

CITY OF HIGH POINT

AGENDA ITEM



TITLE: Water Quality/EPA Update	
FROM: Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager	MEETING DATE: May 6, 2024
PUBLIC HEARING: N/A	ADVERTISED DATE/BY: N/A
ATTACHMENTS: Water Quality Presentation	

PURPOSE: Provide City Council information on a recent announcement by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding water quality limits on contaminants.

BACKGROUND: In February 2021, the EPA began the process for regulating two contaminants (PFOA and PFOS) under the authority granted by the Safe Drinking Water Act. The EPA has announced, as part of the regulation process, limits for these contaminants. Staff will provide an overview of the regulation process, what this means for the City of High Point, and what actions we have taken or are taking regarding this announcement.

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

RECOMMENDATION/ACTION REQUESTED: Presentation and information item only.



Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)

PFOA/PFOS

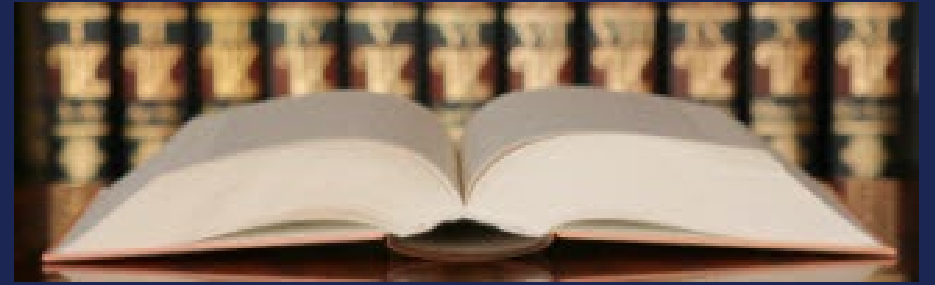
Damon C. Dequenne
Assistant City Manager



City Council
Presentation
May 6, 2024

SDWA – What is it?

- Federal Law – Est. 1974
- SDWA defines what a water contaminant is
 - Physical – Particles
 - Biological – Bacteria
 - Radiological – Grass Alpha
 - Chemical – PFAS
- Enables the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set limits on contaminants
- Establishes the process EPA must follow to develop standards for the nation's drinking water



EPA Activity

- February of 2021
- Started process for regulating two contaminants
 - PFOA – perfluorooctanoic acid
 - PFOS – perfluorooctanesulfonic acid
- PFOA and PFOS are members of the PFAS (perfluoroalkyl substances) family of thousands (14,000) of manmade chemical compounds
- In use since 1940's



EPA Activity

- PFOA/PFOS believed to have adverse health effects at very low levels over a long period of time
 - 70 years used in EPA analysis
- Over 80% of exposure is from consumer products
- PFAS is NOT used in the water treatment process

