# New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Actions to Address PFAS in the Environment

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# Initial NJDEP Awareness and Actions for PFOA in NJ Waters

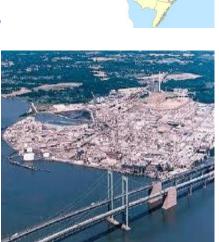
- 2004: Reported in groundwater at DuPont (now Chemours) facility in southwest NJ.
- 2006: Reported in tap water and supply wells of nearby public water system.
   Later found in nearby private wells.

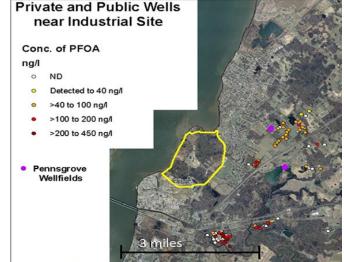
#### NJ scientists recognized PFOA/PFAS are different and of particular concern.

- Based on previous experience with many other drinking water contaminants.
- Drinking water contaminant that is persistent, bioaccumulative, & toxic (PBT).

#### NJDEP Actions:

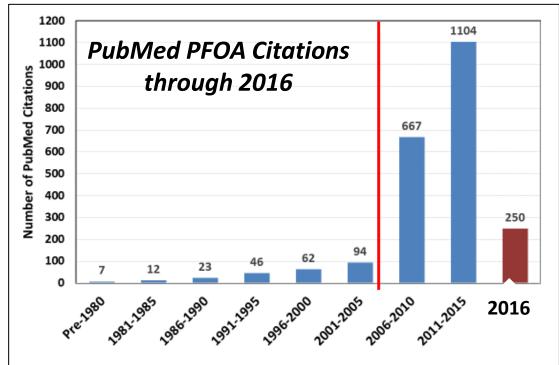
- Statewide drinking water occurrence studies (2006; 2009-10).
- Drinking water guidance (2007) 40 ng/L (ppt)
  Requested by affected water system.
  Published in ES&T (Post et al., 2009).

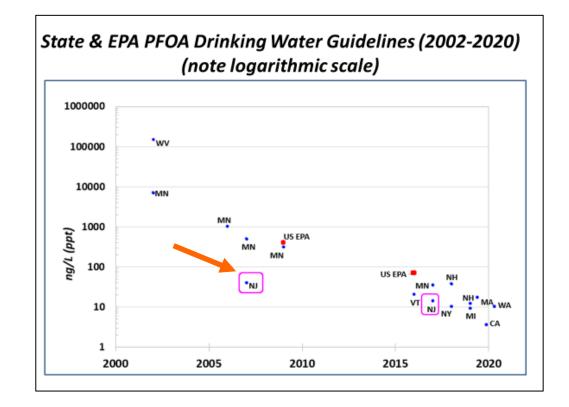




#### NJDEP (2007) Drinking Water Guidance for PFOA (40 ng/L)

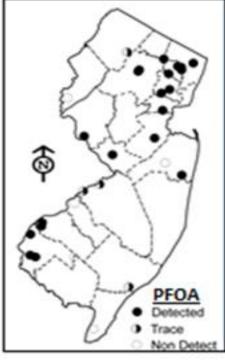
- Based on toxicological endpoints identified in draft USEPA (2005) risk assessment.
- Much important information was not yet available, including:
  - Mouse developmental toxicity.
  - Human epidemiology studies.
- Increased serum PFOA level:drinking water PFOA level. ratio of ~100:1.
- Far below other guidance values at the time.





## NJDEP PFAS Drinking Water Occurrence Studies (2006 and 2009-10)

2006 Study

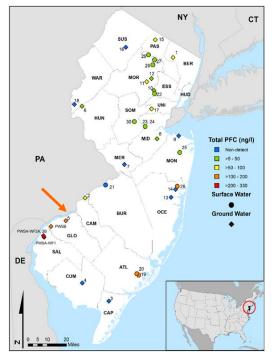


Post et al., 2009

• First statewide PFAS occurrence studies in U.S.

