**Water Quality Association’s Position on PFAS in Drinking Water**

**On the House PFAS Taskforce:**

WQA supports the drive by house members participating in the PFAS taskforce to address these unregulated contaminants and offers to help where ever needed. WQA asks the taskforce for an invitation to testify to taskforce members on the use of at-home water treatment technologies to treat PFAS chemicals in drinking water.

**On the EPA’s PFAS Action Plan in General:**

The Water Quality Association (WQA) supports the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) taking steps toward addressing PFAS chemicals in drinking water and the environment.

WQA strongly supports the action plan’s recommendations that concerned public have their drinking water checked by a certified laboratory and then use certified in-home filtration treatment systems as a final barrier against exposure to these contaminants in drinking water.

Research shows POU/POE treatment can be used to successfully treat for these contaminants at the home or in a building and can cost only a fraction of the price our society would need to bear to upgrade our drinking water treatment plants for PFAS removal.

**On Setting an MCL:**

WQA supports establishment of national, enforceable, maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS. Published scientific studies demonstrate a correlation between PFOA and PFOS to negative human health effects.

WQA supports the further assessment of other PFAS chemicals, using sound science to determine appropriate regulatory actions for individual chemicals or class of chemicals.

**On Including PFAS Chemicals in the UCMR 5:**

WQA supports the inclusion of PFAS chemicals in the EPA’s Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) round five. While a few PFAS chemicals were included in the EPA’s UCMR round three, WQA is encouraged by the EPA’s statement in the agency’s PFAS Action Plan to utilize new methods available to detect more PFAS chemicals and at lower minimum reporting levels (MRLs) than in previous monitoring.

**On Aiding Private Well Owners with PFAS chemicals in their Drinking Water:**

WQA believes the PFAS in ground water sources poses a challenge to private well owners and should be addressed. This problem is not included in the EPA’s PFAS Action Plan, released in February 2019. WQA supports the development of treatment guidance using the information the federal agencies and outside groups have been able to gather on PFAS to provide education resources to private well owners.

**On the Department of Defense PFAS Study:**

WQA urges the Department of Defense (DOD) to carry out its Nationwide study of human health impacts of PFAS chemicals in the environment, including in drinking water. Making these findings public will enhance the information known about PFAS chemicals.

**On Certified POU & POE Products to Remove PFAS Chemicals in Drinking Water:**

WQA has worked in a collaborative effort with other members of the industry to incorporate PFAS chemical reduction testing and certification into current American National Standard Institute (ANSI) accredited standards. Currently PFOA and PFOS are being included in standards NSF/ANSI 53 and NSF/ANSI 58 for carbon filtration and reverse osmosis technologies.

WQA is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as a testing laboratory and certification body. Its certification program can now certify products to remove PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.

**Steps WQA has Taken to Research and Support Public Education on PFAS in Drinking Water:**

* In 2008, WQA assisted the Minnesota State Department of Public Health to complete the study Performance Evaluation: Removal of Perfluorochemicals (PFC's) with Point-of-Use (POU) Water Treatment Devices. <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/wells/waterquality/poudevicefinal.pdf>
* In 2017, WQA actively supported the inclusion of a national PFAS study on health effects to be conducted through the Department of Defense as part of the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.
* In 2018, WQA staff attended the EPA Leadership summit on PFAS.
* In 2018, WQA staff and members attended the EPA’s town hall meeting on PFAS in Michigan.
* In 2018, WQA submitted a letter for the record during a House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee hearing on PFAS.
* In 2018-2019, WQA worked on the inclusion of PFOA and PFOS in ANSI accredited standards to provide third-party certification on point-of-use and point-of-entry technologies.
* In 2019, WQA met with Rep. Kildee’s office and provided technical and regulatory information to the House PFAS taskforce.
* WQA reviews state and federal actions to address PFAS in drinking water and aids at both levels.
* As an ANSI accredited laboratory and certification body, WQA can certify products to remove PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.
* WQA provides technical education sessions on PFAS chemicals at WQA’s convention and at other opportunities.
* WQA has publicly available information on PFAS chemicals in drinking water on WQA.org and is working on launching a new webpage to act as a clearinghouse on contaminants and treatment options meant to educate the general public.