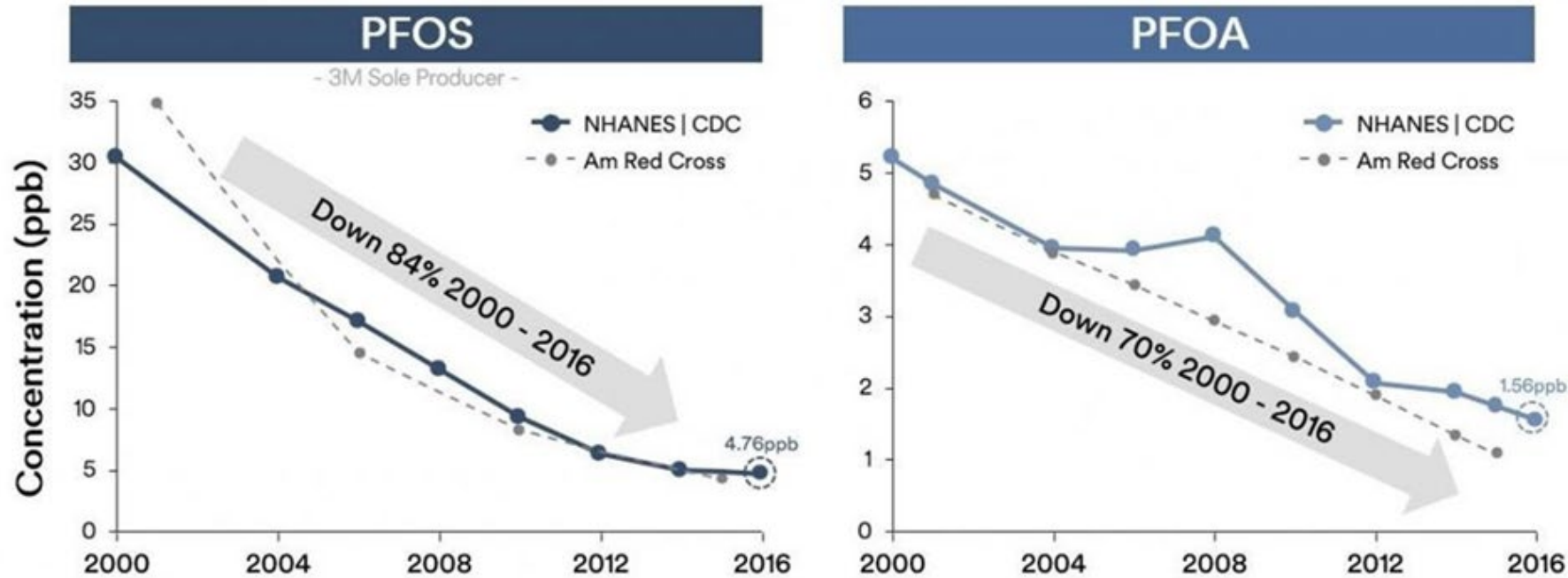


EPA Activity

Our exposure has never been lower and is expected to decrease

Health and Environmental Science

Trends of PFOS and PFOA Serum Concentrations in US General Population



Source: Olsen et al. 2017 Environ Res 157 87-95; NHANES 2018

EPA Activity

- Announced March 3, 2023
 - PFOA/PFOS
 - Proposed Maximum Contaminant Level – MCL
 - PFOA – 4 parts per trillion (ppt)
 - PFOS – 4 parts per trillion (ppt)
 - Started public comment and scientific analysis period
 - Established possible effective date of new rules



EPA Activity

- Announcement April 10, 2024
 - PFOA/PFOS
 - Maximum Contaminant Level – MCL
 - Enforceable
 - PFOA – 4 parts per trillion (ppt)
 - PFOS – 4 parts per trillion (ppt)
 - Hazard Index of 1.0 for a mixture of the following
 - GenX, PFBS, PFNA, PFHxS
 - Established effective date of new rules in 5 years
 - Monitoring Requirements for first 3 years



What Does This Mean?

- Current Known Levels

- Finished Water (Ward Water Treatment Plant)

- PFOA – 2.05 – 4.29 PPT
- PFOS – 7.27 – 10.70 PPT

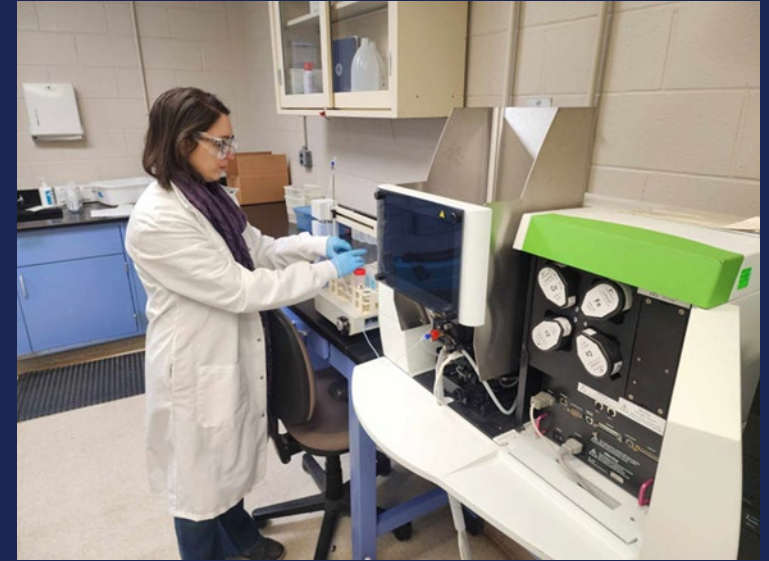
- Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority

- PFOA – 3.91 – 4.08 PPT
- PFOS – 7.33 – 10.40 PPT



What Does This Mean?

- Current Known Levels
 - Raw Water (By Source)
 - City Lake
 - PFOA – 2.21 – 3.65 PPT
 - PFOS – 7.29 – 20.8 PPT
 - Hazard Index - < 1.0
 - Oak Hollow
 - PFOA – 2.02 PPT or less
 - PFOS – 3.26 PPT or less
 - Hazard Index – 0.0



What's Next

- Continue Sampling Raw and Finished Water
 - Evaluate how and where these chemicals enter our source waters
- Adjusting primary source to Oak Hollow Lake
 - Actions coming soon for infrastructure to support
 - Generator Procurement
 - Construction/Installation
- Continuing to seek compensation from manufacturers of these chemicals
- Continue to identify most appropriate treatment technologies



What's Next

- Continue to operate as we always have
 - Protector of public health
 - Deliver **safe, high quality, compliant** drinking water
- Water Quality Information
 - Published in annual report
 - Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)
 - Annual Water Quality Report
 - Advertised in news
 - Information provided with bills
 - City Website (Public Services – Water Quality)
 - <https://www.highpointnc.gov/DocumentCenter/View/19703/2021-water-quality-report->



Thank You

