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MEDIA ADVISORY

EPA’s PFAS Roadmap is a Critical First Step to Protecting Public Health and the Environment from Harmful “Forever Chemicals”

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a [three-year strategic roadmap](#) to regulate PFAS and restrict their use.

PFAS pose significant risks to people’s immune, reproductive, and hormonal systems; affect liver enzymes; raise cholesterol levels; and increase risks of kidney and testicular cancer, among other health effects. They are known as “forever chemicals” because they don’t break down and remain present in the human body.

Statement from Betsy Southerland, PhD, former Director of the Office of Science and Technology in EPA’s Office of Water:

“EPA’s commitment to taking a class-based approach to restrict or ban current uses of the ‘forever’ chemical PFAS is a critical piece of its just-released PFAS Roadmap. The actions detailed in the roadmap are essential first steps in reducing people’s exposure to these extremely dangerous chemicals, especially in communities already disproportionately impacted by pollution.

While EPA will identify initial PFAS classes in the National Testing Strategy, the agency set tight deadlines for regulating individual PFAS chemicals in air, water, and waste, which will begin to drive stringent treatment requirements. EPA’s success in turning the roadmap into action will require the swift passage of a robust budget to give the agency adequate funding and staffing to get the job done.”

Statement from Mustafa Santiago Ali, PhD, Vice President of Environmental Justice, Climate, and Community Revitalization for the National Wildlife Federation; former EPA Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization; and former EPA Assistant Associate Administrator for Environmental Justice:

“Unpacking, dismantling, addressing, and investing in our most vulnerable communities takes intentionality and a strategic vision anchored in actions that are guided by frontline solutions.

EPA’s actions on PFAS today highlight that it is becoming a 21st century organization willing to make long-term financial and administrative commitments that will lower impacts, enhance investments, and begin the long process of dismantling sacrifice zones across our country.”

To schedule an interview with Betsy, please call or text Caren Kagan Evans at 301-467-6337.

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ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NETWORK

Founded in 2017, the [Environmental Protection Network](#) (EPN) harnesses the expertise of more than 550 former EPA career staff and confirmation-level appointees from Democratic and Republican administrations to provide the unique perspective of former regulators with decades of historical knowledge and subject matter expertise.