- 2006 study: 23 water systems PFOA and PFOS.
- **2009-10 study:** 31 water systems 10 PFAS.
- *Reporting Levels*: 4-5 ng/L (ppt).
- Multiple PFAS (up to 8) found in many water systems.
- **PFOA** most frequent; ~60% of systems.
- **PFOS** 30% of systems.
- **PFNA** Paulsboro (Southwestern NJ):
  - Highest level reported in drinking water worldwide.
  - Later found in other public and private wells, and
    - Delaware River water and fish in this vicinity.
  - Nearby industrial source (Solvay West Deptford, NJ) was identified.
    - Released tons/year to air and water for >20 years.
    - Use ended in 2010.
    - Alternative PFAS used along with and after PFNA.

#### 2009-10 Study



Post et al., 2013

#### New Jersey vs. National PFAS Detections in 2013-15 USEPA Unregulated Contaminated Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3)

	Descritions	New Jersey		U.S. Public Water Systems	
Compound	Reporting Level (ng/L)	Public Water Systems# Detects% Detects		Other than NJ # Detects % Detects	
PFOA (C8)	20	19/175	10.9%	98/4745	2.1%
PFNA (C9)	20	4/175	2.3%	10/4745	0.2%
PFOS (C8-S)	40	6/175	3.4%	89/4745	1.9%
PFHxS (C6-S)	30	2/175	1.1%	53/4745	1.1%
PFBS (C4-S)	90	0/175	0%	8/4745	0.2%
PFHpA (C7)	10	6/175	3.4%	80/4745	1.7%

- Finished water at all large (>10,000 customers) and a few small public water systems.
- **PFOA** and **PFNA** much more frequent in NJ than nationally.
  - PFNA Southwestern NJ.
  - PFOA Various locations statewide.
- Reporting Levels much higher than in NJ occurrence studies.
  - Much lower % occurrence than in NJ occurrence studies.

## NJ Evaluation & Regulation of PFAS –

### Continues NJ Work on Emerging Drinking Water Contaminants since 1980s

- **1980s:** NJDEP study found volatile organic chemicals in NJ waters. — *"Emerging contaminants" of the time - No federal standards.*
- **1984:** New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments:
  - Required development of Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for contaminants of concern.
  - Established Drinking Water Quality Institute (DWQI), to recommend MCLs to NJDEP.
  - NJDEP Commissioner decides whether to propose recommended MCLs as regulations.
- 1980s present: DWQI and NJDEP have evaluated many types of drinking water contaminants.

# DWQI & NJDEP Evaluations (1984 – Present)

<u>Earlier Evaluations</u> (1984 - 2009)

- Volatile Organic Contaminants
- Methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE)
- Radium
- Arsenic
- Perchlorate
- Radon

...and many others



#### <u>Recent Evaluations</u> (2014 - present)

- 1,2,3-Trichloropropane
- PFNA\*
- PFOA & PFOS\*\*
- 1,4-Dioxane
- Cyanotoxins current evaluation

\* MCL adopted by NJDEP in 2018. *first MCL in the U.S. for any PFAS.* 

\*\* MCLs adopted by NJDEP in 2020.

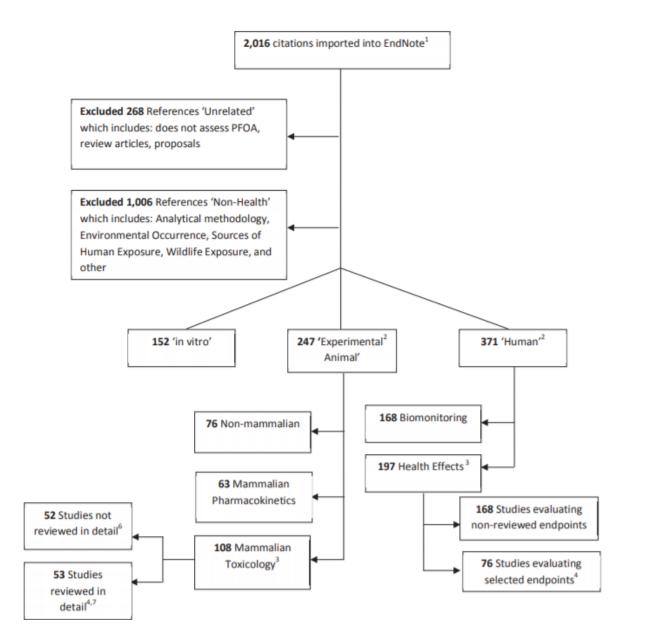
## **DWQI** Development of PFAS MCL Recommendations

