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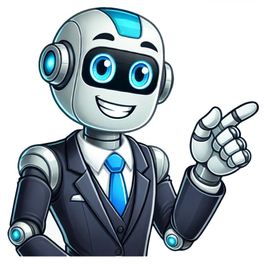

As part of Administrator Zeldins Powering the Great American Comeback initiative, the agency is undertaking 31 historic deregulatory actions. Read the press release. JavaScript appears to be disabled on this computer. Please click here to see any active alerts. JavaScript appears to be disabled on this computer. Please click here to see any active alerts. JavaScript appears to be disabled on this computer. Please click here to see any active alerts. This initiative will guide EPAs work to protect public health and the environment while restoring the greatness of the American economy for the first 100 days and beyond. Read the news release Administrator Zeldin will work closely with the dedicated career officials at the agency to fulfill the agencys mission to protect human health and the environment. Learn more about Administrator Zeldin From remediating contaminated sites to ensuring clean drinking water, what happens here improves human health and the environment for all Americans. Discover EPA-hosted webinars to learn how to apply for, or manage an EPA grant. Learn how water gets to your drinking water tap every day, the different types of public water systems, and other basic information about drinking water safety. Read the latest news from EPA. Search all news releases EPA's environmental topics guides you to the most popular pages in your topic of interest. Find EPA Articles and News Releases related to popular topics. Search theA-Z Topic Indexfor specific terms. Recent EPA Perspectives Articles: Through the Community Connectors grant program, we partner with community-based organizations and local governments to envision future development in corridors adjacent to highway infrastructure. There is no safe level of lead. Lead can be present in drinking water without any noticeable changes in color or odor. It is the responsibility of private well owners to test their water for lead and to take appropriate measures to mitigate exposure. Early in my career I realized that shifting the mindset of students in my classroom, especially on a social norm that valued consumerism over environmentalism, was a challenge with context and nuance far beyond my classroom walls. Read EPA Perspectives Recent EPA News Releases: EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Secretary of the Environment and National Resources of Mexico Alicia Brcena Ibarra to address and solve the decades-long Tijuana River sewage crisis. EPA to hold a public meeting on revised proposed plan for the Kerr-McGee Chemical Corporation Superfund Site The U.S. Senate has confirmed Aaron Szaboto serve as theAssistantAdministrator ofU.S. Environmental Protection Agencys (EPA) Office of Air and Radiation. EPA Region 7 Land, Chemical, and Redevelopment Division Director DeAndre Singletary presented a $500,000 award to the City of Springfield for their selection to receive funding for their Brownfields Assessment Grant. Search all News Releases The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process begins when a federal agency develops a proposal to take a major federal action. The environmental review under NEPA can involve three different levels of analysis: Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) A federal action may be "categorically excluded" from a detailed environmental analysis whenthe federal action normally does not have a significant effect on the human environment. The reason for the exclusion is generally detailed in NEPA procedures adopted by each federal agency. Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact Afederal agency can determine that a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX)does not apply to a proposed action. The federal agency may thenprepare an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA determines whether or not a federal action has the potential to cause significant environmental effects. Each federal agency has adopted its own NEPA procedures for the preparation of EAs. SeeNEPA procedures adopted by each federal agency. Generally, the EA includes a brief discussion of: The purpose and need for the proposed action Alternatives (as required by section 102(2)(E) of NEPA) The environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives A listing of agencies and persons consulted. Based on the EA, the following actions can occur: If the agency determines that the action will not have significant environmental impacts, the agency will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A FONSI is a document that presents the reasons why the agency has concluded that there are no significant environmental impacts projected to occur upon implementation of the action. If the EA determines that the environmental impacts of a proposed Federal action will be significant, an Environmental Impact Statement is prepared. Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) Federal agencies prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if a proposed major federal action is determined to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The regulatory requirements for an EIS are more detailed and rigorous than the requirements for an EA. Summary of the EIS Process An agency publishes a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register. The Notice of Intent informs the public of the upcoming environmental analysis and describes how the publiccan become involved in the EIS preparation. This Notice of Intent starts the scoping process, which is the period in which the federal agency and the public collaborate to define the range of issues and potentialalternativesto be addressed in the EIS. A draft EIS is published for public review and comment for a minimum of 45 days. Upon close of the comment period, agencies consider all substantive comments and, if necessary, conduct further analyses. A final EIS is then published, which provides responses to substantive comments. Publication of the final EIS begins the minimum 30-day "wait period," in which agencies are generally required to wait 30 days before making a final decision on a proposed action. EPA publishes aNotice of Availabilityin the Federal Register, announcing the availability of both draft and final EISs to the public.Find EISs with open comments or wait periods. The EIS process ends with the issuance of the Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD: explains the agency's decision, describes the alternatives the agency considered, and discusses the agency's plans for mitigation and monitoring, if necessary. What is included in an EIS? An EIS Includes: Cover sheet: Includes, among other things, the name of the lead agency and any cooperating agency agency contact information the title of the proposed action and its location a paragraph abstract of the EIS the date when comments must be received. Summary: A summary of the EIS, including the major conclusions, area of disputed issues, and the issues to be resolved. Table of Contents: Assists the reader in navigating through the EIS. Purpose and need statement: Explains the reason the agency is proposing the action and what the agency expects to achieve. Alternatives including the proposed action: Consideration of reasonable alternatives to the proposed action. Affected environment: Describes the environment of the area to be affected by the alternatives under consideration. Environmental consequences:A discussion of the environmental effects and their significance. Summary of scoping information: Asummary of information, including alternatives and analyses, submitted by commenters during the scoping process for consideration by the lead and cooperating agencies in their development of the EIS. List of preparers: A list of the names and qualifications of the persons who were primarily responsible for preparing the EIS. Appendices (if required): Appendices provide background materials prepared in connection with the EIS. When is a supplement to the EIS required? A supplement to a draft or final EIS is required when any of the following occurs: An agency makes substantial changes to the proposed action thatare relevant to its environmental concerns. There are substantialnew circumstances or information about the significance of adverse effects that bear on the analysis. If an agency decides to supplement its EIS, it prepares, publishesand files the supplemental EIS in the same fashion asa draftor final EIS. JavaScript appears to be disabled on this computer. Please click here to see any active alerts. JavaScript appears to be disabled on this computer. Please click here to see any active alerts. EPA is committed to addressing Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water while following the law and ensuring that regulatory compliance is achievable for drinking water systems. Read the news release Learn about EPA's current understanding of PFAS and discover steps you can take to reduce PFAS risk. Find state contacts and discover research, data, and tools related to EPA's understanding of PFAS. Learn what EPA is doing to address PFAS. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was signed into law on January 1, 1970.NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. The range of actions covered by NEPA is broad and includes: making decisions on permit applications, adopting federal land management actions, and constructing highways and other publicly-owned facilities. Using the NEPA process, agencies evaluate the environmental and related social and economic effects of their proposed actions. Agencies alsoprovide opportunities for public review and comment on those evaluations. On this page: Title I of NEPA contains a Declaration of National Environmental Policy. This policyrequires the federal government to use all practicable means to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony. Section 102 in Title I of the Actrequires federal agencies to incorporate environmental considerations in their planning and decision-making through a systematic interdisciplinary approach. Specifically, all federal agencies are to prepare detailed statements assessing the environmental impact of and alternatives to major federal actions significantly affecting the environment. These statements arecommonly referred to asEnvironmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA). Title II of NEPA established the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) to oversee NEPA implementation. The duties of CEQ include: Ensuring that federal agencies meet their obligations under NEPA Overseeing federal agency implementation of the environmental impact assessment process Issuing regulations and other guidance to federal agencies regarding NEPA compliance. Learn more about the National Environmental Policy Act. CEQ has issued avariety of guidance documentson the implementation of NEPA. Many federal agencies have also developed their own NEPA procedures. These NEPA procedures vary from agency to agency since they are tailored for the specific mission and activities of the agency.Find NEPA procedures for specific federal agencies. Lead Agency The role of a federal agency in the NEPA process depends on the agency's expertise and relationship to the proposed action. The agency carrying out the federal action is responsible for complying with the requirements of