

A Message from the IRIS Program

June 2020

The IRIS Program is committed to producing assessments in a timely and transparent manner. Table 1 describes assessments that are currently in development and their projected milestone dates. The IRIS Program is providing this information for stakeholders to be aware of upcoming products, and to allow the public and research community an opportunity to communicate relevant research to EPA. The anticipated dates are based on several factors, including complexity of the assessment products and the availability of resources. Initial estimates are informed by factors such as size of a chemical's evidence base and staff availability. Changes to these initial estimates are typically the result of internal, public, and/or peer review comments on the scientific issues unique to each chemical assessment, and the availability of staff with the appropriate expertise to address those issues. Generally, single quarter shifts are the result of cascading changes to review, revision, and posting timelines of assessment products. While projected dates reflect the IRIS Program's best estimate based on available information, they are subject to change. The IRIS Program Outlook will be updated three times each calendar year. Additionally, the IRIS Program has added information regarding other pertinent products and activities in Table 2.

Table 1. IRIS Program Outlook – June 2020

Current Status	Assessment	Next Anticipated Public Step(s)	Projected Fiscal Year Quarter
Post-Peer Review	Ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) ¹	Step 7: Final	FY20 – Q4
	tert-Butyl Alcohol ¹	Step 7: Final	FY20 – Q4
Draft Development	Arsenic, Inorganic	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released May 28, 2019. NAS review meeting July 16, 2019.
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY22 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY22 – Q4
	Chromium VI	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released March 15, 2019. Public Science Meeting April 24, 2019.
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q4
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY22 – Q1
	Chloroform (Inhalation)	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	Released September 18, 2017. Public Meeting on September 27, 2017.
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released January 31, 2018.
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY21 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q4
	Methylmercury	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	Released April 4, 2019. Public Science Meeting May 15, 2019.
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released May 26, 2020
Step 4: Public Comment Draft		FY23 – Q3	
Step 4: External Peer Review		FY24 – Q1	

Current Status	Assessment	Next Anticipated Public Step(s)	Projected Fiscal Year Quarter
	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs; noncancer) ²	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released on December 19, 2019.
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY24 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY24 – Q4
Draft Development	Perfluorononanoate (PFNA)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released on November 8, 2019.
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft ³	FY21 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q3
	Perfluorobutyrate (PFBA)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released on November 8, 2019.
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft ³	FY21 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q2
	Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released on November 8, 2019.
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft ³	FY21 – Q2
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q3
	Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid (PFHxS)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released on November 8, 2019.
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft ³	FY21 – Q3
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q3
Perfluorodecanoate (PFDA)	Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	Released on November 8, 2019.	
	Step 4: Public Comment Draft ³	FY21 – Q3	

Current Status	Assessment	Next Anticipated Public Step(s)	Projected Fiscal Year Quarter
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY21 – Q3
Scoping and Problem Formulation	Inorganic Mercury salts	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	Released October 8, 2019. Public Science Meeting December 5, 2019.
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY20 – Q4
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY22 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY22 – Q3
	Vanadium and Compounds (Oral)	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	FY20 – Q4
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	FY21 – Q1
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	FY22 – Q1
		Step 4: External Peer Review	FY22 – Q2
	Vanadium and Compounds (Inhalation)	Step 1: IRIS Assessment Plan	TBD
		Step 1: Systematic Review Protocol	TBD
		Step 4: Public Comment Draft	TBD
		Step 4: External Peer Review	TBD

¹ETBE and tert-Butyl Alcohol completed peer review by EPA’s Science Advisory Board in February 2019.

²EPA anticipates convening a workshop/meeting on mixture modeling and tools in FY21 to inform assessment development.

³Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) assessments under development are in support of [EPA’s PFAS Action Plan](https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epas-pfas-action-plan): <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epas-pfas-action-plan>. In addition to the PFAS IRIS assessments listed in Table 1, EPA is developing assessments on the potential health effects associated with two other PFAS compounds, GenX chemicals and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS). For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/genx-and-pfbs-draft-toxicity-assessments>. The release of draft PFBA, PFHxA, PFHxS, PFNA, and PFDA assessments for public comment addresses a Priority Action in [EPA’s PFAS Action Plan](#).

Table 2. Other Upcoming IRIS Products or Activities

Product or Activity	Next Anticipated Public Step(s)	Projected Fiscal Year Quarter
ORD Staff Handbook for Developing IRIS Assessments (“IRIS Handbook”)	Public Comment	FY20 – Q4
	External Peer Review	FY21 – Q1