- 2014: NJDEP Commissioner asks DWQI to develop MCL recommendations for PFNA, PFOA, and PFOS.
- **2018-2020:** NJDEP adopts three PFAS MCLs recommended by DWQI:
  - PFNA (2018): 13 ng/L; first MCL in the U.S. for any PFAS.
  - PFOA 14 ng/L; PFOS 13 ng/L (2020).
- **2018-2020:** Other PFOA, PFOS, PFNA regulations adopted by NJDEP:
  - MCLs adopted as Ground Water Quality Standards.
  - Added to NJ Hazardous Substances List.
  - Added to NJ Private Well Testing Act Requires well testing upon sale of home and at rental properties.
- **2022:** DWQI Health Effects Subcommittee review of Interim USEPA PFOA/PFOS Health Advisories and other relevant information.

- Conclusion: Lower Health-based MCLs are supported by current scientific information.

#### DWQI Literature Review Strategy for Health Effects of PFOA

More than 2000 citations identified and screened in 2016.

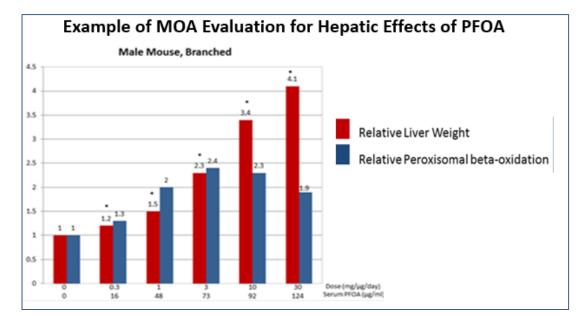


NJ DWQI, 2016

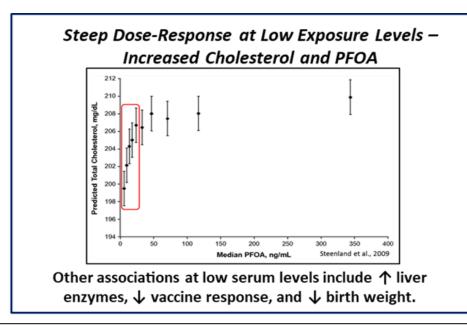
#### DWQI Health Effects Evaluations of PFOA, PFOS, PFNA - General Conclusions

Overall, indicated need for caution about exposure to these PFAS from drinking water and other sources.

- Multiple types of toxicity in laboratory animals, including some at very low doses.
   Including hepatic, developmental, immune.
- Mode of action (MOA) *relevant to humans, including hepatic toxicity.*
- Animal data are primary basis of NJ MCLs.

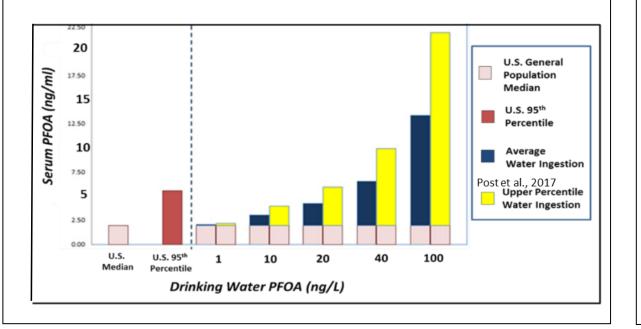


- Multiple human health effects at low exposures:
  - Including within general population exposure range.
- Human data support protective MCLs based on sensitive effects in animals.

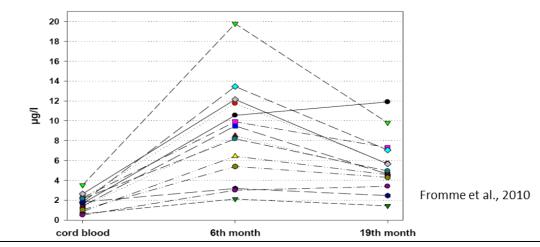


## General Conclusions of DWQI Evaluations (continued)

- Exposures from relatively low drinking water levels exceed exposures from generally prevalent sources (e.g., food; consumer products).
- Increased serum PFAS levels from drinking water can be predicted with clearance factors and water ingestion rates.



- Higher exposures to infants (susceptible subpopulation), especially breastfed.
- Exposures to breastfed infants much higher than mother's, even in general population.
- Infants consume more fluid (prepared formula or breast milk) than older ages on body weight basis.
- PFAS levels in breast milk higher than in maternal drinking water.



