

DEQ Update on PFAS

Water Policy Interim Committee, 10/20/2025

Lindsey Krywaruchka, Water Quality Division Administrator



Montana PFAS Action Plan



June 2020

Montana PFAS Action Plan

PFAS in Montana

Montana developed this PFAS Action Plan to guide the steps the state is taking to protect Montana citizens and resources from the potential risks posed by a family of chemicals known as **per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)**, including two common PFAS, **perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)** and **perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)**. This action plan is a living document that will be updated

Goal:

Reduce or eliminate potential risks posed by PFAS to human health and the environment.

PFAS Action Plan Objectives

1. Identify & inventory known and potential PFAS sources/sites.
2. Provide public outreach and education.
3. Protect drinking water sources and ecology.
4. Identify resources/funding and determine legislative restrictions/potential.
5. Identify disposal options and reduce use of products that contain PFAS.

Most Recent Update: 2024



MONTANA PFAS ACTION PLAN

2024 PROGRESS REPORT

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DEQ Water Refresher:

Safe Drinking Water Act / Public Water Supply



Regulations for public water supplies and the quality of water they provide to the public.

Clean Water Act / Water Quality Act

Water quality standards that apply to rivers, lakes, and streams and protect “beneficial uses”.



PFOS and PFOA MCLs

EPA: protection of PWS drinking water

- In 2024, EPA proposed a maximum contaminant level (MCL) for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water of 4 parts per trillion.
- DEQ will implement the MCLs when final.
- MCLs apply only to PWS and do not protect private well users.



Unregulated Contaminants

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3

EPA sampled medium-size Montana public water systems for PFAS in 2013 to 2015. No compounds were detected above laboratory reporting limits.

- perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS),
 - perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA),
 - perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA),
 - perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS),
 - perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), and
 - perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS).
- Billings
 - Bozeman,
 - Butte,
 - Helena,
 - Kalispell,
 - Hardin,
 - Belgrade,
 - Shelby,
 - Bridger.



PFOS and PFOA MCLs

EPA: protection of PWS drinking water

- EPA requires all PWSs to perform initial PFAS inventory sampling by April 2027.
- PFOS/PFOA compliance is due in April 2029 (EPA proposes to extend this to 2031).



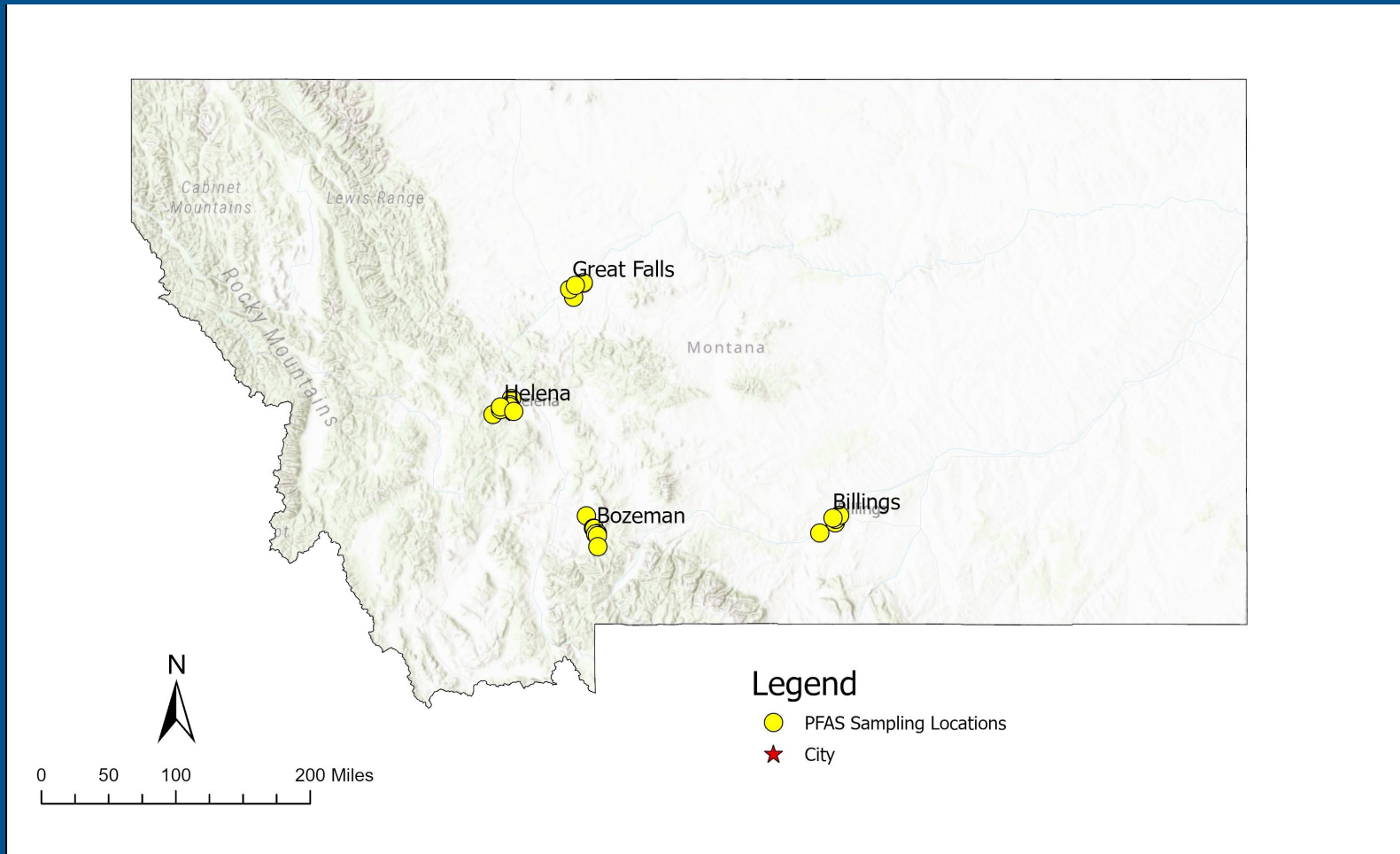
PFOS and PFOA Standards

Montana Water Quality Act Standards (DEQ-7)

In 2019, DEQ established groundwater standards of 70 parts per trillion for PFOS and PFOA (individually or combined). These standards are to protect the drinking water beneficial use and human health.



PFAS Investigation: 2021



Pharmaceutical Compounds

DEQ study of Helena Valley Groundwater

Major findings:

- Personal care compounds were widely detected.
- Concentrations were very low.
- The health effects of low concentrations are still poorly understood.

DEQ's Next Steps



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Questions?

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