



---

## PFAS/PFOS Compounds

Per- and poly fluorinated compounds (PFAS) have come to light as major environmental contaminants in the last decade. EPA had been slow to regulate use and cleanup of these chemicals over the past several years, so Washington State's Departments of Ecology (DOE) and Health (DOH) have collaborated and moved forward in developing regulations, studies, alternatives and technical assistance for utilities affected.

After several rounds of public comment, DOH adopted its changes to the Group A Rule, 246-290 WAC on November 1, 2021. A summary of the changes can be seen at:

[https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4200/PFAS\\_SummarybyRuleSection\\_Adopt.pdf](https://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/4200/PFAS_SummarybyRuleSection_Adopt.pdf)

The rule establishes State Action Levels (SALs) for several PFAS compounds, and outlines required sampling schedules for water utilities, the first of which is a deadline of December 31, 2025 for an initial evaluation of potential source water contamination by PFAS. If PFAS is detected, additional sampling and actions are required, depending on the extent of the contamination.

Ecology has also completed the PFAS Chemical Action Plan (CAP). The document is 650 pages and contains extensive information on the science of PFAS compounds. The 4 priorities of the CAP include:

1. Ensure safe drinking water.
2. Manage environmental contamination
3. Reduce PFAS in products
4. Evaluate waste management

Now that DOH has established SALs, DOE will proceed with establishing cleanup levels for soil and groundwater. DOE has done the first round of sampling wastewater and will also be studying landfill effluent and groundwater near landfills.

For the last several years, DOE has convened an advisory committee to look at alternatives to PFAS-containing food packaging (such as fast food wrappers). State law now requires that this packaging be replaced as soon as non-PFAS alternatives are found. The CAP also requires state agencies to look for non-PFAS containing carpeting and furnishings as replacement becomes necessary.

EPA is finally on track to develop regulations on PFAS, and has released advisory limits that are currently non-regulatory, but are orders of magnitude lower than state-developed action levels. State action levels will have to be adjusted once these regulations are adopted and put in place.

As WASWD has commented in our responses to the drafts of both these documents, funding to assist utilities affected by PFAS contamination is of great importance. Grant and loan programs administered by Ecology are currently the best source of assistance to utilities with contaminants.