



Roses, Buds, and Thorns of PFAS Policy in the Great Lakes States

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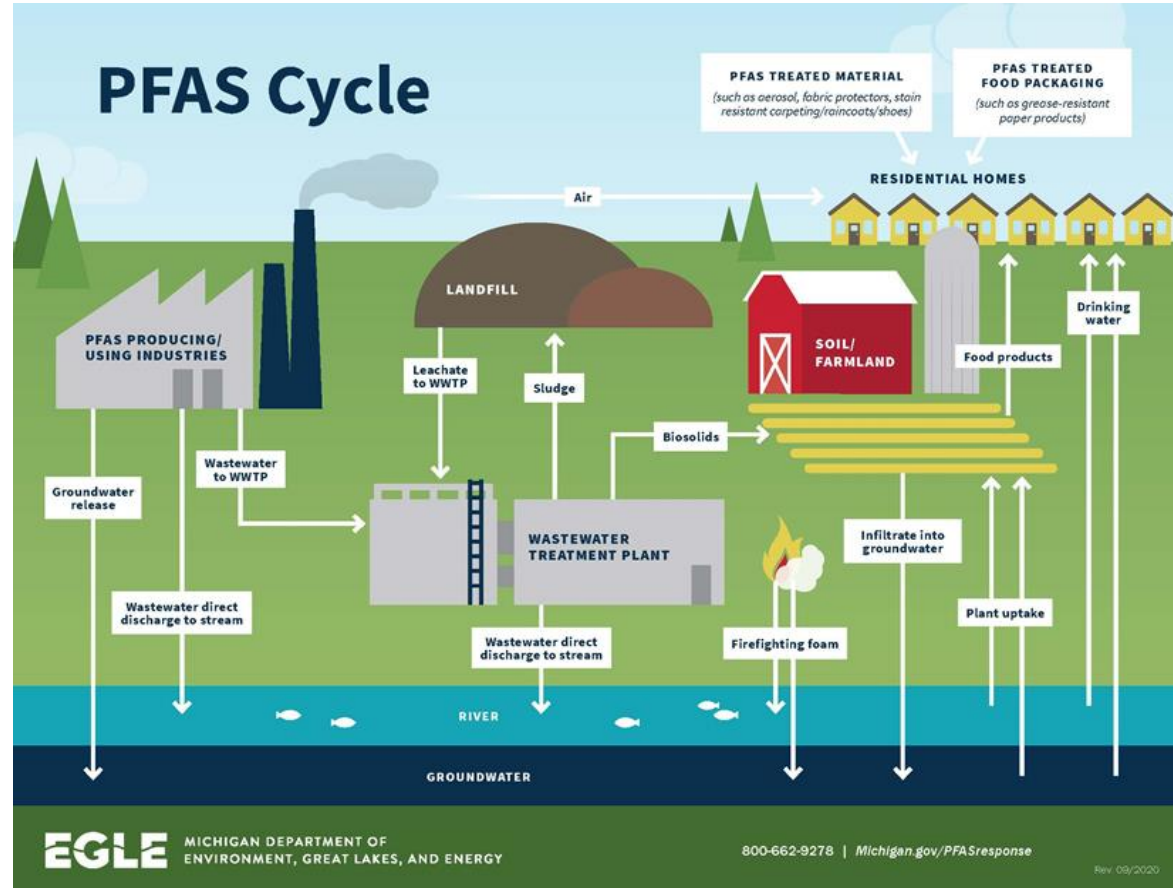
PFAS in our homes and communities

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, class of thousands of chemicals
- 'Forever chemicals' exist in the environment for a very long time and don't break down
- Used to make consumer products stain, grease and water resistant
- Commonly used in food packaging, carpet, upholstery, outdoor apparel, nonstick pans, firefighting foam



PFAS Pathways

- Exposure through food, drinking water, consumer or workplace products, manufacturing facilities
- Exposure can begin in utero and through breast milk

