

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF A SECOND DRAFT TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENT FOR PROPOSED PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS FOR PERFLUOROCTANOIC ACID AND PERFLUOROCTANE SULFONIC ACID IN DRINKING WATER

July 14, 2023

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) of the California Environmental Protection Agency is announcing the release of a second draft document for public review describing proposed Public Health Goals (PHGs) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) in drinking water.

A PHG is the level of a drinking water contaminant at which adverse health effects are not expected to occur from a lifetime of exposure. The California Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996 (codified at Health and Safety Code (HSC), section 116270 *et. seq*) requires OEHHA to develop PHGs based exclusively on public health considerations, as stated in HSC, section 116365(c). PHGs published by OEHHA are considered by the State Water Resources Control Board in setting drinking water regulatory standards (Maximum Contaminant Levels, or MCLs) for California, as stated in HSC, section 116365(a) and (b).

The second draft technical support document, available for download, presents the scientific information available on the toxicity of PFOA and PFOS and the calculation of the proposed PHGs. The proposed PHG of 0.007 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA is based on kidney cancer in humans and the proposed PHG of 1 ppt for PFOS is based on liver and pancreatic tumors in animals. The proposed PHGs are set at a level of risk of one additional cancer case per one million persons exposed over a lifetime. The draft document also presents health-protective drinking water concentrations for noncancer health effects. The proposed noncancer health-protective concentrations are 3 ppt for PFOA, based on increased risk of liver damage in humans, and 2 ppt for PFOS, based on increased total cholesterol in humans. The proposed PHGs and health-protective concentrations presented in the second draft do not differ from those presented in the first draft.

The draft technical support document was originally released for a 60-day public comment period in July 2021, and underwent an external scientific peer review that was completed in February 2022. The draft technical support document has been revised per public and peer review comments and is being released for a 30-day public comment period that begins July 14, 2023 and ends August 14, 2023.

The public is encouraged to submit written comments via OEHHA's website, rather than in paper form. Comments may be submitted electronically through the following link: <https://oehha.ca.gov/comments>.

Hard-copy comments may be mailed or hand-delivered to the address below. Any written comments concerning this draft PHG document, regardless of the

form or method of transmission, must be received by the PHG program by August 14, 2023 to be considered.

OEHHA encourages all commenters to submit their comments in a format compliant with Section 508 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, and California Government Code sections 7405 and 11135, so that they can be read using screen reader technology.

OEHHA is subject to the California Public Records Act and other laws that require the release of certain information upon request. If you provide comments, please be aware that your name, address, and e-mail may be available to third parties.

Following the second public comment period, OEHHA will evaluate all the comments received and revise the document as appropriate. The final document will be posted on the OEHHA website along with responses to the external peer review comments and to major comments received during the two public comment periods.

If you would like to receive further information on this announcement or have questions, please contact Hermelinda Jimenez at PHG.Program@oehha.ca.gov or at (916) 324-7572. Written inquiries can also be addressed to:

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