

Customer Information Regarding Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances (PFAS)

Liberty is committed to providing the region with safe drinking water. Since May 2019, Liberty has been monitoring its water supplies for PFAS. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) been detected in Liberty's water supplies within the Bellflower/Norwalk system.

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of more than 4500 manmade chemicals that have been manufactured and used in a variety of industries since the 1940s. PFAS are resistant to heat, water, and oil, making them persistent in the environment.

Where can PFAS be Found?

Among other things, PFAS can be found in stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, nonstick cookware, fire-fighting foam, food (fast-food packaging), paints, and personal care products. People may be exposed to PFAS when they eat or drink contaminated food or liquid, breathe in contaminated air, or touch products containing PFAS.

Specific PFAS Chemicals to Know

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonate acid (PFOS) are two of the most widely studied members of the PFAS group. Other PFAS that are gaining increasing attention include GenX chemicals(HFPO-DA), perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS), perfluorononionic acid (PFNA), and perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS). The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has identified these as contaminants of concern.



Regulatory Activity

State and federal regulators, including the EPA, have been taking steps to develop standards for the detection, public notification, and removal of PFAS in drinking water.

In April 2024, the EPA announced its federal PFAS Rule (Rule), which sets two different kinds of limits on a total of six different PFAS.

First, the Rule sets an individual maximum contaminant level (MCL) for each of the following PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, GenX and PFNA. An MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water under EPA regulation. These limits are in units of parts per trillion, or ppt.

The Rule then sets a different kind of MCL, called a Hazard Index, for any mixture of two or more of four PFAS chemicals—PFHxS, GenX, PFNA, and PFBS. The Hazard Index does not list any units because the Hazard Index is calculated as a ratio of the detected contaminants. The calculated limit for any mixture of two or more of these PFAS is 1. The table below shows the MCLs for the five PFAS with an individual limit, as well as the Hazard Index calculation formula.

Chemical	MCL
PFOA	4.0 ppt
PFOS	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (Gen X)	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt
Mixture of two or more:	Hazard Index of 1 (no units) = <u>(GenX ppt)</u> + <u>(PFBS ppt)</u> + <u>(PFNAppt)</u> + (PFHxS)
PFHxS, PFNA, Gen-X, and PFBS	(10ppt) (2000ppt) (10ppt) (10 ppt)

With the finalization of the PFAS Rule, utilities have three years to comply with the testing, reporting, and notification aspects of the regulation. Utilities have five years to comply with meeting the MCLs. For utilities with affected sources, full compliance may require the installation of treatment facilities to remove PFAS from potable



water sources. For more information, please visit: <u>https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-</u> polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas

What about my home water treatment device – will it remove PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS?

The EPA concluded that both granular activated carbon (GAC) and reverse osmosis (RO) systems can effectively reduce PFAS levels in drinking water, often to below detectable limits.

The National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), an independent accredited organization that tests and certifies products to protect and improve human health, has also conducted studies on filters that can remove PFOA and PFOS. A list of NSF-certified products for reduction of PFOA and PFOS can be found under the water and wastewater section of their website at www.nsf.org/certified-products-systems or by contacting them at info@nsf.org or 1-800-673-8010.

What is Liberty doing?

At Liberty, we prioritize the safety of our customers, community, and employees. Our commitment to environmental management goes beyond meeting local and national licensing requirements. We aim to comply with all environmental regulations as part of our caring, responsive local culture.

Currently, Liberty complies with all state and federal regulations regarding PFAS. Liberty is exploring infrastructure improvements to add treatment processes that remove PFAS from water, examining the impact this will have on the cost of delivering water to our customers, and identifying grants and other potential funding sources to help offset these necessary costs. We are committed to meeting federal regulations by 2029.



Where can I learn more?

- State Water Resources Control Board:
 - o https://waterboards.ca.gov/pfas/
 - <u>https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/</u> <u>docs/2024/pfas-fact-sheet-ddw-2024.pdf</u>
- EPA: <u>www.epa.gov/pfas</u>
- Orange County Water District: <u>https://www.ocwd.com/what-we-do/water-</u> <u>quality/pfoapfos/</u>
- American Water Works Association: <u>https://www.awwa.org/resource/pfas/</u>