



SRFs for PFAS & Other Emerging Contaminants

PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination is pervasive in our environment—sprayed on agricultural fields through biosolids, coating food packaging, woven into textiles, and leaching into groundwater at military bases, airports, and manufacturing sites. The health impacts to humans and other life run the gamut, from kidney, prostate, and testicular cancer to endocrine disruption and decreased fertility. An estimated one-third of Americans drink water contaminated with PFAS, though recent [studies](#) suggest that exposure to PFAS may be much higher. Testing for and remediating PFAS is expensive, and water systems face the burden of cleaning up pollution they did not cause.

BIL marks the [first time Congress](#) directed funding to address emerging contaminants as an eligible CWSRF activity. All SRF funding for emerging contaminants must be distributed as principal forgiveness or grants. For DWSRF emerging contaminants funding, 25% must be directed towards DACs. DWSRF and CWSRF funding for emerging contaminants does not require a state match under BIL. States have [flexibility](#) to choose projects that are CWSRF or DWSRF eligible to address emerging contaminants. If needed, states can transfer funds between the CWSRF and DWSRF Emerging Contaminants programs.



PFAS: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, often referred to as “forever chemicals” since they do not break down easily and accumulate over time, are human-made chemicals that can contaminate drinking water (along with air, food, and soil).

Emerging Contaminants: “Substances and microorganisms, including manufactured or naturally occurring physical, chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials, which are known or anticipated in the environment, that may pose newly identified or re-emerging risks to human health, aquatic life, or the environment.” (US EPA)

The priority rating criteria for emerging contaminant projects are used to numerically rank projects for potential funding assistance from the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund. Because the projects in this category will have similar health related benefits, ranking criteria will evaluate system specific conditions to differentiate between projects adequately.

The Bureau of Water will consider the following factors in determining the numerical scores of each project:

- 1) Whether contaminant levels exceed EPA Health Advisory levels;
- 2) If the contaminant is a cyanotoxin, whether the system’s source water has reported Harmful Algal Blooms;
- 3) Projects that reduce PFAS contaminants;
- 4) If the System serves census tracts that have been determined to be Disadvantaged Communities by EPAs [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#);
- 5) If the system serves a population of 25,000 or less;
- 6) If the project will use treatment or replacement to address the contaminant.

The Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund 2023 [Intended Use Plan](#) outlines its priority rating criteria for emerging contaminant projects.

DWSRF PROJECTS

- Construct new treatment facilities or upgrading an existing treatment facility
- Develop a new source of drinking water
- Consolidate with a water system that doesn't have contamination problems
- Pilot testing treatment alternatives
- Move private well owners onto community water system

DWSRF SET-ASIDES

- Determine if there's a PFAS problem
- Fund state staff working on PFAS/emerging contaminants oversight
- Train operators to use test kits/lab equipment
- Protect source water
- Conduct initial monitoring

CWSRF PROJECTS

- Install technology at wastewater treatment plants to treat PFAS
- Reuse/reclaim water for advanced treatment (such as reverse osmosis, granulated activated carbon, etc.)
- Develop stormwater plans to identify needed projects
- Install sampling equipment and containment systems
- Cap, treat, or remove contaminated material at landfills and other sites through non-point source management programs

DWSRF assistance can upgrade treatment technologies, equipment, or even build a new facility to remove PFAS from drinking water systems. CWSRF projects can include installing PFAS treatment technology at wastewater treatment plants, installing sampling equipment and containment systems, and [more](#).

[DWSRF set-asides](#) can be used for technical assistance to find out if a public water system has emerging contaminants and treatment problems, plan a project, and to obtain test kits/lab equipment for systems to test contaminants of concern.



Example: The State of Michigan uses DWSRF set-aside funds to provide technical guidance related to PFAS for public water systems, including guidance on treatment technologies, alternate sources, sampling, education, and informing operators of the state's PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels requirements.

Funding for Emerging Contaminants, Including PFAS, from BIL						
Program	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
CWSRF Emerging Contaminants	\$100 million	\$225 million	\$225 million	\$225 million	\$225 million	\$1 billion
DWSRF Emerging Contaminants	\$800 million	\$800 million	\$800 million	\$800 million	\$800 million	\$4 billion
SDWA Section 1459A Small and Disadvantaged Community Grant Program	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	\$1 billion	\$5 billion
Total	\$1.9 billion	\$2.025 billion	\$2.025 billion	\$2.025 billion	\$2.025 billion	\$10 billion

Source: [Congressional Research Service](#). *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure*. January 2022.

1 WHAT ARE PFAS & HOW DO THEY AFFECT WATER?

PFAS: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, often referred to as “forever chemicals” since they do not break down easily and accumulate over time, are human-made chemicals that can contaminate drinking water (along with air, food, and soil). There are thousands of different types of PFAS.

In Our Water: Products containing PFAS may be used or spilled onto soil or into rivers and lakes. They can travel long distances and are widespread in US water supplies.

Other “emerging contaminants” besides PFAS exist that may pose unknown risks to human health, aquatic life, or the environment.



PFAS are used in a wide range of manufactured goods. The health impacts to humans and other life range from kidney, prostate, and testicular cancer to endocrine disruption and decreased fertility.



Testing for and remediating PFAS is expensive, and water systems are often faced with the burden of cleaning up pollution they did not cause.

2 ADDRESSING PFAS THROUGH STATE REVOLVING FUNDS

\$5 BILLION WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BETWEEN 2022–2025 TO ADDRESS PFAS



The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) marks the first time Congress directed funding to address emerging contaminants as an eligible Clean Water SRF activity. SRF \$ for PFAS projects does NOT need to be repaid by applicants.

Contact your drinking water/ wastewater utility to determine if they have tested the water for emerging contaminants. Some utilities may not post results publicly. If they have not tested for PFAS, encourage them to access SRF set-aside funding for testing.

If your drinking water is contaminated by PFAS, inform your neighbors, your co-workers, and others in your community—amplify community concerns with your utility and urge them to submit SRF applications for projects that address PFAS and other emerging contaminants.

ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES RELATED TO PFAS

Know where there are emerging contaminants in your state! Find out if your water utility has determined if it has a problem with emerging contaminants. See Michigan’s [PFAS Sites](#) or New Jersey’s [Water Systems PFAS Violations](#) database as examples.

Contact your water utility to determine if they have tested the water for emerging contaminants. Some utilities may not post results publicly. If they have not tested for PFAS, encourage them to access DWSRF set-aside funding for testing. If your drinking water is contaminated by PFAS, inform your neighbors, your co-workers, and others in your community—amplify community concerns with the utility and urge them to submit applications for projects that address emerging contaminants. Emphasize the need to prioritize and fund PFAS remediation projects with state SRF administrators.

You can download and use these infographics by going to the [Tools section](#).