NEPA. In some cases, there may be more than one federal agency involved in the proposed action. In this situation, a lead agency is designated to supervise the preparation of the environmental analysis. Federal agencies, together with state, tribal or local agencies, may act as joint lead agencies. Cooperating Agency A federal, state, tribal or local agency having special expertise with respect to an environmental issue or jurisdiction by law may be a cooperating agency. A cooperating agency has the responsibility to: assist the lead agency by participating in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time participate in the scoping process develop information and prepare environmental analysis that the agency has special expertise in make staff support available Referrals to CEQ In addition,a federal agency may refer to CEQ interagency disagreements concerning proposed federal actions that might cause unsatisfactory environmental effects. CEQ's role, when it accepts a referral, is generally to develop findings and recommendations, consistent with the policy goals of Section 101 of NEPA. The referral process consists of certain steps and is carried out within a specified period. Learn more about CEQ's referral process (PDF)(4 pp,40 K, About PDF). JavaScript appears to be disabled on this computer. Please click here to see any active alerts. Animals This assassin bug's ability to use a tool bees resin could shed light on how the ability evolved in other animals. By Siddhant PusdekarMay 12, 2025 Environment A study of weather on a mountain in Greece reveal that bioparticles in the sky may drive fluctuations in rainfall patterns more broadly. By Nikk OgasaMay 12, 2025 Oceans Hundreds of millions of years before oxygen surged in the atmosphere 2.4 billion years ago, swaths of oxygen winked in and out of existence in the ocean. Animals Introducing captive-bred axolotls to restored and artificial wetlands may be a promising option for the popular pet amphibian. By Anna GibbsApril 30, 2025 Physics Water drops produce electricity when dripped through a small tube. That power might be harnessed as renewable energy in rainy places. By Jude ColemanApril 29, 2025 Oceans Scientists aboard a research vessel near Los Angeles collected ash, air and water samples as fire blazed on the hills before them in January. By McKenzie PrillamanApril 28, 2025 Climate An overlooked Antarctic water system could raise sea levels by more than 2 meters by 2300, computer simulations show. By Nikk OgasaApril 21, 2025 Environment Satellite data reveal a link between the amount of black carbon in the atmosphere and rates of Antarctic sea ice loss in recent years. By Meghie RodriguesApril 18, 2025 Climate Mineral formations in caves reveal recurring periods of humidity in the Arabian Desert over the last 8 million years. By Martin J. KernanApril 9, 2025 PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s because of their useful properties. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others. Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS), for example, are two of the most widely used and studied chemicals in the PFAS group. PFOA and PFOS have been replaced in the United States with other PFAS in recent years. One common characteristic of concern of PFAS is that many break down very slowly and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time. PFAS Can Be Found in Many Places PFAS can be present in our water, soil, air, and food as well as in materials found in our homes or workplaces, including: Drinking water in public drinking water systems and private drinking water wells. Soil and water at or near waste sites - at landfills, disposal sites, and hazardous waste sites such as those that fall under the federal Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act programs. Fire extinguishing foam - in aqueous film-forming foams (or AFFFs) used to extinguish flammable liquid-based fires. Such foams are used in training and emergency response events at airports, shipyards, military bases, firefighting training facilities, chemical plants, and refineries. Manufacturing or chemical production facilities that produce or use PFAS for example at chrome plating, electronics, and certain textile and paper manufacturers. Food for example in fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS and dairy products from livestock exposed to PFAS. Food packaging for example in grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, and candy wrappers. Household products and dust for example in stain and water-repellent used oncarpets, upholstery, clothing, and other fabrics; cleaning products; non-stick cookware; paints, varnishes, and sealants. Personal care products for example in certain shampoo, dental floss, and cosmetics. Biosolids for example fertilizer from wastewater treatment plants that is used on agricultural lands can affect ground and surface water and animals that graze on the land. People Can Be Exposed to PFAS in a Variety of Ways Due to their widespread production and use, as well as their ability to move and persist in the environment, surveys conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that most people in the United States have been exposed to some PFAS. Most known exposures are relatively low, but some can be high, particularly when people are exposed to a concentrated source over long periods of time. Some PFAS chemicals can accumulate in the body over time. Current research has shown that people can be exposed to PFAS by: Working in occupations such as firefighting or chemicals manufacturing and processing. Drinking water contaminated with PFAS. Eating certain foods that may contain PFAS, including