

## Implement Minnesota's PFAS Blueprint

Preventing and cleaning up PFAS contamination requires staff and financial resources.

### Challenge

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a family of more than 5,000 chemicals that are now pervasive in the environment. Called “forever chemicals,” they don’t break down and can accumulate in water, soils, and humans and other living organisms. Many PFAS, even at low levels, can cause health problems.

To address the potential harm from PFAS, state agencies laid out a plan — the Minnesota PFAS Blueprint — to prevent, manage, and clean up PFAS contamination. The plan outlines strategies for removing sources of PFAS; monitoring PFAS contamination in air, water, land, and fish; protecting drinking water; determining health risks; and more. In addition, the U.S. EPA is taking steps to further regulate PFAS under federal laws.



The pervasiveness of PFAS means that many MPCA programs — such as pollution prevention, solid waste disposal, wastewater and stormwater permitting, air emissions reporting and regulation, and contaminated site cleanup — have additional PFAS-related work and challenges. New federal PFAS regulations will also affect Minnesota permit holders. The agency needs additional staff with the technical expertise and planning capabilities to implement PFAS reduction initiatives in all these areas and provide technical support to regulated facilities.

### Proposal

Governor Walz is seeking a \$2.07 million annual appropriation from the Environmental Fund to add 13 FTEs across MPCA divisions and programs, to help implement the Minnesota PFAS Blueprint. The additional staff would begin with the first major initiative of the PFAS Blueprint, the PFAS Monitoring Plan, which calls for:

- Gathering Minnesota-specific information.
- Identifying areas of concern that need quick action.
- Collecting data to prioritize reducing sources of PFAS and prevent pollution.

The new staff will also assist regulated businesses and facilities as new federal PFAS regulations lead to new requirements.

## Why it's important

The overwhelming consensus of scientists and environmental professionals is that significant actions are needed to prevent adverse impacts from PFAS. Minnesota state agencies have collaborated on the Minnesota PFAS Blueprint because of the risks posed by PFAS to human health and the environment. Implementing the Blueprint will be challenging. Significant resources are needed to effectively address the threats from PFAS and protect Minnesota residents and our treasured natural resources.

## For more information

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