

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
June 14, 2019

Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers PFAS Strategy Coordination

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence are natural wonders of the world contributing significantly to the region's shared history, culture and economic vitality in addition to providing drinking water to over 105 million residents; and,

WHEREAS, the principal objective of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers is to protect the world's largest system of surface freshwater and grow the region's \$6 trillion economy; and,

WHEREAS, the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers ("the Conference") has sustained a long history of nonpartisan collaboration and cooperation to confront the region's most pressing environmental and economic issues; and,

WHEREAS, the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) Chemicals of Mutual Concern Annex (Annex 3) calls on governments of the United States and Canada to protect human health and the environment through cooperative and coordinated measures to reduce human-caused releases of chemicals of mutual concern into the Waters of the Great Lakes¹; and,

WHEREAS, the GLWQA Annex 3 subcommittee has designated perfluorinated compounds including Perfluorooctanoic Acid, Perfluorooctane Sulfonate, and Long-Chain Perfluorinated Carboxylic Acids (collectively, "PFAS") as Chemicals of Mutual Concern and, pursuant to GLWQA, obligates binational action; and,

WHEREAS, the known extent of PFAS contamination continues to grow² and given disparities in, and in some cases absence of, State regulatory standards, monitoring requirements, scientific research, knowledge of PFAS fate and transport, and funding streams; and,

WHEREAS, no individual State's or Province's regulations, monitoring, research efforts, or funding will sufficiently address the threat posed by PFAS to the quality of the waters of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Basin; and,

WHEREAS, the pervasive threat and the need for U.S. federal enforceable standards relating to PFAS contamination demands an immediate, proactive, and unified response from the region's Governors to protect the viability of the Great Lakes as a drinking water source; and,

WHEREAS, a collaborative approach is needed to assess potential hazards, share data, identify best practices, establish guidance on uniform enforceable standards, and leverage a variety of funding sources; and,

WHEREAS, the Governors and Premiers recognize their duty and obligation to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens within their respective jurisdictions to obtain potable water.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Great Lakes Governors commit to participating in efforts by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to encourage the sharing of information via its “Per- Polyfluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS) Analytic Tools – Access to States for Testing.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Conference urges the EPA to:

- Work with Environment Canada and the Canadian Provinces to include them in their efforts to share information and build stronger collaborations between the United States and Canada on this issue.
- Expediently implement their PFAS Action Plan (February 14, 2019), including the implementation of a national Maximum Contaminant Level for PFAS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Governors direct their States to hold convenings in order to:

- Share their experiences related to monitoring plans and protocols, their implementation successes and challenges, and plans for future investigation designed to minimize PFAS exposure;
- Share information regarding the effectiveness and costs related to alternative treatment technologies, and the state of research efforts at the pilot stage and full-scale levels to determine which methods work best to remove PFAS from drinking water or other potential exposure routes;
- Coordinate requests on future research needs regarding the potential health impacts related to PFAS exposure. A better understanding of health impacts will allow greater consensus concerning appropriate standards related to drinking water, fish and wildlife.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Conference calls on the federal governments of the United States and Canada to expedite risk communications, site assessments, remediation, treatment and prevention of PFAS contamination, and assume costs associated with these efforts for contamination that arises on and from federal properties.

Adopted by the Governors of the Great Lakes States and the Premiers of Ontario and Québec on this 14th day of June 2019.

¹ <https://binational.net/annexes/a3/>

² <https://www.ewg.org/news-and-analysis/2019/04/mapping-pfas-contamination-crisis-new-data-show-610-sites43-states>