

# Water Task Force Status Summary

## CBIA e<sup>2</sup> Council

*Revised February 2022*

Program	Status	Comments
<b>DEEP Programs</b>		
Program	Status	Comments
<b>Wastewater Permits</b>		
<u>Contact:</u> Ozzie Inglese at (860) 424-3725 or <a href="mailto:oswald.inglese@ct.gov">oswald.inglese@ct.gov</a>		
Agency Legislative Proposal - 2022 Session	Agency Proposal	<p>Proposal Sec. 12: Establish the authority to set annual fees for General Permits.</p> <p>Background Sec. 12: This proposal amends section 22a-6f to establish authority to set annual fees for General Permits. As more individual permits move to general permits, the application fees become lower and the department loses annual fees which are intended to support the agency's costs for monitoring compliance with the terms and conditions of authorization. This proposal would allow annual fees to be established in the development of a general permit and would help cover the cost of compliance monitoring</p> <p>FISCAL IMPACT Municipal Sec. 12: In accordance with CGS Section 22a-6(b), municipalities seeking coverage under a general permit would pay 50% of the annual fee.</p> <p>FISCAL IMPACT State Sec. 12: Regulated activities have historically been authorized under individual permits which are required to pay annual fees sufficient to cover the costs for compliance monitoring. Over the past two decades, such regulated activities have predominantly been authorized under general permits which do not require payment of an annual fee. This bill would seek to recover the resulting loss of annual fees revenue to cover the cost of compliance monitoring activities. To illustrate this fiscal impact, an average loss of \$1.5 million/year would be realized as individually permitted activities under the pretreatment program (industrial and commercial discharges to the sewer) become regulated under general permits. With respect to fiscal impacts to other state agencies, CGS Section 22a-6f(a) provides that any agency, board, commission, council, or department of the state seeking coverage under a general permit, may have an annual fee waived provided the DEEP is compensated in-kind in an equal amount to such fee pursuant to a written agreement.</p>

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		<p>POLICY AND PROGRAMMATIC IMPACTS Sec. 12: This proposal will provide additional flexibility to DEEP permitting programs while keeping revenue neutral. General Permits are an efficient way of permitting certain type of activities and we continue to look for opportunities to cover activities under general permits. By allowing annual fees in general permits, we can eliminate a large fee at the start of a general permit cycle and even out revenue, similar to what is done with individual permits.</p> <p>Section 12. Section 22a-6f of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2022):</p> <p><u>(f) Unless otherwise specified in a general permit issued on or after October 1, 2022, any person or municipality authorized to engage in a regulated activity covered by a general permit pursuant to any provision of this title shall pay an annual fee as follows: (1) If the person or municipality engaged in the regulated activity is required to register with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and obtain approval of the registration before the activity is authorized, two hundred dollars; or (2) if the person or municipality intending to engage in the regulated activity is only required to register with the Department of Environmental Protection before the activity is authorized, one hundred dollars. No annual fee for a general permit issued on or after October 1, 2022 shall exceed one thousand dollars</u></p>
Bill No. 837 Public Act No. 21-191	No Change	<p>An act concerning the use of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in class B Firefighting Foam. As provided by the Act on or after October 1, 2021, no person shall use a class B firefighting foam that contains an intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance for any vapor suppression or firefighting purpose unless such fire is a flammable liquid-based fire and the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) fails to identify an alternative to such use on or before July 1, 2021.</p> <p>For any airport-related entity with a facility that utilizes a fire suppression system containing class B firefighting foam that contains an intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance on or before October 1, 2021 mitigation measures shall be employed to prevent releases of such foam into</p>

