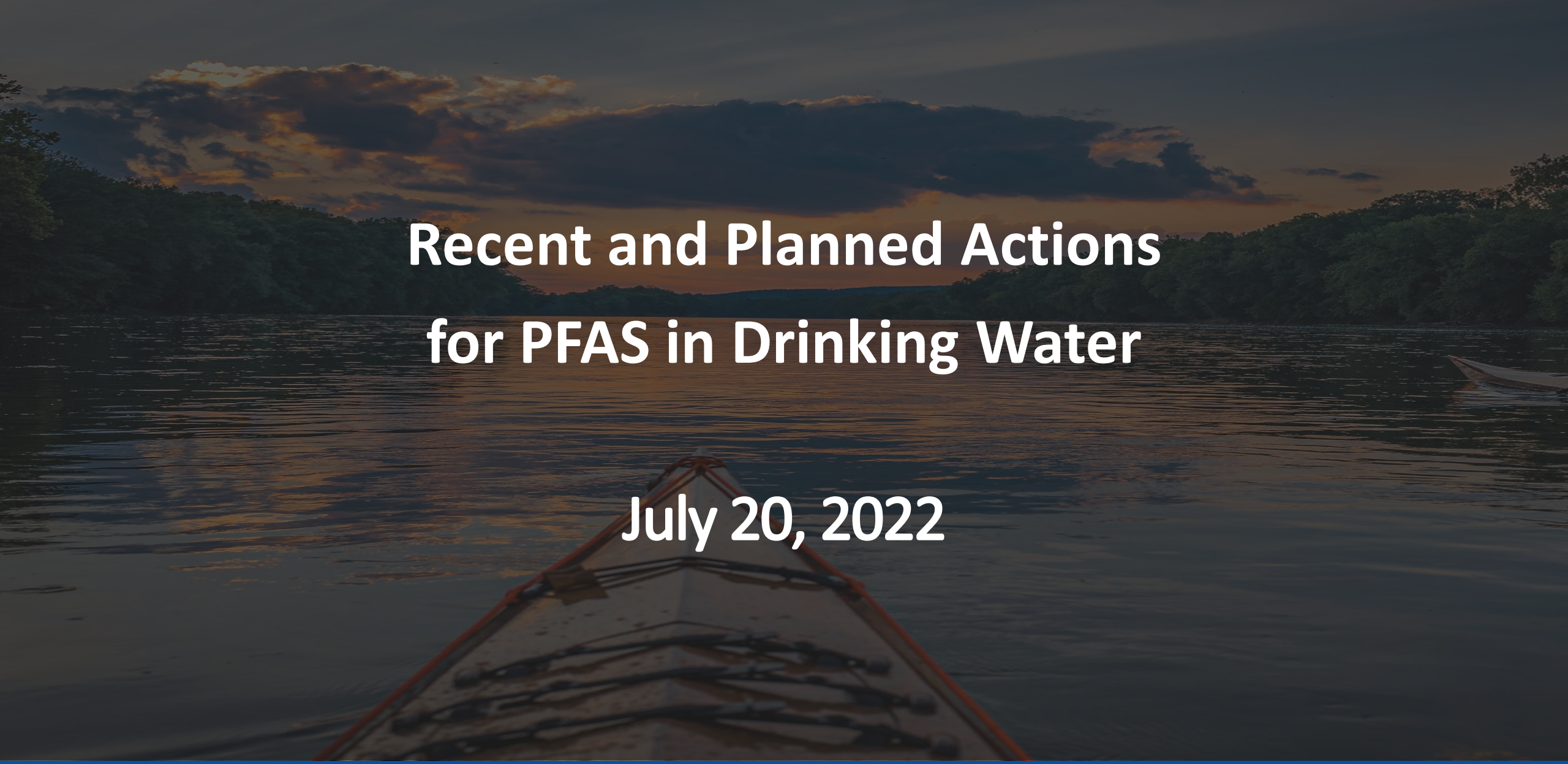

Recent and Planned Actions for PFAS in Drinking Water

July 20, 2022

United States Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Water

Overview

- **PFAS Strategic Roadmap**
- **Recent Health Advisories**
- **Next Steps**

EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitments to Action 2021-2024

