

Tackling Emerging Contaminants

The presence of emerging contaminants and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water poses risks to public health in communities nationwide. **Tackling Emerging Contaminants (TEC) is a Real Water Technical Assistance (RealWaterTA) initiative that helps small or disadvantaged communities:**

- Assess and address PFAS compounds and emerging contaminants in drinking water.
- Comply with PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR).
- Apply for and utilize funding, including from the [Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant](#) (EC-SDC) and the [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#) (DWSRF).



Services

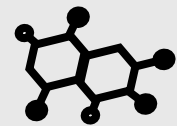
The TEC initiative offers free technical assistance nationwide, tailored to meet unique water system needs through:

- **Sampling and Analysis:** Including sampling plans, laboratory analyses, initial monitoring to comply with the PFAS NPDWR, etc.
- **Technical Planning:** Including alternatives analyses, preliminary engineering reports, etc.
- **Implementation and Funding Support:** Including identifying funding options, preparing application materials, etc.
- **Operational Training Support:** Including sampling training, development of operation manuals, etc.
- **Public Outreach:** Including customer education on PFAS, templates for PFAS results sharing, risk communication toolkits, etc.

Note: TEC does not provide direct funding, although it can help drinking water systems access and utilize funding.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down slowly over time. There are thousands of PFAS chemicals. PFAS are found in water, air, fish and soil. Studies show exposure to some PFAS may be linked to harmful health effects.



The U.S. EPA regulates some PFAS compounds in drinking water. TEC's services can help water systems achieve compliance with these regulations.

Learn more about PFAS on EPA's website: www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained

What are Emerging Contaminants?

Emerging contaminants that TEC can help address are listed on EPA's drinking water [Contaminant Candidate Lists \(CCL\)](#). The CCL is a list of drinking water contaminants that are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems and are not currently subject to EPA drinking water regulations. Contaminants on the CCL include:

- Manganese
- Lithium
- Cyanotoxins (produced by cyanobacteria)
- *Legionella pneumophila*
- Unregulated PFAS
- And more

More information and the full CCL can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/ccl>



How Can TEC Help Your Water System?

Examples from our menu of services:



Help drinking water systems understand and comply with the initial monitoring requirements for the PFAS NPDWR. The TEC team can conduct sampling for initial monitoring, help you understand your PFAS results, and provide operational training for ongoing PFAS monitoring to support compliance with the PFAS NPDWR.



Develop a treatment plan for PFAS or emerging contaminants. The TEC team can evaluate sampling results, assess treatment options, and develop funding application materials such as a preliminary engineering report.



Conduct source water protection planning activities. The TEC team can provide support for developing or updating source water protection plans to address PFAS and emerging contaminants, including evaluating alternate sources.



Build an outreach strategy for communicating about PFAS or emerging contaminant concerns. The TEC team can provide materials to help educate your residents on a contaminant, develop a communications toolkit, and support local coordination on drinking water contaminant issues.

Requests for Assistance and Eligibility

For more information, visit [TEC's webpage](#).

To request assistance, complete the RealWaterTA request form at <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/forms/real-water-technical-assistance-request-form>

Eligibility: Communities that meet the [Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant](#) eligibility requirements may be considered to receive technical assistance through TEC. Eligible communities are considered 'small' or 'disadvantaged'. For more information about EC-SDC grant eligibility, visit [the EC-SDC grant's website](#).