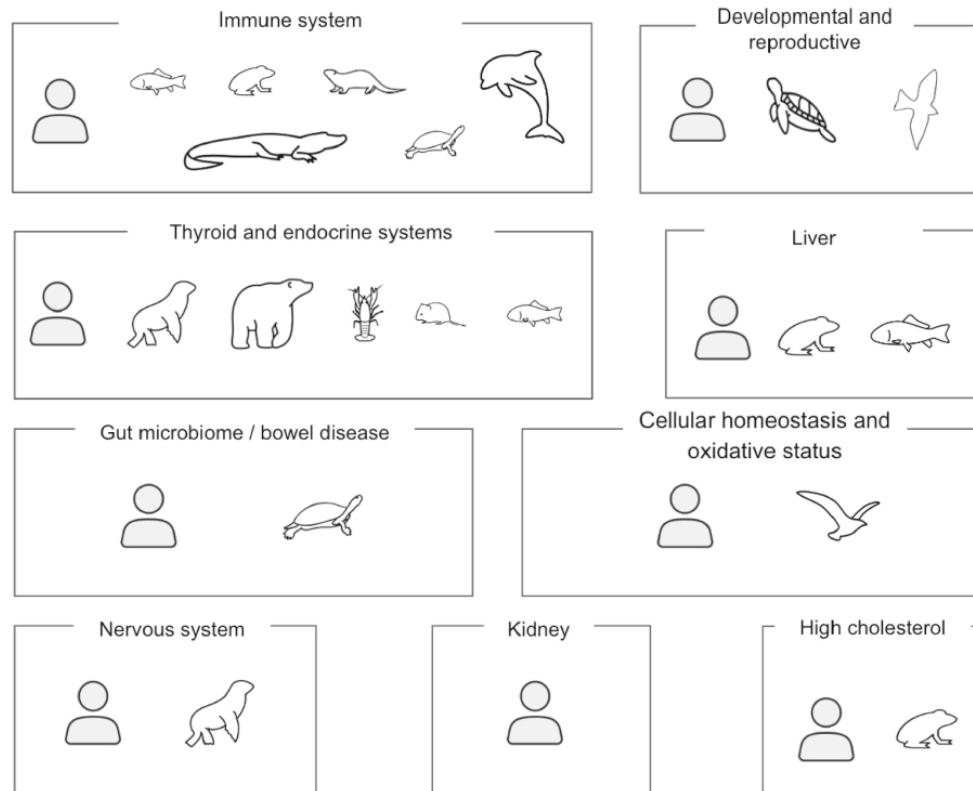


Health Impacts

- PFAS have been linked with many health problems, including thyroid disease, cancer, high cholesterol, immune system impacts, developmental and reproductive impacts
- PFAS also impact wildlife health



PFAS Exchange provides resources on PFAS exposure, medical monitoring, and guidance for clinicians