## Basis for NJDEP Health-based MCLs for PFNA, PFOA, and PFOS

- PFNA (2015) 13 ng/L:
  - Increased liver weight in pregnant mice.
- PFOA (2017) 14 ng/L :
  - Increased liver weight in mice (primary basis).
  - Delayed mammary gland development in mice at very low doses.
    - Accounted for by uncertainty factor for potentially more sensitive effects.
    - If used as primary basis (i.e., RfD), Health-based MCL would < 1 ng/L.
- PFOS (2018) 13 ng/L:
  - Decreased antibody response to foreign antigen in mice (analogous to decreased vaccine response in humans).
- Cancer risk was also evaluated:
  - PFOA and PFOS: "Suggestive evidence of carcinogenicity;" developed cancer slope factors.
    - MCLs based on non-cancer effects also protective for 1-in-1 million lifetime cancer risk.
  - PFNA: Carcinogenicity has not been evaluated.
- Animal-to-human comparisons account for much higher internal dose (serum levels) in humans than in animals from the same dose of PFAS.

## Factors Considered in Development of NJDEP PFAS MCLs

- \* Health-based MCL is the goal \*
  - PFAS MCLs were not limited by analytical or treatment factors.
- Therefore, PFAS MCLs were set at Health-based MCLs.

(Units: ng/L)	Health-based MCL	Analytical PQL	Treatment Removal	Recommended MCL
PFOA	14	6	Not limiting	14
PFOS	13	4	Not limiting	13
PFNA	13	5	Not limiting	13

#### DWQI Health Effects Subcommittee (2022) "Review of Interim USEPA PFOA/PFOS Health Advisories and Other Relevant Information"

- NJDEP Commissioner asked DWQI to review Interim USEPA (2022) PFOA and PFOS Health Advisories.
  - To determine if health-based levels below current NJ analytical Practical Quantitation Levels (PQLs) - 6 ng/L for PFOA and 4 ng/L for PFOS - are supported by current scientific information.
- Additional relevant information was also reviewed:
  - Draft USEPA (2021) PFOA/PFOS assessments and USEPA (2022) Science Advisory Board review.
  - Key recent publications not considered by USEPA.
  - Other PFOA/PFOS evaluations based on human epidemiology data (EFSA, CalEPA, NAS).
  - Draft USEPA (2021) PFAS mixtures risk assessment document.
  - Recent information on higher infant exposures via breastmilk.

### Conclusions - DWQI Health Effects Subcommittee (2022) "Review of Interim USEPA PFOA/PFOS Health Advisories and Other Relevant Information"

- DWQI Subcommittee report agrees with major USEPA and SAB conclusions including:
  - Use of human data as basis for PFOA and PFOS RfDs and PFOA cancer slope factor.
  - Health endpoints with strongest human evidence for PFOA and PFOS:
    - Increased serum cholesterol
    - Decreased antibody response to vaccination
    - Decreased birth weight
  - PFOA is "likely to be carcinogenic to humans."
    - Note: Basis for subsequent USEPA (2023) conclusion that PFOS is "likely to be carcinogenic to humans" was not available to DWQI.
- Noted that several earlier DWQI Health Effects Subcommittee conclusions were incorporated into recent USEPA evaluations.
- Overall conclusion:
  - Multiple lines of scientific evidence support health-based drinking water levels below current NJ analytical PQLs of 6 ng/L for PFOA and 4 ng/L for PFOS.

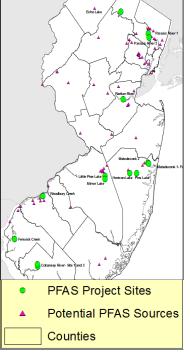
- Increased serum levels of the liver enzyme ALT
- For PFOA, increased risk of kidney cancer

#### NJDEP Study of PFAS in Fish Tissue, Sediments, and Surface Water (Goodrow et al., 2020) and Fish Consumption Advisories

- Fish fillets, sediments, & surface water from 11 sites (2015-16) analyzed for 13 PFAS:
  - Sites selected for proximity to potential PFAS sources and/or recreational fishing activity.
  - 3 fish from each of 2-4 species per site.
- One or more long-chain PFAS detected at almost all species-sites.
- Fish consumption advisories for PFOS at all study sites.
  - Consumption triggers for PFOA, PFOS, PFNA based on DWQI RfDs.
  - PFUnA (C11) RfD was developed for advisories.
  - Consumption frequencies for PFOS advisories:
     1 meal/week to 1 meal/year, for 1 3 species at each site.
- Shorter-chain PFAS detected in almost all surface water samples, but not in fish.
- Study of additional waterbodies currently underway.

