



## WQAW POSITION PAPER: PFAS

WQAW POSITION STATEMENT: The final barrier to ensuring clean drinking water is through water treatment systems either point of entry (POE) or point of use (POU). For most regulated and non-regulated contaminants, certified (state approved) water treatment devices can reduce these contaminants below the EPA guidelines.

*As the state Legislature looks to address Wisconsin’s water issues, we believe water treatment systems are integral to the safety of Wisconsinite’s drinking water and as a permanent solution to many of these water concerns.*

**WHAT ARE PFAS:** Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large family of man-made chemicals that contain carbon, fluorine, and other elements. These chemicals have been in use since the 1940s and are found in a variety of products including firefighting foams, household products such as non-stick cookware, food packaging, and stain and water repellants.

### **HOW TO REMOVE PFAS FROM WATER\***

Residential Treatment Point-of-Entry (POE) Point-of-Use (POU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Granular Activated Carbon (GAC)</b> – Chemicals like PFAS stick to the small pieces of carbon as the water passes through.</li> <li>• <b>Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC)</b> – The carbon is powdered and is added to the water. The chemicals then stick to the powdered carbon as the water passes through.</li> <li>• <b>Ion Exchange Resins</b> – Small beads (called resins) are made of hydrocarbons that work like magnets. The chemicals stick to the beads and are removed as the water passes through.</li> <li>• <b>Nanofiltration and reverse osmosis</b> – A process where water is pushed through a membrane with small pores. The membrane acts like a wall that can stop chemicals and particles from passing into drinking water.</li> </ul>
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\*EPA RECOMMENDATIONS

## 2019-2020 LEGISLATIVE BILLS SPECIFIC TO PFAS

### **AB 85/SB 109 (Cowles/Nygren)**

*ISSUE:* Establishes state health-based groundwater quality standards for PFOA/PFOS through DHS

*STATUS:* Introduced 3/19, Public hearing held 4/19

*WQAW POSITION:* Neutral, recommend DHS take into consideration scientific evidence and available treatment technologies.

### **AB 321/SB 302 (C. Taylor/Miller)**

*ISSUE:* Requires DNR to establish and enforce standards for PFAS. Also requires DNR to set criteria for certifying labs to test for PFAS and to certify labs to meet these criteria.

*STATUS:* Introduced 6/19, referred to committees

*WQAW POSITION:* None

### **AB 323/SB 310 (Nygren/Cowles)**

*ISSUE:* This bill prohibits the use or discharge of Class B fire fighting foams containing PFAS.

*STATUS:* Awaiting signature by Governor

*WQAW POSITION:* None

### **AB 792/SB 717 (Ramthun/Cowles)**

*ISSUE:* Requires DATCP and DNR to collect and store or dispose of fire fighting foams that contain PFAS or PFOS, and that are voluntarily surrendered.

*STATUS:* Introduced 1/24, referred to committees.

*WQAW POSITION:* None

### **AB 842 (Nygren/Hansen)**

*ISSUE:* This bill provides \$6.5M to research and test for PFAS in various agencies and through the UW system. Specifically, \$120K is reserved to provide potable water or treatment systems when no responsible party for contamination is available.

*STATUS:* Introduced 1/31, referred to committees.

*WQAW POSITION:* Support

### **AB 843 (Nygren/Hansen)**

*ISSUE:* Requires DNR to establish and enforce standards for PFAS and PFOS. This bill also requires DNR to establish surface water quality standards and maximum contaminant level drinking water standards for any PFAS in which DHS has submitted a recommended groundwater enforcement standard.

*STATUS:* Introduced 1/31, referred to committees.

*WQAW POSITION:* Neutral, recommend DHS take into consideration scientific evidence and available treatment technologies.