

**State of Wisconsin**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
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May 21, 2024

Paula Tran, State Health Officer/Administrator  
DHS Division of Public Health  
1 West Wilson St.  
Madison, WI 53707-2659

**Subject: Request for Recommendations for State Groundwater Quality Standards**

Dear Ms. Tran:

The Department of Natural Resources is requesting that the Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommend groundwater quality enforcement standards for the six Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) in Attachment 1.

These substances have all been found in the groundwater resources of the state, or have a reasonable probability of being detected in groundwater and are of public health concern. Additionally, in April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized maximum contaminant levels under the Federal National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for these PFAS substances.

The department plans to promulgate state groundwater quality enforcement standards and preventive action limits for these substances in ch. NR 140, Wis. Adm. Code, based on recommendations provided by your agency. These numerical standards, upon adoption, will become criteria for the protection of public health and are tools available to the department and other state regulatory agencies that provide uniform standards for groundwater regulatory programs. The department recognizes that there is a substantial benefit to the citizens of Wisconsin from preventing and remediating PFAS contamination, including benefits to human health and wellbeing, economic productivity, and ecosystem integrity.

This request is made pursuant to section 160.07, Stats., and the list of substances in Attachment 1 has been categorized and ranked in accordance with section 160.05, Stats. The department considered available information, including whether a substance has been shown to cause carcinogenic, mutagenic, teratogenic, or interactive effects, when ranking the substances on the list.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to working with you in our joint effort to protect public health and the environment.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*James Zellmer*  
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5/22/2024 | 12:14 PM CDT

James A. Zellmer  
Administrator  
Division of Environmental Management

cc: Sheryl Bedno - DHS  
Mark Werner - DHS  
Steve Elmore - DNR

Sarah Yang - DHS  
Beth Finzer - DNR

**Attachment 1****List with categorization and ranking of 6 PFAS substances of public health concern.**

<b><u>Substance</u></b>	<b><u>CAS RN</u></b>	<b><u>Category</u></b>	<b><u>Rank</u></b>
<b>1. PFOA</b>	<b>335-67-1</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>2. PFOS</b>	<b>1763-23-1</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>3. PFNA</b>	<b>375-95-1</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>4. PFHxS</b>	<b>355-46-4</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>5. HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals)</b>	<b>13252-13-6</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>High</b>
<b>6. PFBS</b>	<b>375-73-5</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>Medium</b>

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CAS RN – Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) registry number (RN)

Category I - detected in groundwater in concentrations in excess of a federal number for that substance

Category II - detected in groundwater but not in excess of "federal number", or detected but no "federal number" established

Category III - substance has a reasonable probability of being detected in groundwater and is of public health or welfare concern