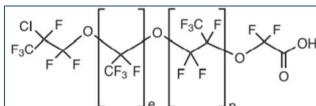
Compound	Number of Sites (n=11)	Number of Species- Sites (n=32)	Maximum conc. (ng/g)
PFOS	11	30	<b>162.5</b>
PFUnA	11	31	27.2
PFDoA	10	28	5.42
PFDA	10	24	3.57
PFOSA	3	5	2.83
PFHxS	3	4	1.66
PFNA	2	4	1.39
PFOA	1	2	0.72

Reporting Levels: 0.5 – 1 ng/g (ppb)

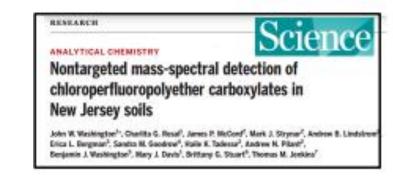


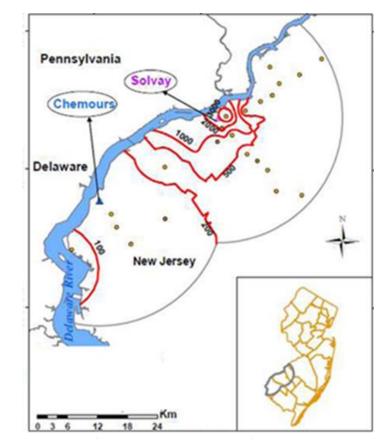
## Alternative PFAS used at NJ Solvay Facility

- Two types of PFAS alternatives, used before and after voluntary phaseout of PFNA and PFOA.
  - Large amounts discharged to air and water since late 1990s.
  - Use at the facility has recently ended.
- Unlike other PFAS replacements for long-chain PFAAs, not short-chain.
- **Chloroperfluoropolyether carboxylates** (CIPFPECAs; 7 to >14 carbons):



- Found in private wells, soil, and other media with non-target analysis in joint NJDEP/EPA Office of Research & Development study.
- Analytical standards provided by Solvay recently became commercially available.
- <u>Perfluoropolyether dicarboxylic acids</u>:
  - Structure: HOOC-CF2-(OCF2CF2)<sub>B</sub>-(OCF2)<sub>A</sub>-OCF2-COOH
    - where: A = 0 to 4 and B = 1 to 4
  - Found in groundwater monitoring conducted by Solvay.





## NJDEP Evaluation and Regulation of Solvay Alternative PFAS

- Solvay provided contract lab rat toxicology studies for both types of alternative PFAS in response to 2019 NJDEP legal directive.
  - Rat toxicology (acute, 4 week, 13 week) and half-life; genotoxicity; ecological toxicity.
  - Previously submitted to EPA as confidential business information (CBI).
  - Now publicly available from NJDEP and EPA.
- Toxic effects of both types similar to PFOA and PFNA, <u>at similar or lower doses</u>.
- **CIPFPECA human worker study** not provided to NJDEP; revealed through EPA Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request by a reporter.
  - Long human half-life (2.5 3 years) similar to PFOA and PFNA.
  - Associated with multiple health effects: ↑ serum lipids, ↑ liver enzymes, changes in thyroid hormone levels, ↑ prostate-specific antigen (PSA), ↓ estradiol (estrogen), ↓ immune system biomarkers.
- NJDEP performed first publicly available evaluation of health effects of CIPFPECAs.
- Established Interim Specific Ground Water Quality Criterion for CIPFPECAs of 2 ng/L in 2022.

#### Summary of NJDEP PFAS Standards and Guidance

All current NJDEP PFAS standards and guidance values use consistent toxicity factors (RfDs):

- **PFOA, PFOS, PFNA**: Reference Doses (RfDs) developed by NJ DWQI for MCLs
- GenX: RfD develop by USEPA (2021) Office of Water.
- MCLs, Ground Water Quality Standards, Private Well Testing Act, Hazardous Substance List (2018-2020):
  - PFNA, PFOA, PFOS.
- Interim Specific Ground Water Quality Standard:
   CIPFPECAs (2022).
- Fish consumption triggers for use in fish consumption advisories:
  - PFOA, PFOS, PFNA (2018).
  - PFUnDA (2022).
- Inhalation Reference Concentrations (RfCs; non-regulatory):
  - PFOA, PFOS (2019); GenX (Screening RfC; 2021).
  - Oral-to-inhalation extrapolation from RfDs.

