States Forge Ahead with PFAS Regulations

As EPA dithers on setting standards for PFAS contaminants in drinking water, states are stepping in to set their own guidelines.

EPA acknowledges that its monitoring data for PFAS is flawed, but an outside group estimates that as many as a third of Americans could be drinking water contaminated with the extremely persistent, highly fluorinated chemicals that are linked to kidney and liver cancer, thyroid problems, lowered fertility and diminished effectiveness of vaccines in children. PFAS chemicals have been released into the environment by firefighting foams, certain manufacturing processes and laundering of PFAS-treated clothes. Nearly all Americans have PFAS in their blood, according to CDC.

PFAS contamination
40 states bear 172 known PFAS contamination sites, including 78 military sites. More than 1,000 drinking water systems serving as many as 110 million Americans might be contaminated with PFAS.

- PFAS contamination site
- Public water systems with detectable PFAS
  - Serving fewer than 30,000
  - Serving more than 60,000

State PFAS policies
- Adopted levels lower than EPA health advisory levels
- Proposed levels lower than EPA health advisory levels
- No state policies on PFAS pollution

Sets maximum levels ...
Prohibits PFAS in ...
Requires or adopts reporting of ...
Requires or establishes ...
Liability provisions for ...
State purchasing guidelines ...

Sources: Journal of Exposure Science & Environmental Epidemiology, Safer States. Map sources: Environmental Working Group, SSEHRI at Northeastern University

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