



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 14 2018

OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you for your June 6, 2018, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the agency's actions to address per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and the EPA's proposed rule to strengthen transparency in regulatory science.

The EPA recognizes the challenges that states, tribes, and communities with PFAS contamination are facing, and is committed to working side by side with our federal, state, local, and tribal partners to address these concerns. On May 22-23 of this year, the agency hosted a two-day National Leadership Summit (Summit) on PFAS in Washington, D.C. The Summit included representatives from over 40 states, tribes, and territories; 13 federal agencies; congressional staff; associations; industry groups; and non-governmental organizations. As part of the Summit, the EPA announced four key actions the agency will take in the near term on PFAS. Details on these four key actions and more information on PFAS is available at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

Following up from the Summit, the EPA has been visiting and engaging with communities impacted by PFAS contamination in order to hear directly from the public. The EPA has held three community engagement sessions thus far, in Exeter, New Hampshire; Horsham, Pennsylvania; and Colorado Springs, Colorado; and plans to hold additional engagement sessions in the coming weeks. The agency will post details on these events as they come together at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-community-engagement>. Each community engagement event will be fully open to the public and the press. Using information from the Summit, community engagements, and public input sent to the EPA's Docket No. OW-2018-0270 at <http://www.regulations.gov>, the Agency plans to develop a PFAS Management Plan for release later this year. Taken together, these actions will enable EPA to better assist states, tribes, and local communities to ensure the safety of their citizens.

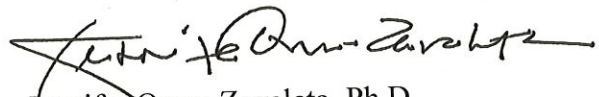
On June 20, 2018, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released a draft toxicological profile of four PFAS chemicals for public comment. ATSDR released the draft toxicological profile after coordinating with the EPA, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Department of Defense. The draft ATSDR toxicological profile is currently available for public comment until August 20, 2018 and comments may be submitted at <http://www.regulations.gov/Document?D=ATSDR-2015-0004-0008>.

On April 24, 2018, the EPA signed a proposed rule to strengthen the science used in EPA regulations. The public comment period on this proposed rule, "Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science," ends on August 16, 2018. All comments on this proposed rule can be entered in the docket at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=EPA-HQ-OA-2018-0259-0001>. The EPA also held a public hearing for the proposed rule on July 17, 2018, in Washington, D.C. The agency has formed an Action Development workgroup for developing the proposed rule, which includes representatives from EPA's Offices of Air and Radiation, General Counsel, Land and Emergency Management, Policy, Water, Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, and Region 5.

The EPA has a centralized search underway that we expect to yield documents responsive to your requests. We anticipate delivering responsive documents to your office as they become available.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Christina Moody in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at [moody.christina@epa.gov](mailto:moody.christina@epa.gov) or (202) 564-0260.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Ph.D.  
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for  
Science