#### • Interim Soil Remediation Standards (2022):

- Ingestion-dermal (residential and non-residential):
  - PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, GenX.
- Migration to groundwater:
  - PFOA, PFOS, PFNA.
  - Area of concern/site-specific using Synthetic Precipitation Leaching Procedure (SPLP).
- Surface Water Quality Criteria:
  - Anticipate proposal of PFAS MCLs as human health freshwater criteria.
  - NJ-specific bioaccumulation factors (BAFs) are under development.
    - To be used for fish consumption pathway for saline water criteria and updated freshwater criteria.

## Additional NJDEP PFAS Activities

- Investigation of contaminated sites:
  - Private well testing near PFAS-contaminated sites where these wells are potentially impacted, and in other areas where clusters of PFAS-contaminated private wells are found.
  - POETS or waterline extensions are installed to address PFAS contamination of the private wells.
  - Licensed Site Remediation Professionals must evaluate all sites being remediated to determine if PFAS are a contaminant of concern, and, if so, sample to determine if a discharge has occurred.
- Industrial wastewater dischargers:
  - Required to complete a survey regarding potential use, storage, and discharge of PFAS.
  - Requested to provide PFAS sampling data.
- NJPDES regulated discharges to groundwater:
  - Industrial and sanitary discharge permits are being modified to require PFAS sampling.
- Monitoring of ambient groundwater (water table wells) and surface water networks for PFAS has been conducted and continues.
- Approval of PFAS analytical methods and laboratory certification for PFAS analysis for compliance data submitted to NJDEP.

## NJDEP PFAS Research Projects (completed and ongoing)

- Source trackdown for PFOA in surface water source of a public water system (completed 2015).
- Statewide pilot study of PFAS in fish, surface, and sediments (completed 2019; Phase 2 is ongoing).
- Joint NJDEP/USEPA Office of Research & Development multimedia study of "legacy" and newly identified PFAS near industrial sites in southwestern NJ (ongoing).
- Development of NJ-specific PFAS bioaccumulation factors for saline water and freshwater (ongoing).
- Novel PFAS treatment technologies (ongoing):
  - Plasma
  - Electrochemical destruction
- Anthropogenic background (i.e., non-point source) PFAS levels in NJ soils (ongoing).
- Occurrence, biotransformation, and transport of PFAS in vegetation (ongoing).
- PFAS in NJ precipitation and ambient air (in development).

# NJDEP PFAS Websites

- Main NJDEP PFAS website <u>https://www.nj.gov/dep/pfas/</u>
  - Links to PFAS websites of specific NJDEP programs, NJ PFAS regulations and standards, and other NJ PFAS information.
- NJDEP Division of Science & Research PFAS website <u>https://dep.nj.gov/dsr/pfas/</u>
  - Research & technical support, alternative PFAS used in NJ, presentations, peer-reviewed publications.
- NJ Drinking Water Quality Institute <u>https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pdf/dwqi-health-effects-pfas-report.pdf</u>
  - Support documents for NJ PFAS MCLs including Health-based MCLs, analytical Practical Quantitation Levels, and treatment removal technologies.
  - Report and presentation on "Review of Interim USEPA Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS and Other Relevant Information" (2022).
- NJDEP Site Remediation Program:
  - Contaminants of Emerging Concern <u>https://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/emerging-contaminants/</u>
  - Interim Soil Remediation Standards for PFAS -

https://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/srra/training/sessions/pfas\_interim\_soil\_slides.pdf

