



# NEWS RELEASE

## Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Illinois EPA Issues Health Advisory for Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA)

*Chemical Identified Through Sampling Investigations of Community Water Supplies*

**SPRINGFIELD** – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Acting Director James Jennings announced the issuance of a health advisory for Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA) in accordance with Illinois groundwater regulations. Health advisories are issued when there is detection of a chemical substance(s) harmful to human health for which no numeric groundwater standard(s) exists, and resampling confirms the presence in a community water supply well.

“Health advisories provide us with information about contaminant exposures and potential public health impacts,” **said Acting Director Jennings**. “These advisories must be considered by Illinois EPA in establishing groundwater cleanup or action objectives, and they also provide information to community water supplies in determining if any additional protective steps should be taken.”

Health advisories are published in the Environmental Register, a publication of the Illinois Pollution Control Board, and placed on the website: <https://pcb.illinois.gov/Resources/News>. The health advisories are also available on the Illinois EPA website at: <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/water-quality/pfas/pfas-healthadvisory.html>

In January 2021, Illinois EPA issued health advisories for four chemicals included in the family of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), often referred to as “forever chemicals” because of their persistence over time in surface water and groundwater. In April 2021, a health advisory was issued for a fifth chemical in the PFAS family and one of the initial health advisories was also updated to account for new scientific information. A sixth health advisory was issued in July 2021. In April 2023, another initial health advisory was updated, also in response to new scientific information about the toxicity of the chemical.

As with previous health advisories, PFBA is a compound in the PFAS family of chemicals. Each health advisory contains a general description of the chemical, information on carcinogenicity and potential adverse health effects, and a guidance level. The following chart provides the health advisory guidance levels for each of the PFAS chemicals identified to date beginning with the new advisory. The guidance level contained in each of the health advisories is not an enforceable groundwater or drinking water standard.

Chemical Abstract Services Registry Number (CASRN)	Substance Name	Substance Acronym	HA Guidance Level in milligrams per liter (mg/L)	HA Guidance Level in nanograms per liter (ng/L)	Date HA Issued/ *Revised
<b>375-22-4</b>	<b>Perfluorobutanoic Acid</b>	<b>PFBA</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>9/10/24</b>
307-24-4	Perfluorohexanoic Acid	PFHxA	*0.0035	*3,500	*4/26/23
375-95-1	Perfluorononanoic Acid	PFNA	.000021	21	7/27/21
1763-23-1	Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid	PFOS	0.000014	14	4/15/21
375-73-5	Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid	PFBS	*0.0021	*2,100	*4/15/21
335-67-1	Perfluorooctanoic Acid	PFOA	0.000002	2	1/28/21
355-46-4	Perfluorohexanesulfonic Acid	PFHxS	0.00014	140	1/28/21

*\*Updated health advisory guidance level*

In 2021, the Illinois EPA completed a statewide PFAS investigation, which sampled drinking water at every community water supply in Illinois. If PFAS chemicals were confirmed at concentrations above laboratory minimum reporting levels, the Illinois EPA worked directly with those community water supplies to ensure residents were informed and determined next steps for reducing exposure. Many community water supplies continue to sample for PFAS chemicals, which is how the recent detections were made. A complete listing of sample results from the statewide investigation is available on the interactive map established by Illinois EPA at: <https://illinois-epa.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/bd611162a7f74cfe88b6928c926416c3>.

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