

# **USEPA's Drinking Water Actions on Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)**

**National Drinking Water Advisory Council Public Meeting  
July 28, 2025**

# Overview

- Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Rulemaking Background
- Regulatory History for PFAS under SDWA
- Extending the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Compliance Deadline for PFOA and PFOS
  - Questions and Discussion
- Rescission of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX Chemicals) and the Hazard Index Mixture of these three PFAS plus PFBS
  - Questions and Discussion

# EPA Announcements on PFAS Actions

EPA announced a long list of actions to stop forever chemicals from entering drinking water systems, including:

- “...the creation of **effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs)** for certain PFAS to stop these forever chemicals from entering drinking water systems...”
- “...initiatives to engage with Congress and industry to establish a clear liability framework that ensures the **polluter pays** and passive receivers are protected.”
- “Adding PFAS to the **Toxic Release Inventory (TRI)** in line with Congressional direction from the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.”
- “Enforcing Clean Water Act and TSCA **limitations on PFAS use and release** to prevent further contamination.”
- “Using Safe Drinking Water Act authority to **investigate and address immediate endangerment**.”

EPA actions will “address the most significant compliance challenges and requests from Congress and drinking water systems related to national primary drinking water regulations for certain PFAS.”

- “EPA will launch **PFAS OUT** to connect with every public water utility known to need capital improvements to address PFAS in their systems . . . EPA will share resources, tools, funding, and technical assistance”

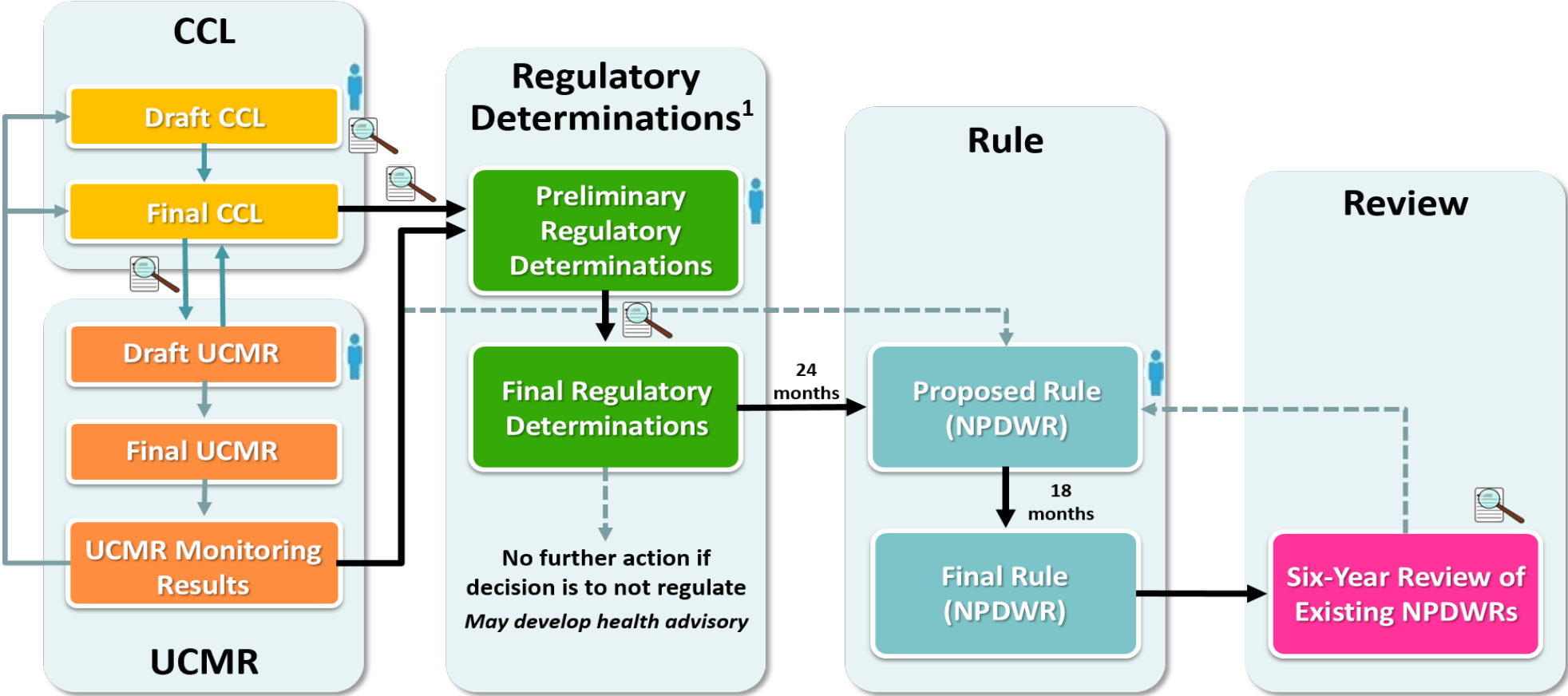
“These actions are guided by the following principles: strengthening the science, fulfilling statutory obligations and enhancing communication, and building partnerships. With this approach, EPA will provide the foundation and investment necessary for a toolbox that will help states and communities dealing with PFAS contamination.”

