Prevent PFAS from entering our water systems

Support the Municipal PFAS Source Reduction Initiative

Municipal wastewater facilities don't create this problem, but they want to be part of the solution.

Municipal wastewater treatment facilities are not sources of PFAS; they do not produce or manufacture PFAS, nor do they use PFAS in the course of treating wastewater. However, as receivers of PFAS through outside sources, municipal facilities want to get ahead of this problem, but the state needs to provide tools for them to do so.

With no way to effectively treat for PFAS, prevention is key.

There is currently no technologically feasible way for wastewater treatment facilities to fully and effectively treat for PFAS. For facilities to contribute to PFAS reduction, the efforts must come in the form of source control.

Cities want to partner with state agencies to tackle PFAS.

Local governments want to partner with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Minnesota Department of Health to proactively address concerns over PFAS. In 2021, we are seeking $500,000 in state funding to create the Municipal PFAS Source Reduction Initiative. This three-pronged approach will:

1. **Study the sources.** Conduct research to better identify the sources of PFAS, both domestic and industrial, that are conveyed to municipal wastewater treatment plants.

2. **Develop source reduction strategies.** Identify ways to prevent PFAS from from entering municipal wastewater treatment plants and the environment in Minnesota.

3. **Create guidance documents and educational materials.** The publication of guidance documents for wastewater professionals and informational materials for the public will be vital in helping local governments implement reduction measures while educating their residents and businesses. Materials are needed to inform the public on products that contain PFAS and habits that result in their disposal, as well as to clarify how PFAS are used and how they end up in the environment.

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of bioaccumulative, pervasive and persisent chemicals.

Due to their widespread use in household and industrial products, PFAS have entered the environment and human bodies, giving rise to serious public health concerns.

PFAS have been found in numerous products, including some varieties of:

Firefighting foam

Non-stick cookware

Stain-resistant carpet and rugs

Water-resistant clothing and gear

Cosmetics

Food wrappers and packaging

Created for Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities and League of Minnesota Cities by Flaherty & Hood, P.A. 12/9/2020.