- EPA announced the PFAS Strategic Roadmap in October 2021 – a bold, strategic, whole-of-EPA strategy to protect public health and the environment from PFAS.
- The PFAS Strategic Roadmap:
  - Lays out EPA's whole-of-agency approach to tackling PFAS;
  - Sets timelines for concrete actions from 2021 to 2024;
  - Fills a critical gap in federal leadership;
  - Supports states' ongoing efforts; and
  - Builds on the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to restore scientific integrity.
- Among other actions, the PFAS Roadmap commits EPA to **developing drinking water health advisories** and a **national drinking water regulation**.

Interim Updated Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS

- On June 15, 2022, EPA issued **HAs for 4 PFAS**: Final HAs for GenX chemicals and PFBS, and Interim Updated HAs for PFOA and PFOS.
- Addresses pressing need to replace 2016 PFOA/S HAs of 70 ppt based on more recent health effects studies showing that **PFOA/S can impact human health at much lower exposure levels than the 2016 HAs.**
- Based on publicly available EPA *drafts* undergoing SAB review to provide information to public health officials while regulatory process is ongoing.
- Toxicity values **will change** as a result of work to address SAB recommendations. **But the HAs (and MCLGs) are likely to remain below the PFOA and PFOS minimum reporting level of 4 ppt.**

Development of Health Advisories

- Drinking water health advisories:
  - Provide information on contaminants that can cause health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water
  - **Are non-enforceable and non-regulatory**
  - Include information on analytical methods and treatment
- An HA level or value is the concentration of a drinking water contaminant for a specific exposure duration, at or below which exposure is not anticipated to lead to adverse human health effects.
  - A **lifetime HA** (such as those EPA recently released) protects all Americans, including sensitive populations and life stages, from adverse health effects resulting from exposure throughout their lives.

Summary of Four PFAS Health Advisories

- EPA released health advisories for four PFAS:
  - **Interim HAs**: PFOA and PFOS
  - **Final HAs**: GenX chemicals (PFOA replacement) and PFBS (PFOS replacement)
- Analytical methods can detect GenX chemicals and PFBS at the HA values but cannot detect PFOA and PFOS at the level of the interim HAs.
- Because of this, EPA recommends that if water systems detect PFOA and PFOS, they take steps such as informing residents, undertaking monitoring, and examining steps to limit exposure.

Chemical	Health Advisory (ppt)	Minimum Reporting Level (MRL)[a] (ppt)
PFOA	0.004 (Interim)	4
PFOS	0.02 (Interim)	4
GenX Chemicals	10 (Final)	5
PFBS	2,000 (Final)	3

[a] Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) MRL is the minimum quantitation level that, with 95 percent confidence, can be achieved by capable analysts at 75 percent or more of the laboratories using a specified analytical method. These MRLs are based on the UCMR 5 requirement to use EPA Analytical Method 533.

Health Advisory Materials Available on EPA's Website

- **Drinking water health advisory documents and supporting scientific documents**
- **Questions and Answers**
- **Fact sheet for communities**
- **Fact sheet for public water systems**
- **Technical fact sheet**
- **See https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos**

Next Steps

- Consistent with the PFAS Roadmap, EPA is developing a proposed national primary drinking water regulation for PFOA and PFOS.
  - Also evaluating additional PFAS chemicals and considering groups of PFAS as supported by the best-available science.
  - Will utilize final input from the Science Advisory Board to develop the proposed Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) – the non-enforceable health-based goals to inform the standard-setting process.
  - The enforceable standard (Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) or treatment technique) will be set as close as feasible to the MCLG.
    - EPA considers the feasibility of measuring and treating the contaminant in setting the standard as well as the costs and benefits.
- Expect a proposed rule in fall 2022 and a final rule in fall 2023.