



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

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of more than 4500 man-made 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?

PFAS can be found in stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, non-stick 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, 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 March 2023, the EPA announced its proposed federal PFAS Rule, expected to be finalized in 2024. The proposed Rule sets a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for both PFOA and PFOS. An MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water under EPA regulation.

The EPA's proposed MCL for PFOA is 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt); the proposed MCL for PFOS is also 4.0 ppt.

The proposed MCL does not require any utility action until it is finalized. Once this PFAS Rule is finalized, utilities will have three years to comply with the regulation. For utilities with affected sources, compliance may require the installation of treatment facilities to remove PFAS from potable water sources. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

What is Liberty doing?

At Liberty, we monitor our water sources for PFAS. When the EPA announces its new standard, Liberty will develop a plan to address the newer, more stringent requirements.

Liberty has begun preparation for 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.