards, including individual maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS and a third, grouped MCL for PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS, and GenX. The proposal requires drinking water systems to maintain water quality with PFAS levels below these MCLs, monitor regularly, and report violations and annual water quality to customers. To meet the proposed standards, more than an estimated

5,000 water systems will have to develop new water sources or install and operate advanced treatment; another 2,500 water systems in states with existing standards will need to adjust existing PFAS treatment systems.

Advanced drinking water treatment systems for PFAS will require communities to make significant investments. A recent study conducted by Black & Veatch on behalf of AWWA estimated the national cost for water systems to install treatment to remove PFOA and PFOS to levels required by EPA's proposal exceeds \$3.8 billion annually. The vast majority of these treatment costs will be borne by communities and ratepayers, who are also facing increased costs to address other needs, such as replacing lead service lines, upgrading cybersecurity, replacing aging infrastructure and assuring sustainable water supplies. The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides increased federal water infrastructure investment, but the costs of meeting the proposed standards will far exceed the additional funding.

At the low levels set in the EPA proposed standards, protecting source water from PFAS contamination – especially at locations where it is released into the environment -- is critical. AWWA urges EPA, Congress and other decision-makers to implement policies that keep harmful PFAS out of our drinking water supplies and our communities.

AWWA looks forward to working collaboratively with EPA on a final PFAS standard that significantly advances public health protection.

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Established in 1881, the American Water Works Association is the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world's most vital resource. With approximately 50,000 members, AWWA provides solutions to improve public health, protect the environment, strengthen the economy and enhance our quality of life.