
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 460 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY HUGHES, GREENLEAF, FARNESE, COSTA AND SCHWANK,
OCTOBER 9, 2018

REFERRED TO ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, OCTOBER 9, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Requesting the United States Environmental Protection Agency and
2 the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board to adopt maximum
3 contaminant levels for perfluorooctanoic acid and
4 perfluorooctane sulfonate in accordance with the Safe
5 Drinking Water Act and the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water
6 Act.

7 WHEREAS, The United States military used foam containing
8 perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate
9 (PFOS), unregulated contaminants, in firefighting operations at
10 two former bases in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: Naval Air
11 Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove in Horsham Township,
12 Montgomery County, and Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster in
13 Warminster Township, Bucks County; and

14 WHEREAS, Horsham Air Guard Station, an active base of the
15 Pennsylvania Air National Guard, is located at the former Naval
16 Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove site; and

17 WHEREAS, Elevated levels of PFOA and PFOS have appeared in
18 public and private water supplies surrounding each base; and

19 WHEREAS, PFOA and PFOS, the most extensively produced and
20 studied of the perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances

1 group of synthetic chemicals, are "extremely persistent in the
2 environment and resistant to typical environmental degradation
3 processes," according to the United States Environmental
4 Protection Agency (EPA); and

5 WHEREAS, The EPA has further stated: "The toxicity, mobility
6 and bioaccumulation potential of PFOS and PFOA pose potential
7 adverse effects for the environment and human health"; and

8 WHEREAS, A growing body of science demonstrates that PFOA and
9 PFOS are associated with a range of health effects, including
10 certain types of cancer; and

11 WHEREAS, The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
12 (ATSDR), a public health agency within the United States
13 Department of Health and Human Services, has released a report
14 recommending different minimal risk levels for PFOA and PFOS in
15 drinking water as compared to EPA health advisory levels; and

16 WHEREAS, These recommendations and increasing information on
17 PFOA and PFOS have generated significant public concern; and

18 WHEREAS, The EPA and the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality
19 Board are considering setting a maximum contaminant level (MCL)
20 for one or both of the chemicals in accordance with the Safe
21 Drinking Water Act and the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a
24 contaminant in water delivered to users of a public water
25 system; and

26 WHEREAS, MCLs would provide enforceable standards for PFOA
27 and PFOS in public water systems as opposed to the current EPA
28 and ATSDR recommended levels; and

29 WHEREAS, MCLs would provide guidance to persons whose private
30 water supplies have been impacted; and

1 WHEREAS, MCLs would alleviate confusion as to what is, and is
2 not, acceptable exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water; and

3 WHEREAS, The Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urges
4 the establishment of appropriate, data-based MCLs for PFOA and
5 PFOS; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 request the United States Environmental Protection Agency and
8 the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board to adopt maximum
9 contaminant levels for perfluorooctanoic acid and
10 perfluorooctane sulfonate in accordance with the Safe Drinking
11 Water Act and the Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act; and be
12 it further

13 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
14 the Environmental Protection Agency, the Pennsylvania Department
15 of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Environmental
16 Quality Board.