



Media Contact: Susan Sampson, Communications Manager

Email: susansampson@lehighcountyauthority.org

Phone: 610-398-2503 Ext. 164

Customer Contact: City of Allentown – 610-437-7515
Suburban Division – 610-398-1444

Statement on EPA's Final Drinking Water Standard for PFAS – Updated 4/10/2024

On April 10, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released its final rule setting drinking water standards for six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This synthetic group of compounds, known as “forever chemicals,” has been widely used in the manufacturing of commercial and household products for many decades, and they do not break down easily in the environment. The very properties of the substances used to make products stain-resistant, non-stick, or water-repellent cause them to be extremely slow to break down. There are thousands of PFAS substances, and while some of them have been phased out, others continue to be used.

Lehigh County Authority (LCA) is reviewing the new rule issued by EPA to determine the impact on its water systems, which supply safe drinking water to more than 270,000 people in the City of Allentown and surrounding communities.

The regulatory landscape for PFAS in drinking water has been evolving over several years. LCA stays on top of the changing regulations and science behind the regulations through its active participation in industry associations such as the American Water Works Association, the Water Research Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association.

LCA regularly tests our water sources to ensure our water quality meets or exceeds all EPA regulations and guidelines and to stay ahead of potential health risks. We will conduct water testing to meet legal requirements and determine any additional actions that will be necessary under this final rule. As more information is generated from LCA's water quality monitoring or regulatory reviews, it will be posted on our website at www.lehighcountyauthority.org.

We remain dedicated to protecting public health and the environment through our high-quality water and wastewater services. LCA supports the establishment of these drinking water standards for PFAS and other emerging contaminants using a science-based regulatory approach.

###