

October 29, 2026

Addressing PFAS in North Carolina

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Department of Environmental Quality

North Carolina DEQ
Action Strategy for PFAS

June 7, 2022





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DEQ prioritizes three key action areas:



PROTECTING COMMUNITIES

We will continue to identify and notify those who may be at risk of exposure, investigate the human health risks and expand the base of scientific knowledge for North Carolina-specific PFAS compounds.



PROTECTING DRINKING WATER

We will work to minimize future releases of PFAS to drinking water sources by setting regulatory standards and driving actions to prevent future PFAS pollution.



CLEANING UP EXISTING CONTAMINATION

We will continue to hold responsible parties accountable for remediating known PFAS contamination sites affecting drinking water supplies and other receptors to protect human health and the environment.

Emerging Contaminant Mitigation Fund
Session Law 2026 -41, §159G-79

(a) Fund Established. – The Emerging Contaminant Mitigation Fund is established within the Department. The purpose of the Fund is to support statewide efforts to detect, reduce, mitigate, and prevent exposure to emerging contaminants. The Fund consists of any funds appropriated to it by the General Assembly; the clear proceeds from litigation settlement agreements, final orders, or judgments of a court received by the State in settlement of litigation related to emerging contaminants; grants from federal agencies or other non-State entities; and all interest earned on the Fund.

(b) Uses of Fund. – The Fund may only be used by SWIA to provide grants to units of local government operating public water or wastewater treatment systems for any of the following:

(1) Emerging contaminant sampling and monitoring in drinking water, wastewater, surface water, and groundwater.

(2) Installation or upgrade of water treatment technologies for emerging contaminant removal.

(3) Emergency response and remediation of emerging contaminant contamination in soil, surface water, and groundwater.

(4) Provision of technical assistance to significant industrial users for the purpose of mitigating, decreasing, or eliminating discharges of PFAS and 1,4-dioxane to publicly owned treatment works.

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(c) **Funding Criteria and Oversight**. – SWIA shall establish criteria and application procedures for local emerging contaminant response grants and shall prioritize grants to public water systems and public wastewater systems (i) for which emerging contaminants have caused the greatest impacts on public health and the environment and (ii) that are or meet the criteria to be categorized as a distressed unit.

Questions:

- Do industries need technical assistance as outlined in (b)(4)?
- If so, what type of assistance is most needed?
- Are you interested in helping DEQ further develop this assistance program?