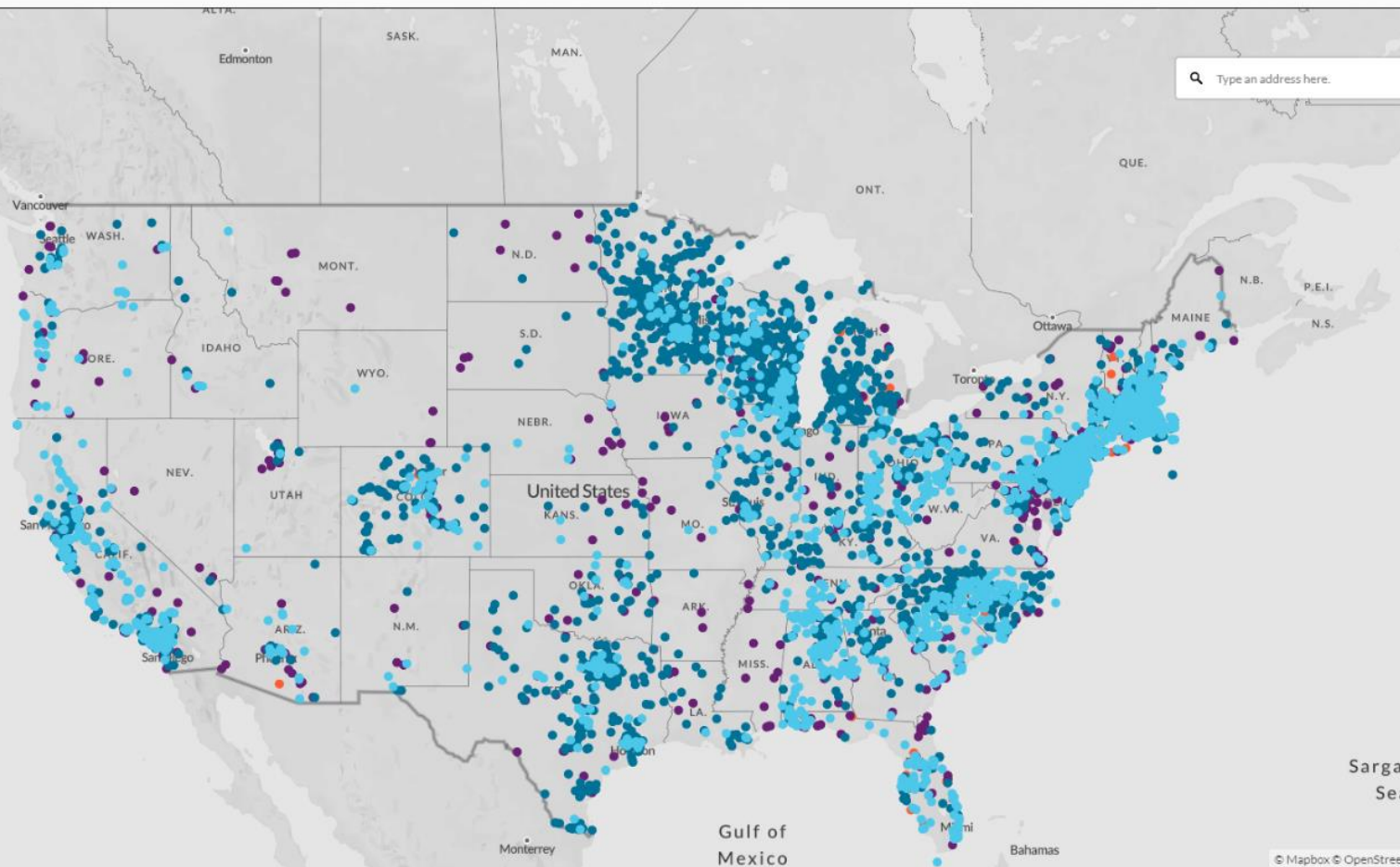


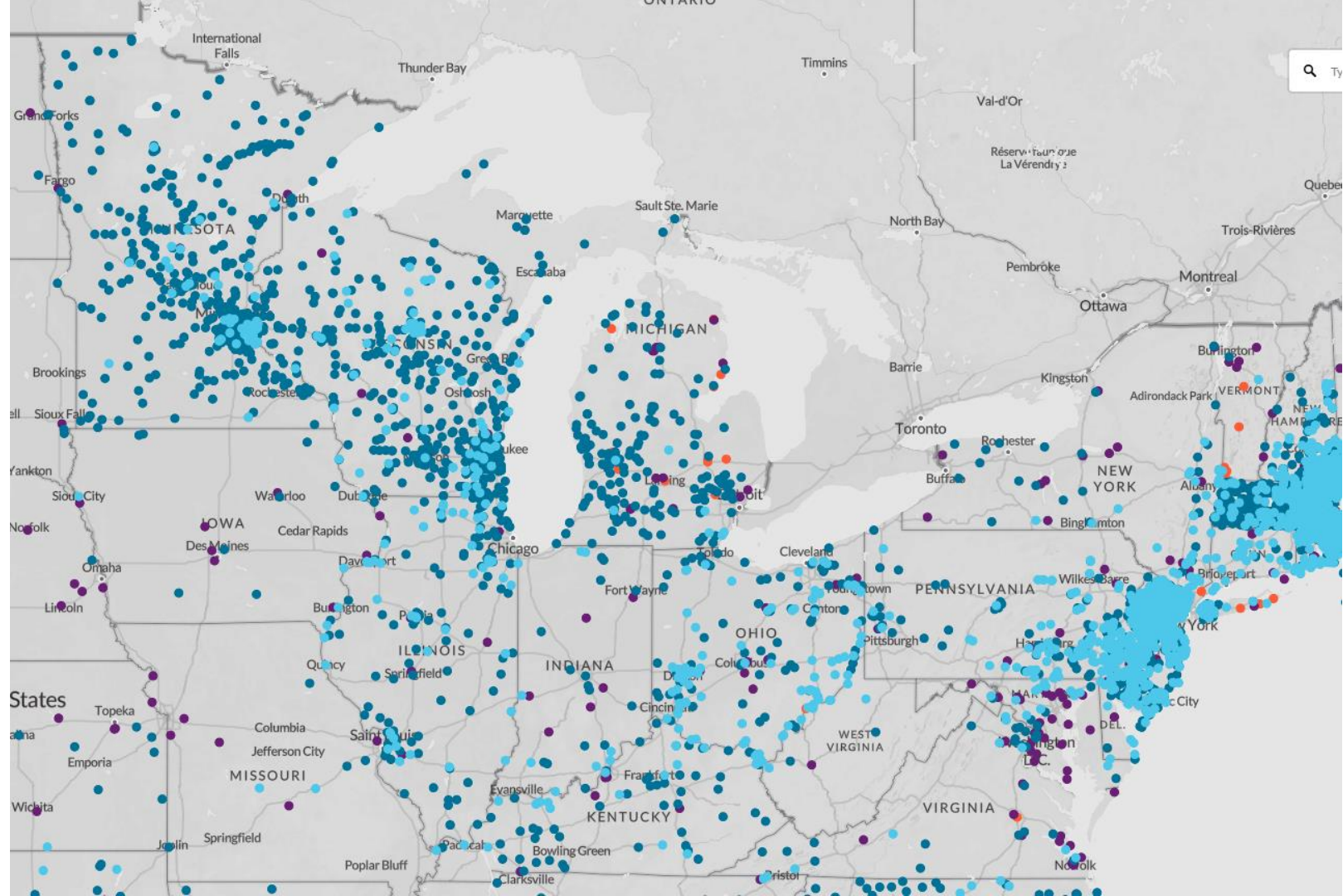
PFAS contamination in the U.S. (May 21, 2024)

