



City of Alexandria, Virginia
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Justin M. Wilson
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
EPA Docket Center
Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114
Mail Code 28221T
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460-6629

To Whom It May Concern:

I write on behalf of the Alexandria City Council and the residents that we are privileged to serve. The City of Alexandria is pleased to endorse the proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation¹ (Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114) that has been promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency, as published in the Federal Register on March 29, 2023.

As detailed in the proposed regulation, PFAS, the so-called “forever chemicals” have been proven to have negative impacts of the health of those who receive long-term exposure, including:

- Negative impacts on pregnant women and in their developing babies
- Weakening immune response
- An increased risk of cancers and liver damage
- Elevated cholesterol levels and the concomitant risk for heart attack or stroke

The regulations will propose new Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLG) and enforceable Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for these chemicals in our drinking water. As detailed by the EPA’s analysis, full implementation of these new standards will prevent tens of thousands of illnesses and deaths.

Alexandria is a community of 160,000 residents in 15.5 square miles in Northern Virginia. The City of Alexandria’s 75,000 households receive drinking water from the Virginia-American Water Company, a waterworks owned by the publicly-traded American Water Works Company, Inc. Alexandria’s waterworks is one of the thousands of systems nationally that currently exceed the MCL that the EPA has proposed.

¹ <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

According to the 2022 Water Quality Report provided by Virginia-American Water Company², our drinking water contains levels of several PFAS that would be actionable under the proposed regulations, including:

- Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA): Range Detected 2.8 – 4.5/ppt
- Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS): Range Detected 3.2 – 4.0/ppt
- Perfluorohexanesulfonate (PhHxS): Range Detected 0.0 – 2.3/ppt
- Perfluorobutanesulfonic Acid (PFBS): Range Detected 0.0 – 4.7/ppt

While the proposed regulation details the significant expense required to remove these chemicals from our drinking water, we recognize that such an investment will improve the health and wellness of our residents, particularly those with health vulnerabilities. This investment is particularly timely given the substantial financial commitment to drinking water systems included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

As such, we urge the EPA to finalize these regulations without delay.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin M. Wilson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Justin M. Wilson, Mayor
City of Alexandria, Virginia

² <https://www.amwater.com/ccr/alexandria.pdf>