



For Immediate Release
July 23, 2020

Contact: Bonnifer Ballard, Executive Director
517-292-2912 bballard@mi-water.org

Michigan water utilities prepare for new PFAS standards

Newly enacted standards to limit PFAS contamination in Michigan drinking water may be the strictest in the country for the family of forever chemicals, according to the Michigan Section-America Water Works Association (MI-AWWA), which represents Michigan water utilities.

“Although we would have preferred the state remain in alignment with the EPA, we appreciate the stakeholder process that was used to promulgate Michigan’s new PFAS Rule,” says **Molly Maciejewski**, chair of MI-AWWA’s Government Affairs Council. “Now, we will work to ensure our members are informed and will support them and EGLE in any way we can with guidance on implementation.”

The new rule requires municipalities to integrate PFAS testing into their existing water quality monitoring and requires the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to redeploy staff and financial resources to monitor and investigate PFAS contamination throughout the state. MI-AWWA has some concern, however, over how to manage costs imposed by the new rule.

“The new rule errs on the side of safety, which is absolutely the right thing,” explains **Bonnifer Ballard**, MI/AWWA executive director. “However, finding funds for additional testing, possible additional treatment and equipment that could cost millions of dollars, and all the other infrastructure needs that water systems are managing, is going to be quite challenging.”

“We’re pleased that the rule requires EGLE to redeploy staff and financial resources for monitoring and investigating PFAS,” Ballard added. “This continued level of vigilance is important to finding and eliminating sources of contamination.”

The Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association is a community of nearly 1,700 water professionals in Michigan leading the advancement of water knowledge and improving the value and quality of water in our lives. AWWA is the largest nonprofit, scientific and educational association dedicated to managing and treating water, the world's most important resource.

#