#### NJDEP Division of Science and Research PFAS Publications

- Post, G.B., Birnbaum L.S., DeWitt J.C., Goeden H., Heiger-Bernays W.J., Schlezinger J.J. (2022) Letter to the editors regarding "The conundrum of the PFOA human half-life, an international collaboration". Regul Toxicol Pharmacol. 134:105240.
- Post, G.B. (2022) Invited Perspective: Current Breast Milk PFAS Levels in the United States and Canada Indicate Need for Additional Monitoring and Actions to Reduce Maternal Exposures. Environ Health Perspect. 130(2):21301.
- Rovero, M., Cutt, D., Griffiths, R., Filipowicz, U., Mishkin, K., White, B., Goodrow, S. and Wilkin, R.T. (2021), Limitations of Current Approaches for Predicting Groundwater Vulnerability from PFAS Contamination in the Vadose Zone. Groundwater Monit R, 41: 62-75.
- McCord, J.P., Strynar, M.J., Washington, J.W., Bergman, E.L., Goodrow, S.M. (2020). Emerging Chlorinated Polyfluorinated Polyether Compounds Impacting the Waters of Southwestern New Jersey Identified by Use of Nontargeted Analysis. Environmental Science & Technology Letters 2020 7 (12), 903-908 Post, G.B. (2021), Recent US State and Federal Drinking Water Guidelines for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. Environ Toxicol Chem, 40: 550-563.
- Washington, J. W., Rosal, C. G., McCord, J. P., Strynar, M. J., Lindstrom, A. B., Bergman, E. L., Goodrow, S. M., Tadesse, H. K., Pilant, A. N., Washington, B. J., Davis, M. J., Stuart, B. G., Jenkins, T. M. (2020). Nontargeted mass-spectral detection of chloroperfluoropolyether carboxylates in New Jersey soils. Science 368: 1103–1107
- Goodrow, S. M., Ruppel, B., Lippincott, R. L., Post, G. B., Procopio, N. A. (2020). Investigation of levels of perfluoroalkyl substances in surface water, sediment and fish tissue in New Jersey, USA. The Science of the total environment, 729, 138839.
- Pachkowski, B., Post, G.B., Stern, A.H. (2019). The derivation of a Reference Dose (RfD) for perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) based on immune suppression. Env. Research 171:452-469.
- Post, G.B., Gleason, J.A., Cooper, K.R. (2017). Key scientific issues in developing drinking water guidelines for perfluoroalkyl acids: Contaminants of emerging concern. PLoS Biol. 15(12):e2002855.
- Procopio, N.A., Karl, R., Goodrow, S.M., Maggio, J., Louis, J.B., Atherholt, T.B.. (2017). Occurrence and source identification of perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs) in the Metedeconk River Watershed, New Jersey. Environ Sci Pollut Res Int. 24:27125-27135.
- Gleason, J.A., Post, G.B, and Fagliano, J.A. (2015). Associations of perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) serum concentrations and select biomarkers of health in the US population (NHANES), 2007-2010 Env. Research 136: 8-14.
- Post, G.B., Louis, J.B., Lippincott, R.L., and Procopio, N.A. (2013). Occurrence of perfluorinated chemicals in raw water from New Jersey public drinking water systems. Env. Sci. Technol. 47 (23):13266-75
- Post, G.B., Cohn, P.D., and Cooper, K.R. (2012). Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), an emerging drinking water contaminant: a critical review of recent literature. Env. Res. 116: 93-117.
- Post, G.B., Louis, J.B., Cooper, K.R., Boros-Russo, B.J., and Lippincott, R.L. (2009). Occurrence and potential significance of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) detected in New Jersey public drinking water systems. Environ. Sci, Technol. 43: 4547–4554.

# Thank you!

For additional information, contact me at: gloria.post@dep.nj.gov

# **Extra Slides**

Attorney-Client Privileged

## Relationship Between Drinking Water and Serum Concentrations for Long-Chain PFAAs

- Clearance factor (CL) relates dose to blood serum level.
  - CL (L/kg/day) = Volume of Distribution (L) x (In 2 ÷ Half-life [days])
- Combine with water ingestion rate (L/kg/day) to relate water & serum levels.

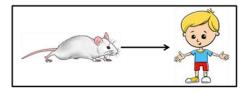
Dose (μg/kg/day) = Serum Conc. (μg/L) x CL (L/kg/day)

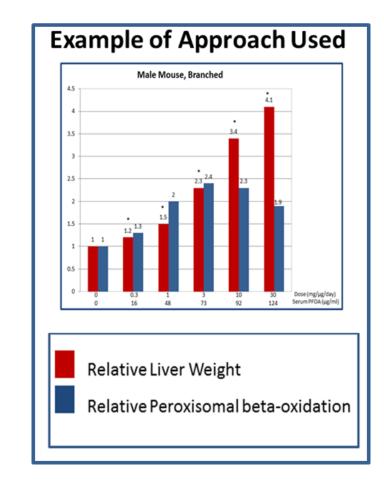
Dose (μg/kg/day) = Drinking Water Conc. (μg/L) x Ingestion Rate (L/kg/day)

