

NEW Water Partnering with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wastewater Utilities, and Water Coalition to Address Emerging Contaminant PFAS

GREEN BAY (January 2020) – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has convened water partners including the Municipal Environmental Group (MEG), and wastewater utilities to minimize the pollutant known as PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, in the environment.

PFAS have been in use since the 1940s and are prevalent in everyday items including pizza boxes, dental floss, fast food hamburger wrappers, nonstick kitchen cookware, carpeting, and more. Scientific knowledge is just beginning to evolve on this complex compound, which includes more than 3,000 chemical varieties (see image at right, credit: Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]).

“Water protection is at the core of what we do at NEW Water, and we are committed to working with our partners at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and others to find science-based solutions that minimize this pollutant at its sources,” said Tom Sigmund, Executive Director of NEW Water.

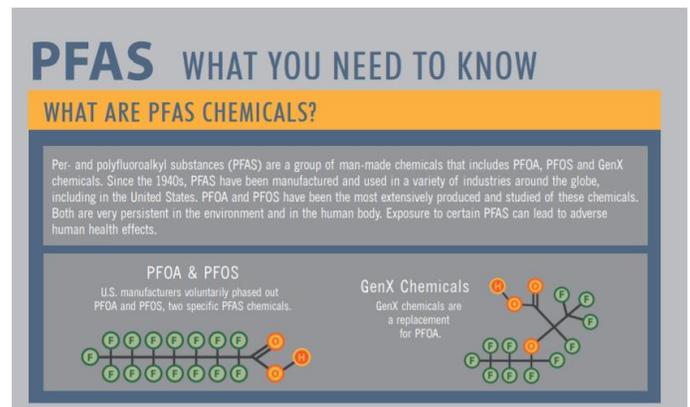
Wastewater facilities are not the source of PFAS, and are also not designed to remove these chemicals from the process. NEW Water is actively participating with the DNR, MEG, and wastewater partners toward the creation of a guidance document for utilities to create a Pollution Minimization Plan (PMP) in their communities.

At this time, there is no EPA-approved method for testing for this emerging contaminant. Until that time, NEW Water will continue to work toward the establishment of source reduction and pollution prevention initiatives. As with other chemical pollutants identified in the past, NEW Water and clean water sector partners support source reduction and pollution prevention.

To learn more, see this [PFAS fact sheet created by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies](#) and other water organizations. Also see: [EPA’s PFAS website](#); [WDNR’s PFAS website](#).

About NEW Water

NEW Water is a water resource utility serving Northeast Wisconsin through pollution prevention, operational innovation, and community outreach. Established in 1931, NEW Water cleans on average 38 million gallons of water each day, serving 15 municipal customers, and approximately 236,000 residents throughout a 285-square-mile area.



Protecting our most valuable resource, water

