

CONTAMINATION EMERGENCY STOP FOREVER CHEMICALS



Contamination from Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) chemicals is a national public health and environmental emergency. PFAS negatively affect the blood and organs of nearly every living being, and are called “forever chemicals” because they resist degradation and remain in the body for decades.

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

PFAS is a large group of man-made chemicals used to repel oil and water, reduce friction, and are flame retardant. They are used in water-repellent apparel, carpeting, nonstick cookware, grease-resistant food wrappers, and fire-fighting foam. Studies have linked exposure to PFAS to thyroid disorders, diabetes, elevated cholesterol, low birth rates, and cancer. PFAS may reduce the effectiveness of vaccines, because they interrupt the immune system’s ability to produce antibodies.

PFAS have been found widespread in rainwater. They have been detected in all major water supplies in the U.S. An expert at the Water and Environmental Technology Center at Temple University said about PFAS contamination: “**If you sample, you will find it.**”

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Contamination from PFAS chemicals is a national health and environmental emergency. So what can we do to help?

FEDERAL LEVEL

The House has passed HR 2467, The PFAS Action Act, and it has now moved to the Senate.

Please **write letters** (not email) to Senator Dick Durbin and Senator Tammy Duckworth, urging them to support passage of The PFAS Action Act:

Senator Dick Durbin
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Tammy Duckworth
524 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

STATE LEVEL

At the state level, the Environmental Protection Agency is working on a statewide investigation into the prevalence of PFAS chemicals in our drinking water, and the sampling is expected to be completed soon. The EPA is working on a groundwater quality standard proposal, which will be submitted to the Illinois Pollution Control Board. When the case is on the docket, a hearing will be held in the Chicago area.

Interested parties are encouraged to speak at the hearing and/or **write emails when the hearing takes place** to the Illinois Pollution Board. For more information, visit pcb.illinois.gov.