-  Drinking Water
ABOVE PROPOSED LIMIT
-  Drinking Water
BELOW PROPOSED LIMIT
-  Military Sites
-  Other Known Sites



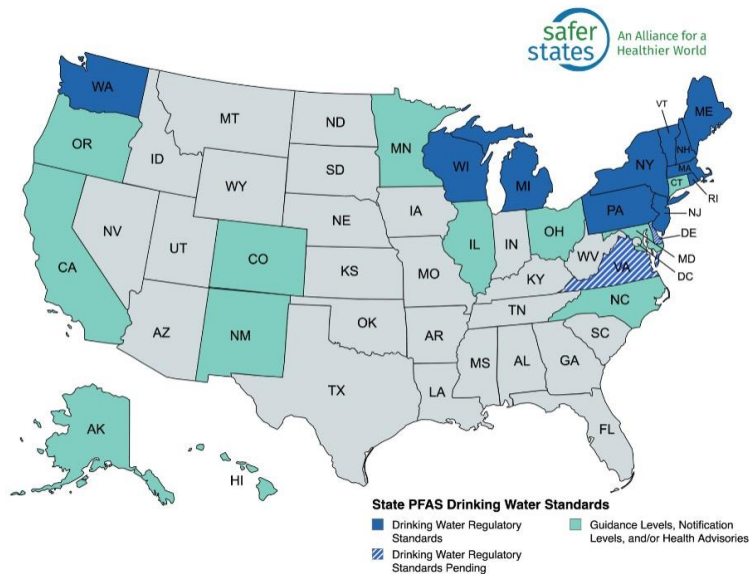
EWG interactive map





Drinking Water Quality Standards - Public Water Systems

States with Drinking Water Standards



Federal Drinking Water Standards - Established April 2024

- EPA established MCLs for 6 PFAS chemicals and mixtures
- Will prevent exposure for 100 million Americans
- Must be implemented by public water systems by 2029
- DOD is not adhering to EPA's science-based limits

Setting the Stage: 2024 Federal PFAS Policy

Administrative Action

CERCLA “Superfund” Law

- Last chemical to be added...
- EPA established PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA
- Allows EPA to respond to contamination incidents, hold responsible parties accountable for cleanup

Executive Order - Procurement

- Biden-Harris Administration directing government contractors to purchase cleaning products for federal buildings that are PFAS-free

Congressional Action

- Must pass bills like National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) include provisions about PFAS
- Farm Bill (Senate version) includes legislation to create financial safety net for farmers impacted by PFAS
- Congress has introduced numerous bills addressing banning PFAS in cosmetics and food packaging, and other materials. None have been passed into law. (Durbin/McCollum)

PFAS in the Great Lakes

- Over \$3 trillion spent on PFAS clean up and remediation nation-wide
- About 36% of those funds have been in or went to Great Lakes states
- MI and NY have highest costs in the country
- Cost of doing nothing would be incalculable