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		<p>the environment, including the implementation of plans and physical features that are designed to prevent releases of such foam into the environment through the use of containment, treatment and disposal of such foam, event when such foam is deployed in its intended manner.</p> <p>Chemical plants, oil refineries, and flammable liquid terminal, storage, or distribution facilities may apply to DEEP for an extension of up to two years in order to comply. Complete the <a href="#">Request for Extension of Class B PFAS Firefighting Foam Use</a> and email it to <a href="mailto:DEEP.MarineTerminals@ct.gov">DEEP.MarineTerminals@ct.gov</a>. Approvals/rejections will be emailed.</p> <p>No later than October 1, 2023, any such system shall be removed or repurposed to remove such firefighting foam.</p> <p>Not later than October 1, 2021, the Commissioner of CTDEEP shall develop or identify a take-back program for municipally owned class B firefighting foam containing perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances that results in the application of best management practices for the disposal of such substances.</p>
Comprehensive General Permit for Discharges to Surface Water and Groundwater	<b>NO CHANGE</b> Effective 3/30/18 Expires 3/29/2023	<p>The purpose of the Comprehensive General Permit is to provide a single general permit that will encompass discharges from the General Permit for the Discharge of Water Treatment Wastewater, General Permit for the Discharge of Minor Non-contact Cooling and Heat Pump Water, and the General Permit for the Discharge of Hydrostatic Pressure Testing Water. The Comprehensive General Permit will also include coverage for discharges of <u>fire suppression testing wastewater</u>, hydrant flushing wastewater, potable water system tank and pipeline draining wastewater, and boiler blowdown wastewater (to groundwater only).</p> <p>The Swimming Pool GP has been reissued for two more years (expires August 05, 2021) without any changes or re-registration required. It is the intent to eventually consolidate this general permit into the Comprehensive GP in the future.</p>

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MIU General Permit (formerly known as MISC Wastewater General Permit)	<b>NO CHANGE</b>  Issuance Date: Sept. 29, 2020 Effective Date: October 31, 2020 Expiration Date: October 30, 2025	<p>This general permit is issued under the authority of section 22a-430b of the Connecticut General Statutes.</p> <p><a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Industrial-Wastewater/Industrial-Wastewater">https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Industrial-Wastewater/Industrial-Wastewater</a></p> <p>This general permit authorizes discharges of Miscellaneous Industrial User (MIU) wastewater to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) from an Industrial User which is not a Significant Industrial User, as defined in this general permit, and where such wastewater is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conveyed by sanitary sewer; or</li> <li>• transported by a licensed waste hauler in accordance with Section 5(e)(4) of this general permit.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Permits-and-Licenses/Water-Discharge-Permits-and-General-Permits">https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Permits-and-Licenses/Water-Discharge-Permits-and-General-Permits</a></p>
SIU General Permit (formerly known as the General Permit for the Discharge of Wastewaters from Categorical Industrial Users to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW))	<b>NO CHANGE</b>  Issuance Date: October 30, 2020 Effective Date: October 31, 2020 Expiration Date: October 30, 2025	<p>This general permit is issued under the authority of section 22a-430b of the Connecticut General Statutes.</p> <p><a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Industrial-Wastewater/Industrial-Wastewater">https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Industrial-Wastewater/Industrial-Wastewater</a></p> <p>Provided the requirements of Section 3(b) of this general permit are satisfied, this general permit authorizes the following indirect discharges from a Significant Industrial User, as defined in this general permit, to a Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) via sanitary sewer or through transport by a licensed waste hauler in accordance with Section 5(e)(4) of this general permit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Metal finishing wastewater, as defined in this general permit; and/or</li> <li>(2) Process and non-process wastewater that is not subject to Categorical Pretreatment Standards under 40 CFR 403.6 and 40 CFR Chapter I, subchapter N.</li> </ol> <p>Any discharge of water, substance or material into the waters of the state other than those specified in this section is not authorized by this general permit, and any person or municipality which initiates, creates, originates or maintains such a discharge shall apply for and obtain authorization under section 22a-430 of the Connecticut General Statutes prior to the occurrence of such discharge.</p> <p><a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Permits-and-Licenses/Water-Discharge-Permits-and-General-Permits">https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Permits-and-Licenses/Water-Discharge-Permits-and-General-Permits</a></p>

