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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

Water Quality Association responds to new study on toxic chemicals

Provides fact sheet and resources regarding contaminants and regulation

LISLE, Ill. – The Water Quality Association (WQA) applauds the work of the Environmental Working Group and Northeastern University for its latest study identifying highly fluorinated toxic chemicals known as PFCs in the drinking water of 15 million Americans in 27 states. The new research includes an [interactive map](#) that identifies where the contamination was identified.

“This is important information for the public and our elected officials to be aware of,” said WQA Executive Director Pauli Undesser. “It’s alarming that we see this level of contamination across the country, and it’s another reminder that more needs to be done to improve our water quality.”

What are Poly Fluorinated Chemicals (including PFOA and PFOS)?

PFCs are man-made and are not found naturally in the environment.

- PFOS is commonly used as a simple salt (such as potassium, sodium, or ammonium) or is incorporated into larger polymers.
- PFOA is produced synthetically as a salt. Ammonium salt is the most widely produced form.

What are the potential health effects from PFOA and PFOS?

Studies have found PFOA and PFOS in the blood samples of the general human population and wildlife nationwide, indicating that exposure to the chemicals is widespread. Studies also indicate that continued exposure to low levels of PFOA in drinking water may result in adverse health effects.

For more information visit:

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry Draft Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls:
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp200.pdf>

EPA Factsheet on PFOA and PFOS:

http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2014-04/documents/factsheet_contaminant_pfos_pfoa_march2014.pdf

How are these contaminants regulated?

The EPA [Provisional Health Advisory](#) (PHA) is 0.2 micrograms per liter (µg/L) for PFOS and 0.4 µg/L for PFOA. PHAs reflect reasonable, health-based hazard concentrations above which action should be taken to reduce exposure to unregulated contaminants in drinking water.

Multiple states are also regulating these contaminants, including:

- Minnesota's chronic health risk limit is 0.3 µg/L for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water.
- New Jersey's preliminary health-based guidance value is 0.04 µg/L for PFOA in drinking water.

Factors to consider when selecting treatment:

Have water tested by a water treatment professional or certified lab

- Water treatment professionals in your area can be found here: <http://www.wqa.org/Find-Providers>
- State certified labs can be found here: <http://www.epa.gov/dwlabcert/contact-information-certification-programs-and-certified-laboratories-drinking-water>

WQA recommends products that have been certified for PFOA removal. A list of products that have been certified by WQA can be found here: <https://www.wqa.org/Find-Products#/keyword/?standards=26>

WQA is a not-for-profit trade association representing the residential, commercial, and industrial water treatment industry. Since 1959, the WQA Gold Seal certification program has been certifying products that contribute to the safe consumption of water. The WQA Gold Seal program is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

Wqa.org