fish. Swallowing contaminated soil or dust. Breathing air containing PFAS. Using products made with PFAS or that are packaged in materials containing PFAS. Exposure to PFAS May be Harmful to Human Health Current scientific research suggests that exposure to certain PFAS may lead to adverse health outcomes. However, research is still ongoing to determine how different levels of exposure to different PFAS can lead to a variety of health effects. Research is also underway to better understand the health effects associated with low levels of exposure to PFAS over long periods of time, especially in children. What We Know about Health Effects Current peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that exposure to certain levels of PFAS may lead to: Reproductive effects such as decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women. Developmental effects or delays in children, including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes. Increased risk of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers. Reduced ability of the bodys immune system to fight infections, including reduced vaccine response. Interference with the bodys natural hormones. Increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity. Additional Health Effects are Difficult to Determine Scientists at EPA, in other federal agencies, and in academia and industry are continuing to conduct and review the growing body of research about PFAS. However, health effects associated with exposure to PFAS are difficult to specify for many reasons, such as: There are thousands of PFAS with potentially varying effects and toxicity levels, yet most studies focus on a limited number of better known PFAS compounds. People can be exposed to PFAS in different ways and at different stages of their life. The types and uses of PFAS change over time, which makes it challenging to track and assess how exposure to these chemicals occurs and how they will affect human health. Certain Adults and Children May Have Higher Exposure to PFAS Adults Some people have higher exposures to PFAS than others because of their occupations or where they live. For example: Industrial workers who are involved in making or processing PFAS or PFAS-containing materials, or people who live or recreate near PFAS-producing facilities, may have greater exposure to PFAS. Pregnant and lactating women tend to drink more water per pound of body weight than the average person and as a result they may have higher PFAS exposure compared to other people if it is present in their drinking water. Children Because children are still developing, they may be more sensitive to the harmful effects of chemicals such as PFAS. They can also be exposed more than adults because: Children drink more water, eat more food, and breathe more air per pound of body weight than adults, which can increase their exposure to PFAS. Young children crawl on floors and put things in their mouths which leads to a higher risk of exposure to PFAS in carpets, household dust, toys, and cleaning products. Breast milk from mothers with PFAS in their blood and formula made with water containing PFAS can expose infants to PFAS, and it may also be possible for children to be exposed in utero during pregnancy. Scientists continue to do research in this area. Based on current science, the benefits of breastfeeding appear to outweigh the risks for infants exposed to PFAS in breast milk. To weigh the risks and benefits of breastfeeding, mothers should contact their doctors. Where to Go for the Latest Information on PFAS Federal Government Resources State Government Resources Information on How to Provide Input on Proposed Government Actions Federal agencies are required to provide an opportunity for public comment when proposing a new regulation and must consider the comments in revising the proposal and issuing a final rule. In carrying out our mission to protect human health and the environment, EPA develops regulations to prevent or to clean up hazardous chemicals released into our air, land, and water, some of which relate to PFAS. Commenting on a proposed regulation is an important opportunity to make your voice heard. It is a way for you to provide decisionmakers with key information on any or all aspects of the proposed action, including: Pointing out key issues in the proposed regulation that you or your community are concerned about, Offering additional data and scientific evidence that may not have been considered, Identifying factual errors, and Proposing alternative solutions. EPAs regulations will always be announced in the Federal Register and can be found at the following government websites: and . For some rules, EPA holds a public hearing where you can provide comments in person or remotely. The agency always accepts comments in writing. All comments whether in person or written get the same level of consideration. Below are additional resources to help you comment on EPAs proposed regulations related to PFAS. Skip to main content Projections indicate that climate change will result in more frequent and intense extreme weather events in the coming decades. Among these, an increase... Air pollution and climate change together worsen the health impacts of allergens like pollen and airborne biological particles, leading to increased inflammatory... A variety of global, regional, and transboundary initiatives have been established to support cooperation on air quality management, offering a strong... Agricultural air pollution is a significant but often under-recognized source of health and economic burdens worldwide. Beyond its impact on human health,...

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