

EPA Maintains PFOA/PFOS Maximum Contaminant Levels, Extends Compliance Timeline

On May 14, 2025, the EPA announced it will keep the current National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for PFOA and PFOS while providing regulatory flexibility for water utilities.

Key Developments in the Announcement

- ❖ **PFOA/PFOS MCLs Maintained:** The MCLs of 4.0 ng/L for PFOA and PFOS will remain in place.
- ❖ **Extended Compliance Timeline:** Compliance date extended from April 2029 to 2031 to provide additional compliance time for water systems.
- ❖ **Regulatory Streamlining:** The EPA will reconsider regulations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and the Hazard Index mixture of these three PFAS plus PFBS.
- ❖ **New "PFAS OUT" Initiative:** The EPA will engage utilities, technical assistance providers, and regional leaders to develop solutions where they are most needed.
- ❖ **Polluter Accountability:** The EPA will utilize Effluent Limitations Guidelines (ELGs) and other tools to reduce the burden on drinking water systems while holding polluters accountable.

What this Means for Utilities

- ❖ **Treatment Focus Unchanged:** PFOA and PFOS have always been the driving compounds for treatment decisions.
- ❖ **Additional Planning Time:** The extended compliance deadline allows for planning and implementation of suitable technology.
- ❖ **Technical Assistance Available:** Free water technical assistance (WaterTA) will help utilities assess and implement solutions for PFAS.
- ❖ **Funding Sources:** DWSRF, EC-SDC grants, and WIFIA programs available to support utilities with capital improvements.

Carollo Engineers is ready to help you navigate these regulatory changes. For additional information, contact Rosa Yu, PhD, PE, at ryu@carollo.com.