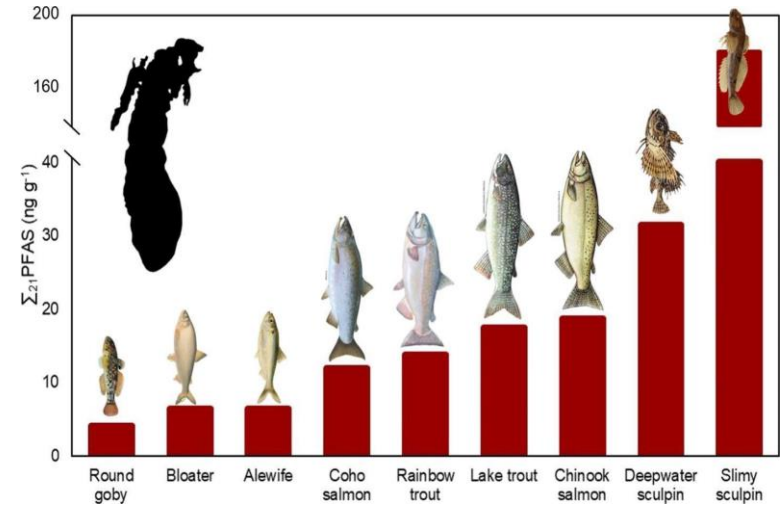
nonsticknightmare.org/nightmare-costs



The military installed stopgap cleanup systems called “interim remedial actions” or IRAs in Oscoda, MI

PFAS in the Great Lakes

- A Notre Dame study found PFAS in all 117 fish measured from Lake Michigan.
 - PFOS found in 95% of fish, especially salmon and trout.
 - Long-chain PFAS biomagnified from prey to predator fish
- An Indiana University study found PFAS are ubiquitous in the Great Lakes basin's air, rain, atmosphere and water.
 - Precipitation is likely a major contributor
 - PFAS in air were higher in urban locations than rural areas



IL-IN Sea Grant study finds PFAS in all tested Lake Michigan sportfish and their prey

Framing Our Work:

How did we get here?

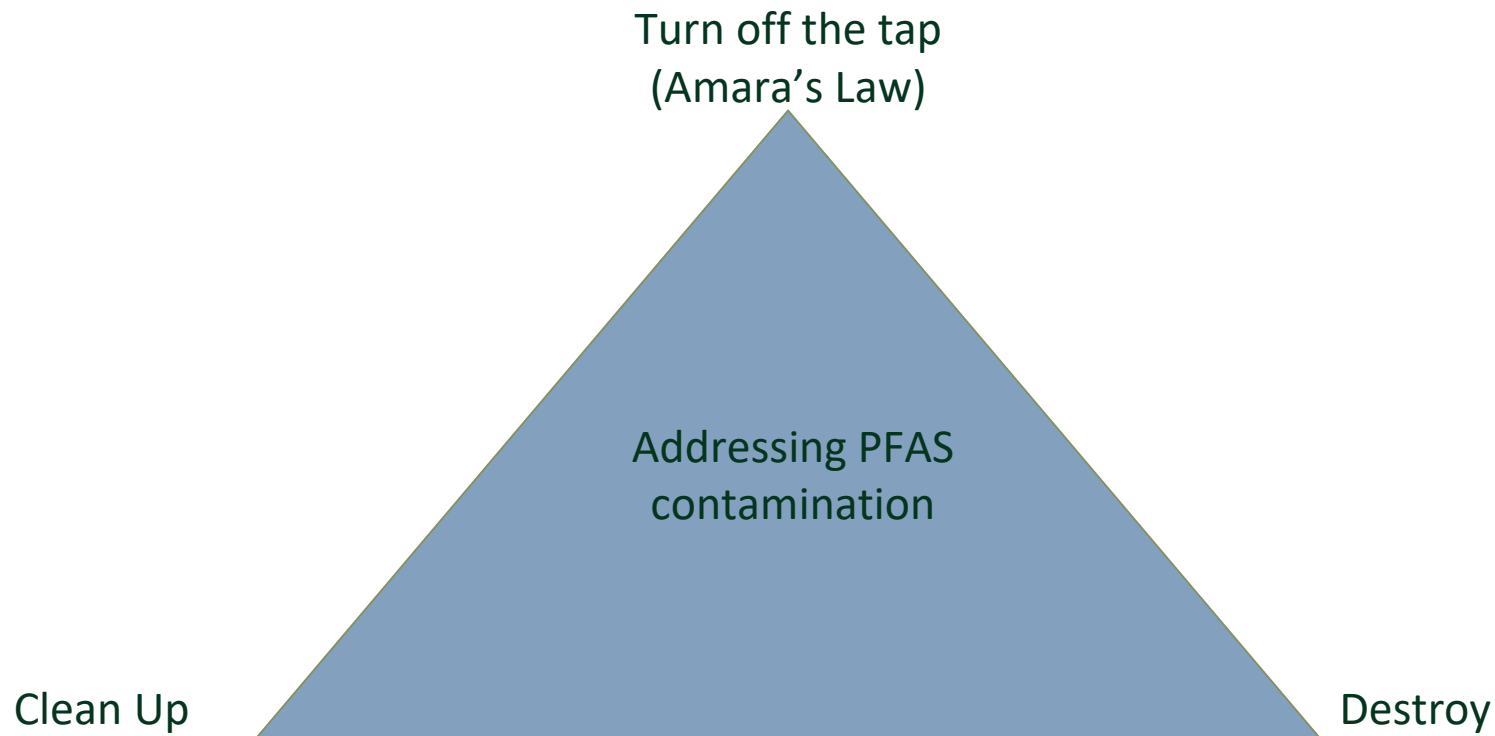
What forces are we up against?