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<b>Stormwater Permits</b> <u>Contact:</u> the stormwater group at 860-424-3025 or DEEP.StormwaterStaff@ct.gov	REMINDER to set up user accounts in ezFile and subscriber agreements for both ezFile and NetDMR.	Construction and Industrial Stormwater General Permits - Effective January 20, 2016, DEEP's ezFile on-line system should be used to submit stormwater construction and industrial general permit registration(s). Please refer to the Construction Stormwater web page or the Industrial Stormwater web page for details on using ezFile.
Industrial Stormwater General Permit	<b>NO CHANGE</b> Permit effective October 1, 2021 <u><i>without modifications posted</i></u>  Expires September 30, 2024 No renewal registration is required for existing sources.	<p>The current industrial general permit became effective on October 1, 2011. It was most recently reissued <i>without modifications</i> on October 1, 2019 and will expire on September 30, 2021. The DEEP is proposing to <b>continue permit authorization</b> by issuing this notice to reissue the industrial general permit <i>without modifications</i> for the period beginning on October 1, 2021 and expiring on September 30, 2024.</p> <p>The Department intends to reissue a new industrial general permit <i>with modifications</i> prior to the expiration of this proposed reissued general permit <i>without modifications</i>. <b>The Department will seek public comment on a notice of tentative decision to reissue the industrial general permit <i>with modifications</i> by July 2022.</b></p> <p>For more information, go to: <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Stormwater/Industrial-Stormwater-GP">https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Stormwater/Industrial-Stormwater-GP</a></p>

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Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities	<p><b>NO CHANGE</b></p> <p>Issued: 12/21/2020; Effective Date: 12/31/2020</p> <p>Renewal registration is required within 120 days.</p> <p>Notice of Reissuance of the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities</p>	<p>The Department of Energy &amp; Environmental Protection (DEEP) hereby gives notice of the reissuance with modifications of the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater and Dewatering Wastewaters from Construction Activities (construction general permit). The reissued construction general permit will be effective December 31, 2020.</p> <p>The Public Notice of Tentative Decision to modify the construction general permit was published in newspapers statewide on December 31, 2019 and January 2, 2020 and a public informational meeting was held on January 8, 2020. Two hundred and four (204) comment letters or emails and a petition for hearing were received during the 45-day comment period for the general permit. Staff from the Water Permitting and Enforcement Division met with a workgroup of consulting engineers, representatives from the solar industry, and other intervening parties from June to October 2020 to reach agreement on the final construction general permit. The petition for hearing was withdrawn on October 23, 2020. Further information on the general permit and a Response to Comments is available on the DEEP website at <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Stormwater/Construction-Stormwater-GP">https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Stormwater/Construction-Stormwater-GP</a>.</p> <p><b>Current Permittees Under the construction general permit</b>--Permittees currently authorized to discharge under the construction general permit must submit a reregistration electronically via DEEP's eZFile portal within 120 days of the date of issuance of the general permit in order to continue authorization.</p> <p>For more information, search for 'construction stormwater' on the DEEP website.</p>

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Stormwater Associated with Commercial Activity	<b>NO CHANGE</b>  Reissued 9/10/2020 <b>Expires 5/14/2022</b>	<p>The DEEP will be reissuing without modifications for two years – no registration required for existing registrants. Registrants are expected to comply with the terms and conditions of the current Commercial Stormwater General Permit in the interim until such time the reissued general permit becomes effective. The current commercial general permit became effective on May 15, 2017 and expired on May 14, 2020. The DEEP is proposing to continue permit authorization by issuing a notice to reissue the commercial general permit without modifications for the period beginning on the date of issuance by the Commissioner and expiring on May 14, 2022.</p> <p>For more information, go to: <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Stormwater/Commercial-Stormwater">https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water-Regulating-and-Discharges/Stormwater/Commercial-Stormwater</a></p>
<b>Water Diversion Program</b>  <u>Contact:</u> Land and Water Resources Division at (860) 424-3019	<b>NO CHANGE</b>  2020 Annual Water Use Reporting Form for reporting of both registered and permitted diversions  2022 water use forms posted on website for 2021 reporting year <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/Diversions/Water-Diversion-Reporting">https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/Diversions/Water-Diversion-Reporting</a>	<p>July 14, 2020 – Letter from the Commissioner Re <i>Notice of Availability of Forms for the Reporting of Operating Data for Registered Diversions and Submission Deadline</i></p> <p>In accordance with Section 22a-368a of the General Statutes of Connecticut, the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection hereby gives notice that a form for the reporting of operating data for water diversions registered pursuant to Section 22a-368 CGS is available on-line at <a href="http://www.ct.gov/deep/waterdiversionreporting">www.ct.gov/deep/waterdiversionreporting</a>. The deadline for diversion registrants to submit their first completed reporting form was January 31, 2021. This form will contain daily diversion operating data for the year 2020. All registrants expected to submit annual reports were mailed individual notices dated September 30, 2019. Anyone requiring more information regarding this matter may visit the Department's Water Diversion Reporting website at <a href="http://www.ct.gov/deep/waterdiversionreporting">www.ct.gov/deep/waterdiversionreporting</a> or contact the Department by email at <a href="mailto:deep.waterdiversionreporting@ct.gov">deep.waterdiversionreporting@ct.gov</a> or by phone at 860-424-3020. Department staff has limited access to phones during the on-going health crisis therefore email contact is preferred.</p> <p>NOTE: In light of COVID-19, timely renewal for individual diversion permits has been reduced to 30 days prior to expiration.</p>

