

EPA Announces Plan to Scale Back and Extend Compliance Deadlines for Federal Drinking Water Regulations on PFAS



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On May 14, 2025, less than three weeks after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its strategy to address per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), the EPA **announced** its intent to retain the existing drinking water standards for the two most common PFAS (perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane (PFOS)). At the same time, EPA stated it would rescind and “reconsider” the regulation of the four other PFAS compounds included in the previous rule (perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid and its ammonium salt (HFPO-DA, commonly known as GenX chemicals), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)). For more information on the prior rule, see our April 2024 *Alert*, available [here](#) and for more information on EPA’s strategy to address PFAS, see our April 2025 *Alert*, available [here](#).

In addition to limiting the number of PFAS compounds subject to regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA stated it would extend compliance deadlines for PFOA and PFOS from 2029 to 2031, create a framework for federal exemptions for passive receivers of PFAS (consistent with its goal to “hold polluters accountable”), and establish a new “PFAS OUTreach Initiative” (PFAS OUT). According to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, with its particular emphasis on water systems in rural and small communities, PFAS OUT will “connect with every public water utility known to need capital improvements to address PFAS in their systems” by sharing resources, tools, funding, and technical assistance to help utilities meet the federal drinking water standards.

Babst Calland’s Environmental Practice Group is closely tracking EPA’s PFAS actions, and our attorneys are available to provide strategic advice on how developing PFAS regulations may affect your business. For more information or answers to questions, please contact Sloane Wildman at (202) 853-3457 or swildman@babstcalland.com, Jessica Lynn Deyoe at (202) 853-3489 or jdeyoe@babstcalland.com, or your Babst Calland relationship attorney.