How does the political landscape in your states affect the ability to advance policy?

PFAS impacts
withheld from
public-timeline



State PFAS Policy: Minnesota



State PFAS Policy: Minnesota

Turn off the Tap

- Lawsuit filed in 2010 related to 3M dumping in the East Metro resulting in a \$850 million settlement
- Amara's Law
 - Bans the non-essential use of PFAS in consumer products by 2032
 - Consumer product ban beginning Jan 1, 2025
 - Carpets, rugs, cleaning products, cookware, cleaning products, dental floss, fabric treatments, juvenile products, menstruation products, textile furnishings, ski wax, upholstered furniture
- First Responder Safety
 - \$500,000 for a study on PFAS in turnout gear and biomonitoring
- Information Disclosure
 - Require all products that contain PFAS be disclosed to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for public access

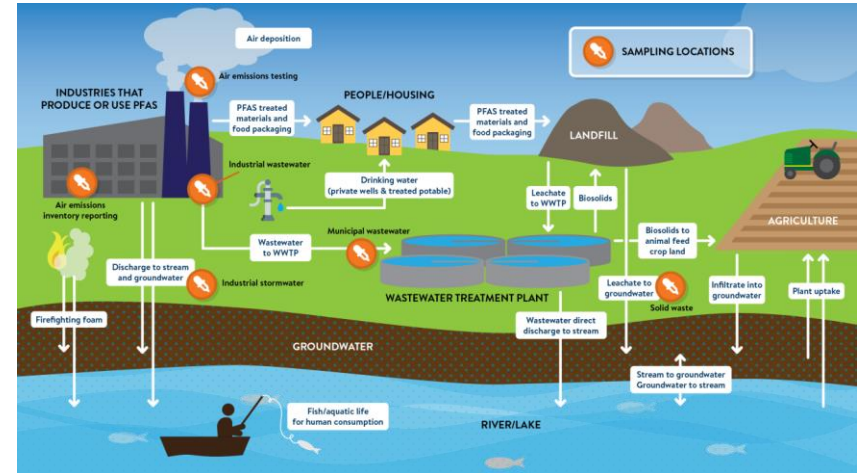


State PFAS Policy: Minnesota

Clean Up

- Remediation
 - Technologies and expenses needed to remove and destroy PFAS from certain wastewater streams across Minnesota expected to cost between \$14 and \$28 billion over 20 years.
 - PFAS can be bought for \$50 - \$1,000 per pound, but costs between \$2.7 million and \$18 million per pound to remove and destroy from municipal wastewater, depending on facility size.
 - New “short-chain” types of PFAS are more difficult and up to 70% more expensive to remove and destroy compared to old “long-chain” PFAS.

- Sludge/Biosolids
 - The contamination of thousands of acres of farmland, livestock, and crops.



State PFAS Policy: Minnesota

Destroy (safely)

We must consider the cost to develop the technology versus the cost of doing nothing

- Individual costs
 - Insurance
 - Time off work
 - Missed school
 - Emotional toll of a life on hold or ended too soon
- Government costs
 - Remediation/water treatment updates
 - New wells
- Business costs
 - As the global market moves to a more sustainable future, MN must move quick or risk falling behind in the global market and the risk of falling behind
 - Consumer demand for sustainable options
- Lawsuits
 - Money and credibility



In short - It saves tax dollars and lives to take swift action to turn off the tap, clean up, and destroy PFAS now!