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<b>Water Quality Standards</b> <u>Contact:</u> Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse at (860) 424-3020	<b>NO CHANGE</b>  Triennial Review Process underway?	9/17/2020 From Phil Trowbridge (since retired): “DEEP is currently finalizing our response to comments on the list of topics to be considered for rule changes. After that, we will need to submit the document to EPA for approval. Once approved, we will post the document on our website and email all those who commented. I expect that we will be done with these steps by the end of the year. The next step after that would be to start the rulemaking process for making changes to the standards, which is a long process by itself.” Topics under Consideration for Revision within the WQS Regulations include Updates to Numeric Water Quality Criteria, Revise the Low Flow Statistic Applicable to Fresh Waters, Extended Disinfection Period, Define Highest Attainable Use, Downstream Protection, and Water Quality Classification Maps. More information including the public comments can be found at <a href="https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&amp;q=325618&amp;deepNav_GID=1654">https://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&amp;q=325618&amp;deepNav_GID=1654</a> or by searching the DEEP website for “water quality standards”.
<b><i>EPA Programs</i></b>		
<b>PFOA, PFOS and Other PFASs</b>	<b>On-going</b> EPA Announces Nationwide Monitoring Effort to Better Understand Extent of PFAS in Drinking Water  EPA’s PFAS website at <a href="https://www.epa.gov/pfas">https://www.epa.gov/pfas</a>	<b>WASHINGTON (Dec. 20, 2021)</b> – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) to establish nationwide monitoring for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium in drinking water. This action is essential to addressing the public health and environmental risks of PFAS in drinking water and marks a significant milestone in EPA’s PFAS Strategic Roadmap.  “At EPA, we are advancing the science and the monitoring that are necessary to protect all communities from PFAS,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “With the data provided by this rule, EPA will be able to develop better regulations while the agency, states, and our local partners will be able to make protective public health decisions that are grounded in science.”  EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule to monitor for priority unregulated contaminants in drinking water every five years. UCMR 5 will collect new data on 29 PFAS that is needed to improve EPA’s understanding of the frequency and magnitude at which these chemicals are found in the nation’s drinking water systems. Additionally, expanded monitoring in UCMR 5 will improve EPA’s ability to conduct state and regional assessments of contamination. This will enable analyses of potential Environmental Justice impacts on disadvantaged communities. This data will also



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		<p>serve as a potential source of information for systems with infrastructure funding needs for emerging contaminant remediation.</p> <p>The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended by America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, now requires all drinking water systems serving between 3,300 and 10,000 people to participate in UCMR and specifies that a representative sample of systems serving fewer than 3,300 people participate, subject to the availability of appropriations and sufficient laboratory capacity. If the necessary funds are appropriated, the UCMR 5 will significantly expand the number of small drinking water systems participating in the program, which should provide more Americans with a better understanding of potential contaminants in their drinking water. The rule requires participating drinking water systems to collect samples from 2023-2025 and report final results through 2026. The Strategic Roadmap delivers on the agency's mission to protect public health and the environment and answers the call for action on these persistent and dangerous chemicals. Today, alongside the release of the Roadmap, the agency is announcing a new national testing strategy that requires PFAS manufacturers to provide the agency with toxicity data and information on categories of PFAS chemicals. The PFAS to be tested will be selected based on an approach that breaks the large number of PFAS today into smaller categories based on similar features and considers what existing data are available for each category. EPA's initial set of test orders for PFAS, which are expected in a matter of months, will be strategically selected from more than 20 different categories of PFAS. This set of orders will provide the agency with critical information on more than 2,000 other similar PFAS that fall within these categories.</p> <p>More information on UCMR 5 may be found at: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule">https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/fifth-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule</a>.</p> <p>EPA will hold multiple webinar meetings for stakeholders in 2022. Dates and times of the upcoming meetings will be posted on EPA's website at: <a href="https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-ucmr-meetings-and-materials">https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule-ucmr-meetings-and-materials</a></p>

