



**[ACT 21 \(S. 49\)](#): Vermont 2019 PFAS Law Factsheet  
July 12, 2019**

**What are PFAS chemicals?**

PFAS stands for “Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances.” This is a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry and in many consumer products since the 1950s because they are resistant to heat, water, oil, grease and stains. There is growing concern because some of these chemicals have been linked to health problems even at very low contamination levels.

**Recent Legislative Actions in Vermont Regarding PFAS Contamination**

[Act 55 \(Senate Bill 10\)](#), signed by Governor Scott on June 2, 2017, holds parties that contaminate groundwater responsible for connecting those Vermonters affected by the contamination to municipal water to a municipal water supply.

[Act 21 \(Senate bill 49\)](#), signed by Governor Scott on May 16, 2019, contain the following key actions:

- Public community water systems, schools, and other water systems that serve the same 25 people more than 6 months per year (referred to as “nontransient-noncommunity water systems) across the state will conduct monitoring for the five PFAS substances by December 1, 2019. Should a water system confirm a detection of one or more of the PFAS substances that is, in aggregate, above the state’s health advisory levels, the water system will issue a “do not drink” announcement and implement treatment to reduce contamination levels below state standards;
- The Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) will follow its rule-making process to develop and adopt drinking water standards – referred to as “maximum contaminant level or levels (MCLs) – for these PFAS substances by February 1, 2020.
- The ANR will issue a plan to regulate these PFAS substances in surface waters by January 15, 2020. The Agency will then follow its rule-making process to develop and adopt surface water quality standards for, at a minimum, these PFAS substances by January 1, 2024.
- The ANR will develop and begin implementation of a plan to complete a statewide investigation of potential sources of PFAS contamination by July 1, 2019.
- The ANR will consider regulating PFAS compounds as a class or subclasses, beginning the process by August 1, 2020. ANR will determine whether to regulate these compounds as a class or subclasses by March 1, 2021. If the decision is to move forward with the determination, ANR is to complete the process by December 31, 2021.
- The ANR will report on the management of chemical contaminants in leachate coming from landfills by January 15, 2020.
- The ANR has authority to require any entity permitted by ANR to monitor for a chemical for which the VDP has a health advisory. ANR is to issue a plan to collect data from public community water systems and nontransient-noncommunity systems for contaminants with health advisories but no MCL by January 1, 2020.