Serum:Water Ratio = <u>Serum Conc. (μg/L)</u> = <u>Ingestion Rate (L/kg/day)</u> Drinking Water Conc. (μg/L) CL (L/kg/day)

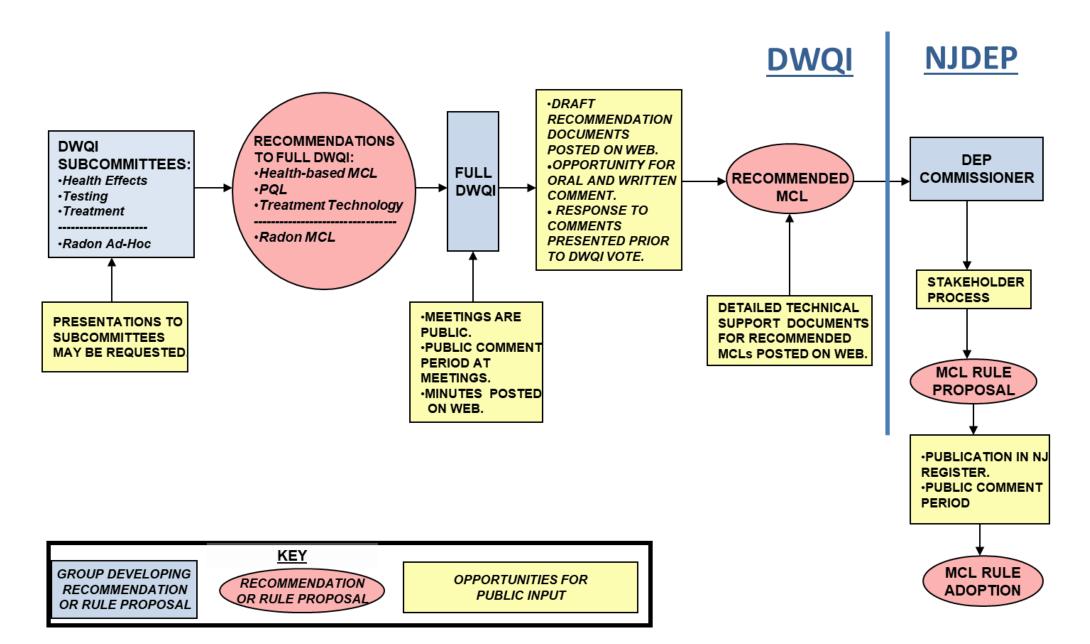
#### DWQI Mode of Action Analysis for PFOA: Human Relevance of Rodent Hepatic Toxicity

- PFOA activates peroxisome proliferator activated receptor (PPAR-α) and other nuclear receptors.
  - Involved with hepatic, developmental, and other effects.
  - PPAR- $\alpha$  is functional in human liver.
  - Rodent liver tumors due to PPAR-α activation may not be relevant to humans.
- Are non-cancer hepatic effects of PFOA relevant to humans?
- Extensive review of data from:
   *PPAR-α null mice*
  - Non-human primates
- Human tissues.
- Standard rodent strains In vitro studies.
- Humanized PPAR-α mice.
- **Overall DWQI conclusion:** Non-cancer liver toxicity of PFOA in rodents is relevant to humans for the purposes of risk assessment.





### **Public Participation in NJDEP MCL Development Process**



## **PFAS MCL Violations in NJ Public Water Systems**

<u># of Systems</u>	PFNA (13 ng/L)	PFOA (14 ng/L)	PFOS (13 ng/L)
Submitting results	1144		
With MCL violation	<b>13</b> (1.1 %)	<b>44</b> (3.8 %)	<b>42</b> (3.6 %)
Violations of one or more MCLs	<b>78</b> (6.8 %)		

- Data as of April 2022.
- Includes community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems.
- Monitoring began in 2019-2020 for PFNA, and 2021 for PFOA and PFOS.
- Violations are based on running annual average of 4 quarterly monitoring results.
- MCL violations were avoided by water systems who addressed PFAS contamination prior to implementation of the MCLs.