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		<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>In April 2021, Administrator Regan established the EPA Council on PFAS to address the dangerous impacts of PFAS contamination and meet the needs of EPA's partners and communities across the United States. To date, under the Biden-Harris Administration, EPA has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launched a national PFAS testing strategy.</li> <li>• Restarted rule development process for designating PFOA and PFOS as CERCLA hazardous substances.</li> <li>• Built momentum to set national primary drinking water standard for PFOA and PFOS,</li> <li>• Announced actions to stop companies from dumping PFAS into America's waterways.</li> <li>• Formed a workgroup to champion regulating PFAS as categories.</li> <li>• Proposed a rule to expand data collection efforts on PFAS.</li> <li>• Started planning to conduct expanded nationwide monitoring for PFAS in drinking water.</li> <li>• Announced robust review process for new PFAS.</li> <li>• Released preliminary Toxics Release Inventory data on PFAS.</li> <li>• Updated a toxicity assessment for PFBS after rigorous scientific review.</li> <li>• Released a draft PFBA toxicity assessment for public comment and external peer review.</li> </ul> <p>For more information on CWA Analytical Methods for PFAS, visit:  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/cwa-analytical-methods-and-polyfluorinated-alkyl-substances-pfas">https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/cwa-analytical-methods-and-polyfluorinated-alkyl-substances-pfas</a></p> <p>For Frequent Questions about PFAS Methods for NPDES Permits, visit:  <a href="https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/frequent-questions-about-pfas-methods-npdes-permits">https://www.epa.gov/cwa-methods/frequent-questions-about-pfas-methods-npdes-permits</a></p> <p>On November 4, 2019, Governor Ned Lamont officially released the finalized PFAS Action Plan prepared by the Connecticut Interagency PFAS Task Force. CT PFAS Action Plan and more information available on <a href="http://www.ct.gov/ctpfastaskforce">www.ct.gov/ctpfastaskforce</a>. As of August 2020, DEEP and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) have begun planning for the take-back and safe disposal of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) containing PFAS from state and</p>

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		<p>municipal fire departments. In addition, DEEP is developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) project specific to potential PFAS sources for use as a tool to evaluate the vulnerability of sensitive receptors, including drinking water supplies and surface water bodies, to PFAS pollution. This GIS project will assist DEEP and DPH in prioritizing future site investigations throughout the state. Furthermore, DEEP is planning initial testing at about one third of the state's wastewater treatment plants. This testing will include analysis of influent to and effluent from the treatment facilities.</p> <p>For more information on steps being taken by DEEP and DPH, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Shannon Pociu - CT DEEP Remediation Division</li> <li>•Lori Mathieu -CT DPG Environmental Health and Drinking Water Branch</li> <li>•Pat Bisacky- CT DPH Drinking Water Section</li> </ul>
<b>Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rulemaking</b>	<p><b>On-going</b> Rulemaking</p> <p>EPA and Army Take Action to Provide Certainty for the Definition of WOTUS</p> <p>Please visit <a href="https://www.epa.gov/nwpr">https://www.epa.gov/nwpr</a> for more information.</p>	<p><b>WASHINGTON (Nov. 18, 2021)</b>– Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Department of the Army (the agencies) announced a proposed rule to re-establish the pre-2015 definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) which had been in place for decades, updated to reflect consideration of Supreme Court decisions. This action advances the agencies’ goal of establishing a durable definition of WOTUS that protects public health, the environment, and downstream communities while supporting economic opportunity, agriculture, and other industries that depend on clean water. This proposed rule would support a stable implementation of “waters of the United States” while the agencies continue to consult with states, Tribes, local governments, and a broad array of stakeholders in both the implementation of WOTUS and future regulatory actions.</p> <p>“In recent years, the only constant with WOTUS has been change, creating a whiplash in how to best protect our waters in communities across America,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “Through our engagement with stakeholders across the country, we’ve heard overwhelming calls for a durable definition of WOTUS that protects the environment and that is grounded in the experience of those who steward our waters. Today’s action advances our process toward a stronger rule that achieves our shared priorities.”</p> <p>“The Army recognizes the importance of our nation’s water resources and the role water plays in our communities across the nation,” said Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Jaime A. Pinkham. “We remain committed to working with EPA to develop a rule that is informed by our</p>

