



To: FWEA Utility Council

From: Chad Revis

Date: April 10, 2024

Re: EPA announces final rule on PFOS/PFOA

Breaking news this morning regarding federal action on PFOS/PFOA: The EPA announced the final rule and its publication is forthcoming. Please see the below story link and bullets for a high-level summary:

Biden rule targets toxic chemicals in US drinking water

“The Biden administration on Wednesday announced the first-ever national limits on toxic “forever chemicals” in drinking water, a move that will require utilities serving roughly one in three Americans to remove the contaminants from their taps.”

The top-line points from this article are:

- The rule is estimated to have a “\$1.5 billion annual price tag, at least some of which will be footed by ratepayers”;
- AWWA predicts it will actually cost more than \$3 billion annually;
- Utilities will have 5 years to eliminate detectable levels of PFOA or PFOS;
- Upgrades to treatment systems are mandated dependent on “hazard index” calculation;
- The Biden Administration has committed to providing state-distributed funds (\$1B) to help utilities with compliance costs;
- This rule is the first finalization of a drinking water limit for a new contaminant since the Safe Drinking Water Act was updated in 1996 to require more stringent cost-benefit calculations.