- US EPA, April 28, 2025

“EPA’s actions are designed to reduce the burden on drinking water systems and the cost of water bills, all while continuing to protect public health and ensure that the agency is following the law in establishing impactful regulations such as these.”

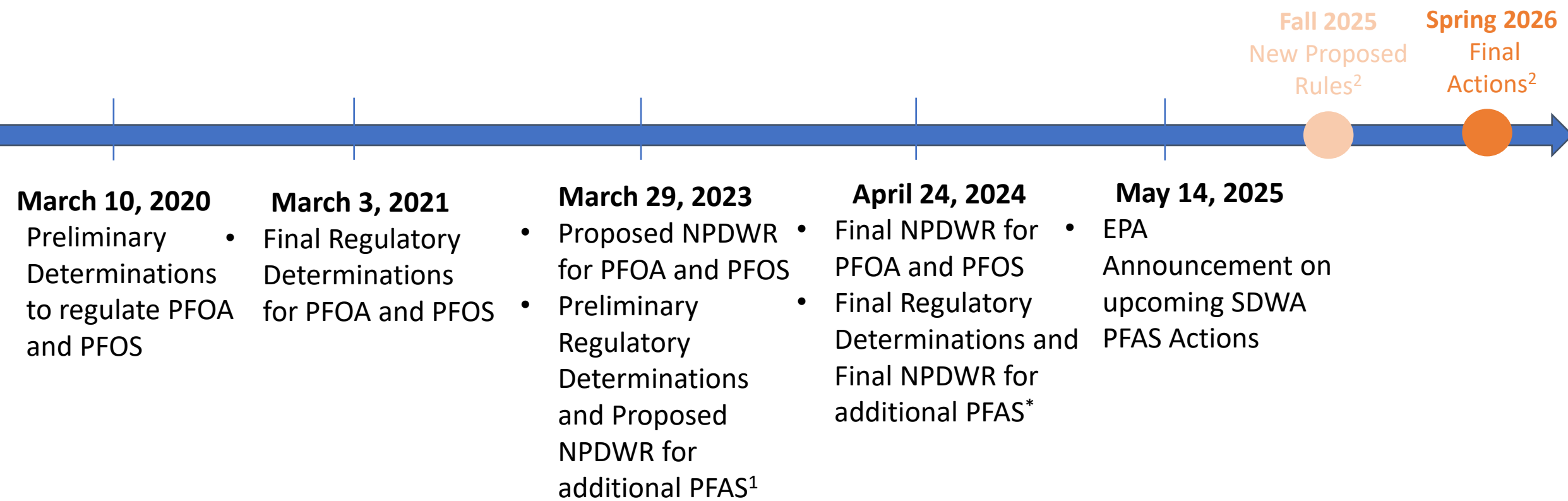
- US EPA, May 14, 2025

# Developing Drinking Water Regulations under SDWA



<sup>1</sup>Regulatory determinations are generally made in five-year cycles. SDWA authorizes EPA to make off-cycle regulatory determinations outside this five-year cycle.

# Regulatory Timeline for PFAS under SDWA



<sup>1</sup>PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, PFBS and mixtures of these PFAS with PFBS (Hazard Index)

<sup>2</sup>Rescission of the NPDWRs for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX Chemicals) and the Hazard Index Mixture of these three PFAS plus PFBS and Extending the MCL Compliance Deadline for PFOA and PFOS