State PFAS Policy: Michigan

Wins & Progress

- Positive action in the MI Administration and State Agencies
- Passed Legislation: Firefighting foam take-back program and prohibiting all fire fighting trainings to use PFAS foam
- Critical PFAS bills introduced this year supported by impacted communities
- Great Lakes PFAS Action Network continues to unite and resource PFAS impacted communities across MI and Great Lakes states; educate lawmakers



Wins & Progress in Michigan

Administrative Actions



Executive Directives

PFAS-free procurement



Regulatory Actions

MI PFAS Action Response Team

PFAS Drinking Water Standards (MCLs)

Industrial Pretreatment Program for PFAS

Fish advisories



State Budget

Funding for PFAS contaminated site identification and remediation



Dept. Attorney General

Lawsuits against PFAS manufactures

Challenges & Barriers in Michigan

- MI communities continue to find PFAS in their groundwater, rivers, soils, and fish
- Department of Defense - very slow clean-up progress
- Slow legislative progress on our priorities
- There is no “financial safety net” for farmers whose land is contaminated
- Clean-Up Costs: Over \$300 million



Progress Ahead in Michigan

- PFAS issues are gaining traction in the legislature: supportive lawmakers, the need is evident, increased awareness
- MI media continues to cover PFAS clean-up and contaminated sites.
- Great Lakes PFAS Action Network is growing; continued plans to increase membership across the Great Lakes



Existing Policy for PFAS Protection in Wisconsin

WI SPILLS LAW

- The 40+ year-old spills law is really Wisconsin's best tool for holding polluters accountable. It's based on the basic lesson that we all learned in grade school -- if you make a mess, you need to clean it up.
- Big Wisconsin polluters have been trying to weaken the Spills Law for *years*. SB 312 was their latest attempt, and it failed because we organized against it. In September, the WI State Supreme Court announced it will hear a [case](#) specific to the SPILLS Law which could have broad implications for PFAS clean up, corporate liability and public safety
- DOJ lawsuit against polluters



WI Barriers to PFAS Policy

WI REINS ACT

- Prohibits rule-making when the economic impact will exceed \$10 million threshold over any two year period
- Does not allow the consideration of economic benefits of passing health-based standards
- Prohibits any meaningful rulemaking from being enacted without the approval of the State Legislature
- Wisconsin was the first in the nation to pass the REINS Act, and other states should be on ALERT for similar legislation. This is also something that some legislators want to pass at the national level.

FUNDING HELD RANSOM

- In 2023 Governor Evers signed a budget designating \$125 Million for PFAS. The Joint Finance Committee is holding authority over its distribution, attempting to pass legislation that could allow polluters access to the funds.

WI DRINKING WATER:

WI passed a 70ppt drinking water standard with a Department of Health MCL of 20ppt. The Federal EPA Standard was passed in 2024 at 4ppt with an MCL of ZERO! This national standard allows States 3 years to test and up to 5 years to implement protections, but does NOT apply to groundwater, which States hold jurisdiction over.

WI GROUND WATER:

- Wisconsin does NOT have any groundwater regulations for PFAS, leaving 1/3 of Wisconsinites without protection

MEDICAL MONITORING

- Wisconsin does NOT recognize medical monitoring.
- Barrier to holding polluters accountable and seeking preventative care/monitoring for PFAS exposure

Opportunities for Progress in Wisconsin

WI REDISTRICTING FAIR MAPS

- WI Supreme Court approved redrawn maps to correct gerrymandering
- Presents an opportunity to advance more PFAS policy. Wisconsinites are paying a *lot* of attention to what's happening in Minnesota. Both SB 1079 and SB 1104 include PFAS product phase-outs that are modeled after Minnesota legislation.

WI Action Item: Groundwater Petition

- In support of our 7+ year PFAS fight, we are circulating a petition for the state legislature to adopt PFAS groundwater standards.
- Mobilizing to protect the spills law



Take Action

Actions for Organizations



GLPAN Great Lakes
Region Policy Agenda



Safer States Policy
Toolkit

Actions for Individuals



Michigan - GLPAN
Digital Toolkit



Wisconsin -
Groundwater
Standards Petition

Please stay in touch!



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