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		<p>experience and expertise, as well as that of our co-regulators, is mindful of implementation practices, and is shaped by the lived experience of local communities and stakeholders.”</p> <p>Recent court decisions have reinforced the need for a stable and certain definition of WOTUS. The U.S. District Courts for both Arizona and New Mexico have vacated the Navigable Waters Protection Rule. In light of the court actions, the agencies have been implementing the pre-2015 regulatory regime nationwide since early September 2021. Today’s action is an important step because it would solidify the rules of the road for a stable implementation of “waters of the United States” while the agencies continue to consult with stakeholders to refine the definition of WOTUS in both implementation and future regulatory actions.</p> <p>The proposed rule would maintain the longstanding exclusions of the pre-2015 regulations as well as the exemptions and exclusions in the Clean Water Act on which the agricultural community has come to rely.</p> <p>EPA and Army conducted extensive pre-proposal engagement, including Federalism and Tribal consultation, to help inform the content of the proposed rule. The agencies are taking comment on this proposed rule for 60 days beginning on the date it is published in the Federal Register.</p> <p>On December 7, 2021, the proposed rule was published in the Federal Register. The public comment period closed on February 7, 2022.</p> <p>For more information see <a href="http://www.epa.gov/wotus">www.epa.gov/wotus</a>.</p>
<b>Drinking Water</b>	<b>On-going</b> EPA Advances Science to Protect the Public from PFOA and PFOS in Drinking Water	<p>WASHINGTON (Nov. 16, 2021) – Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is asking the agency’s Science Advisory Board to review draft scientific documents regarding the health effects of certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). EPA is committed to science-based approaches to protect public health from exposure to Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), including by quickly updating drinking water health advisories with new peer-reviewed approaches and expeditiously developing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for these contaminants.</p>

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		<p>“Under our new PFAS Strategic Roadmap, EPA is moving aggressively on clear, robust, and science-based actions to protect communities suffering from legacy PFOA and PFOS contamination,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “This action will ensure a rigorous review from experienced scientists to strengthen our understanding of this preliminary information as the agency works toward developing revised health advisories for PFOA and PFOS, and soon establishing regulations that protect communities from these contaminants.”</p> <p>EPA has transmitted to the Science Advisory Board four draft documents with recent scientific data and new analyses that indicate that negative health effects may occur at much lower levels of exposure to PFOA and PFOS than previously understood and that PFOA is a likely carcinogen. The draft documents present EPA’s initial analysis and findings with respect to this new information.</p> <p>Following peer review, this information will be used to inform health advisories and the development of Maximum Contaminant Level Goals and a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for PFOA and PFOS. EPA is now seeking independent scientific review of these documents. EPA is making these draft documents available to the public to ensure a transparent and robust evaluation of the available information.</p> <p>EPA will not wait to take action to protect the public from PFAS exposure. The agency will be actively engaging with its partners regarding PFOA and PFOS in drinking water, including supporting their monitoring and remediation efforts. Importantly, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, signed by President Biden on November 15, 2021, invests \$10 billion to help communities test for and clean up PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water and wastewater, and can be used to support projects in disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>EPA will move as quickly as possible to issue updated health advisories for PFOA and PFOS that reflect this new science and input from the SAB. Concurrently, EPA will continue to develop a proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for publication in Fall 2022.</p> <p>For more information, visit <a href="https://www.epa.gov/pfas">www.epa.gov/pfas</a>.</p>