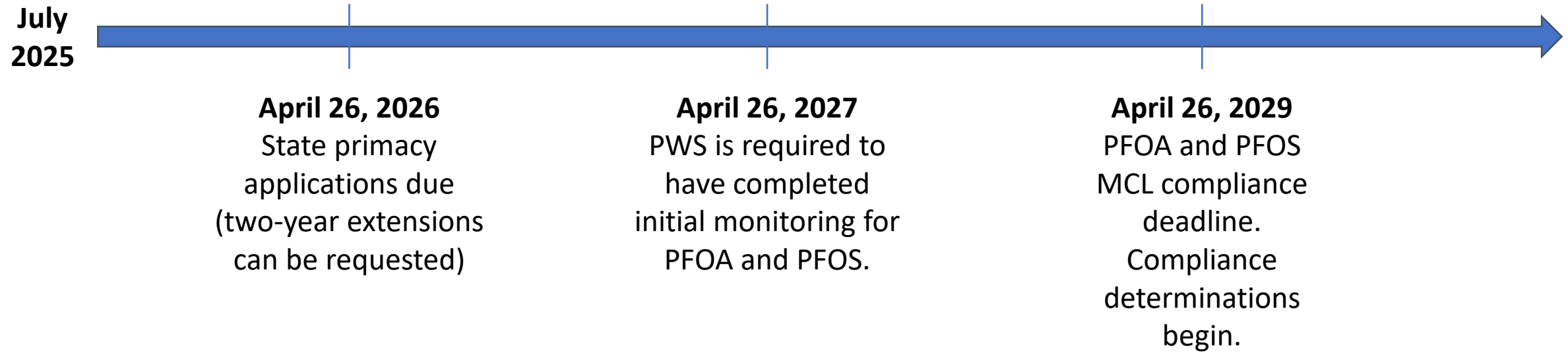
# **Proposed Rule: Extending the MCL Compliance Deadlines for PFOA and PFOS**

# Rulemaking Scope

“To allow drinking water systems more time to develop plans for addressing PFOA and PFOS where they are found and implement solutions, EPA plans to develop a rulemaking to **provide additional time for compliance, including a proposal to extend the compliance date to 2031**. EPA plans to issue a proposed rule this fall and finalize this rule in the Spring of 2026. Aligned with the agency’s intent to provide additional compliance time for water systems, EPA encourages states seeking primacy for implementing the PFAS drinking water regulation to request additional time from EPA to develop their applications.”

– EPA, May 14, 2025

# Current NPDWR Compliance Requirements





# EPA's Proposed Rule

“This action would help address the most significant compliance challenges EPA has heard from public water systems, members of Congress, and other stakeholders, while supporting actions to protect the American people from certain PFAS in drinking water.”

- EPA, May 14, 2025

# Discussion Questions: Extending the MCL Compliance Deadlines for PFOA and PFOS

- What technical challenges are water systems facing in taking action to comply with the MCLS for PFOA and PFOS?
- What economic challenges are water systems facing in taking action to comply with the MCLS for PFOA and PFOS?
- How would additional time to comply with the MCLs help water systems address these challenges?
- What actions have water systems taken to reduce PFAS exposures for the communities they serve?

# Discussion

# **Proposed Rule: Rescission of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Four PFAS Substances (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and the Mixture of These Three PFAS Plus PFBS) Under SDWA**

# Rulemaking Scope

“EPA is also announcing its intent to rescind the regulations and reconsider the regulatory determinations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX), and the Hazard Index mixture of these three plus PFBS to **ensure that the determinations and any resulting drinking water regulation follow the legal process laid out in the Safe Drinking Water Act.**”

– EPA, May 14, 2025

# SDWA Authority

- SDWA 1412(b)(1)(E)
  - “The Administrator shall propose the maximum contaminant level goal and national primary drinking water regulation for a contaminant not later than 24 months after the determination to regulate under subparagraph (B) and **may publish such proposed regulation concurrent with the determination to regulate**. The Administrator shall publish a maximum contaminant level goal and promulgate a national primary drinking water regulation within 18 months after the proposal thereof.”

# EPA's Proposed Rule

“The agency is committed to addressing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water while following the law and ensuring that regulatory compliance is achievable for drinking water systems.”

– EPA, May 14, 2025

## Discussion Questions: Proposed Rule: Rescission of the NPDWR for Four PFAS Substances (PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (GenX), and the Mixture of these Three PFAS plus PFBS) under SDWA

- How would rescinding the regulations and reconsidering the regulatory determinations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX), and the Hazard Index mixture of these three plus PFBS impact water systems' planned actions to address PFAS?
- How would actions by EPA to reduce the prevalence of these or other PFAS in the environment reduce concentrations of PFAS in drinking water sources?



# Discussion