

EPA Secures Agreement from Chemours to Conduct New Sampling for PFAS Contamination near Washington Works, WV Facility

Chemours Washington Works
Washington, West Virginia

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For more information

Please contact any of the following team members with questions:

For questions about the Order

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Webpage

For more information on PFAS and what EPA is doing to address it, visit EPA's PFAS webpage at: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

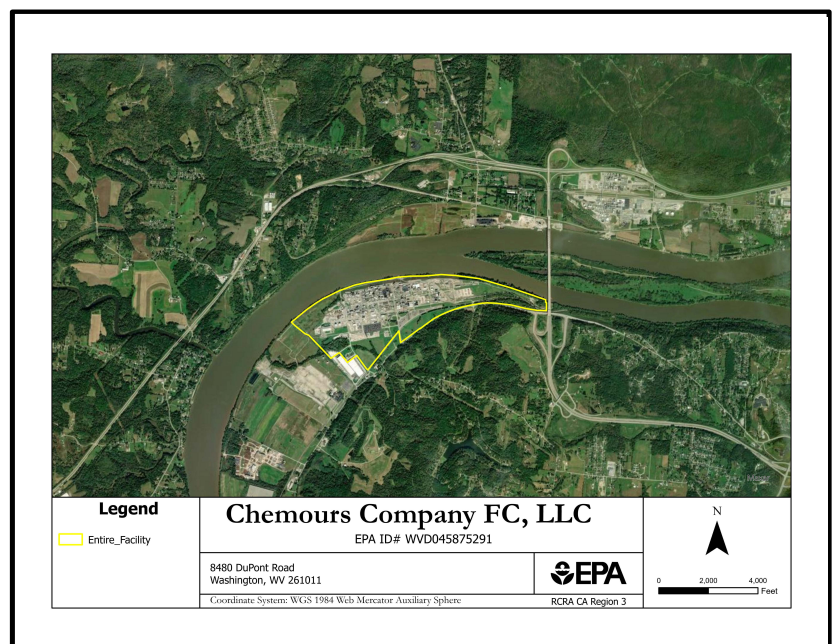
On December 20, 2023, Chemours Company FC, LLC agreed to conduct sampling for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, surrounding its Washington Works facility in Washington, West Virginia. The agreement under Section 3013 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) requires Chemours to take samples and analyze soil, surface water, sediment, groundwater, and certain waste streams generated by the facility to collect information on known and potential PFAS contamination. This agreement will provide data to improve the agency's understanding of the extent of PFAS contamination and how migration of PFAS contamination may impact communities.

Why is EPA taking action now?

This order is part of EPA's FY2024-2027 National Enforcement Compliance Initiative on Addressing Exposure to PFAS. In part, the PFAS initiative is focused on using EPA's enforcement tools to identify past and ongoing releases of PFAS into the environment.

Next Steps

Chemours will update the existing Conceptual Site Model and submit it for EPA approval within 75 days. After EPA approves the updated Conceptual Site Model, Chemours will submit a sampling and analysis plan within 90 days. Sampling will occur after EPA approves the plan and may occur in phases, with the results of each phase determining where the next sampling will occur.



Chemours Washington Works Facility, West Virginia

PFAS EXPLAINED

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s because of their useful properties. There are thousands of different PFAS—some are more widely used and studied than others. Perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA, and perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, are two of the most widely used and studied, and have been replaced with other PFAS in recent years. For more information, please visit EPA's PFAS website at www.epa.gov/pfas

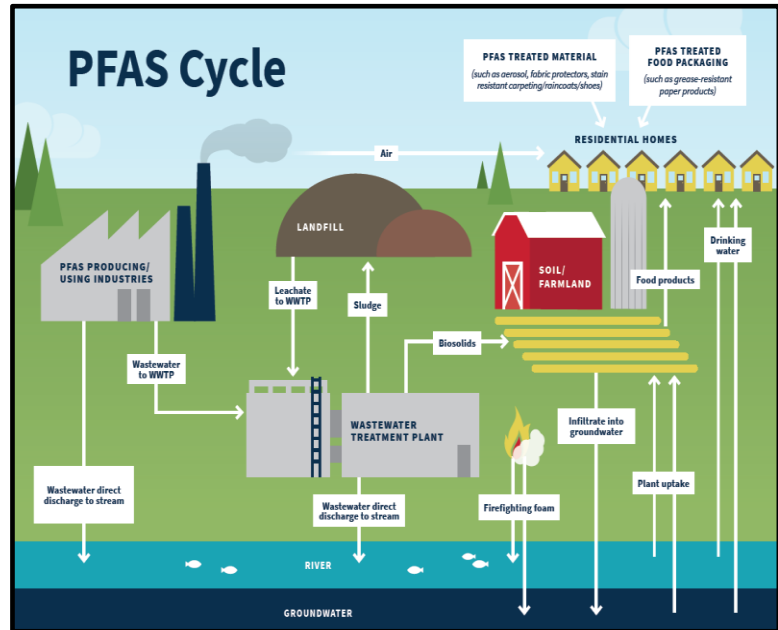


What EPA Has Learned About PFAS So Far

- PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals which usually break down very slowly over time.
- Because of their widespread use and persistence in the environment, many PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals and are present at low levels in a variety of food products.
- Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.

PFAS Can Be Found in Many Places

- There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, and they are found in many different industrial, commercial, and household products, including:
- Drinking water – public drinking water systems and private drinking water wells;
 - Soil and water at or near waste sites;
 - At landfills, disposal sites, and hazardous waste sites such as those that fall under the federal Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) programs;
 - Fire extinguishing foam - in aqueous film-forming foams (AFFFs) used to extinguish liquid-based fires, such foams are used in various emergency responses;
 - Manufacturing or chemical production facilities that produce or use PFAS – such as chrome plating, electronics, textile, and paper manufacturers;



How PFAS enters the environment

Source: Michigan Department of Great Lakes, Environment, and Energy

- Food – for example in fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS, and dairy products from livestock exposed to PFAS;
- Food packaging – in grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, and candy wrappers;
- Household products – in stain and water-repellent used on carpets, upholstery, clothing, and other fabrics; cleaning products; non-stick cookware; paints, varnishes, and sealants;
- Personal care products – in certain shampoos, dental floss, and cosmetics; and
- Biosolids – for example in treated wastewater that is used on agricultural lands.