



New Mexico Environment Department



Scan me!

Water Quality Challenges with Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

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Drinking Water Bureau
New Mexico Environment Department

Water Leaders Workshop
Mescalero, NM
April 22, 2026



What are PFAS?

- Per- and polyFluoroAlkySubstances
- Human-made “forever chemicals” that do not break down easily
- Carbon-fluorine bonds: 12,000 (+!) PFAS chemicals



Fire-fighting foam (AFFF)



Waterproof materials



Teflon®/non-stick cookware



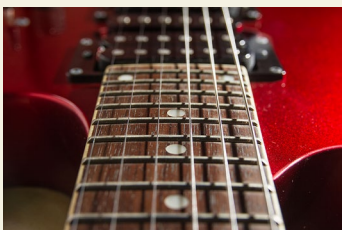
Semiconductor industry



What are PFAS?

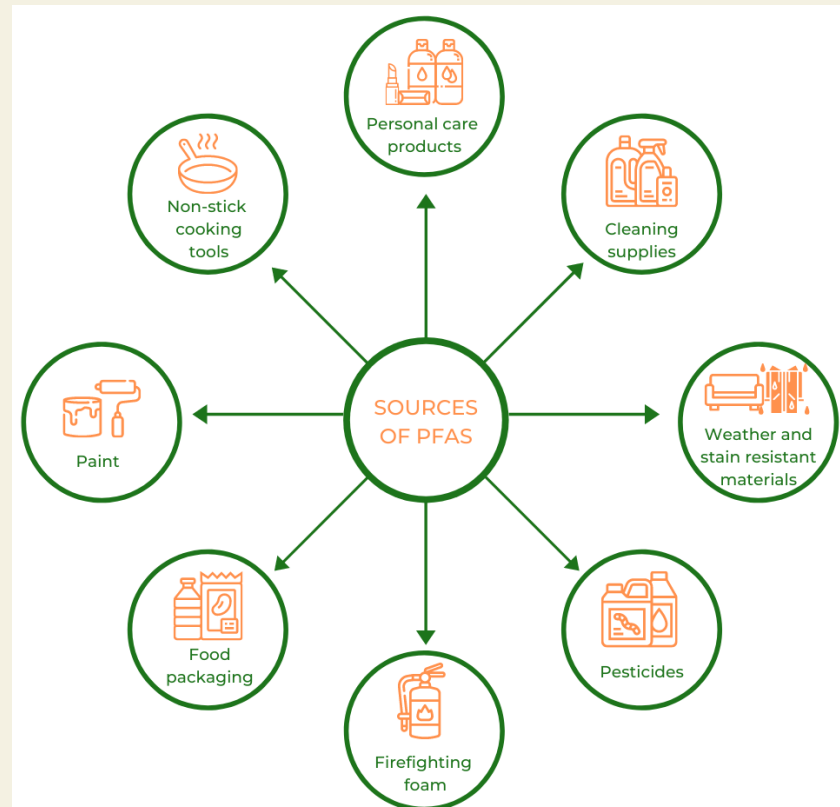
Primary Sources

- Industrial uses
- 1000s of tons used/exported
- Consumer products



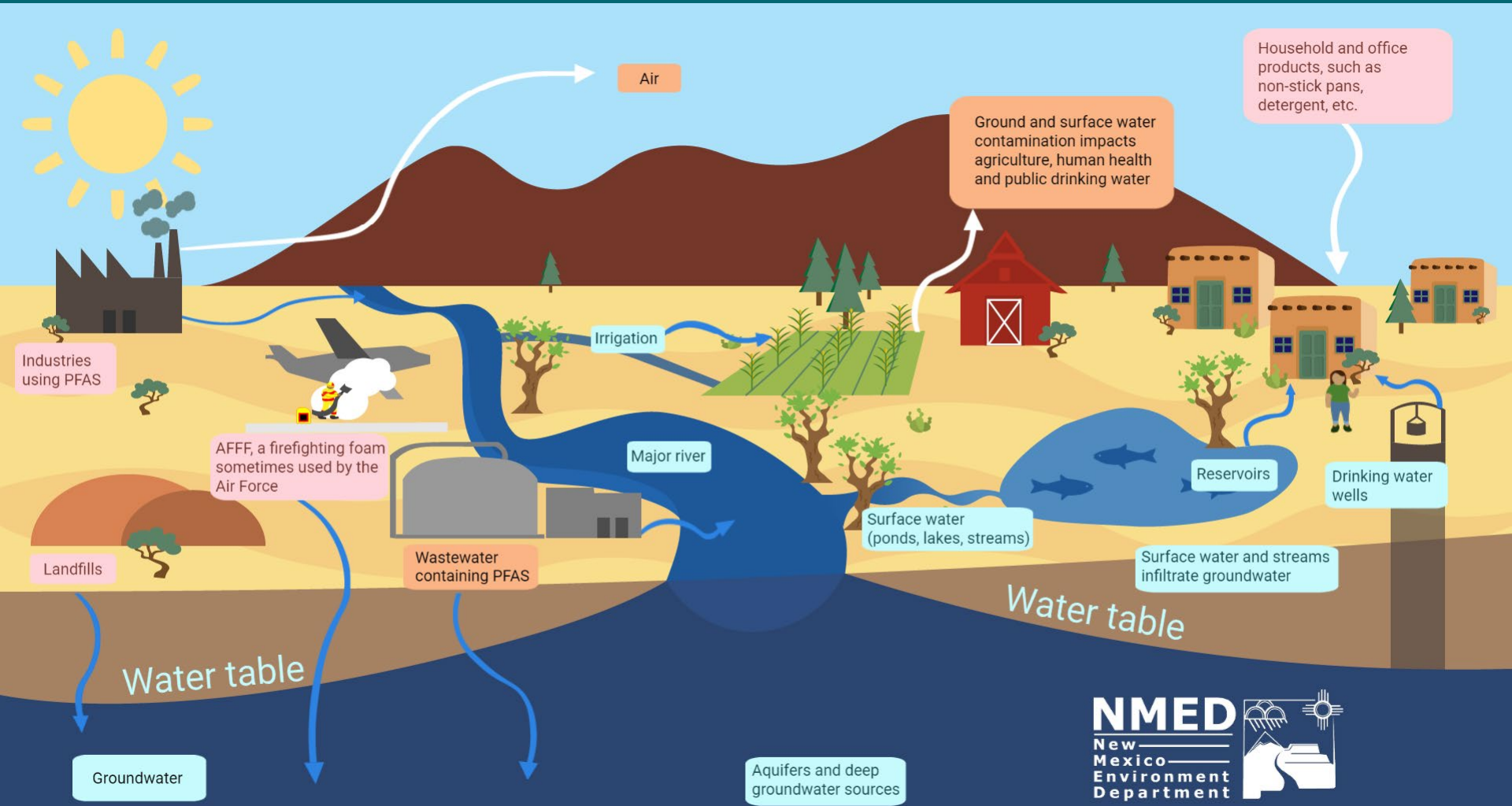
Secondary Sources

- Domestic sources
- Wastewater and landfills
- Dust





Why do we care?



Potential releases to the environment around us

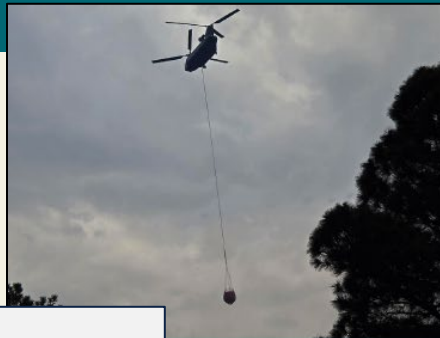


Why do we care?

PFAS Chemical	Cancer	Cholesterol	Immune	Kidney	Liver	Thyroid	Developmental / Reproductive
PFOA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PFOS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PFBS				✓		✓	✓
PFHxS				✓		✓	✓
PFNA			✓		✓		✓
HFPO-DA (GenX)	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓



Drinking Water Regulations



New Mexico's drinking water regulations (20.7.10 NMAC) follow the federal Safe Drinking Water Act

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2024



Photo Credit: Mark Stambaugh and Terry Yarborough

- 20.7.10.100 ADOPTION OF 40 CFR PART 141:**
- A. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the regulations of the USEPA set forth at 40 CFR 141.
 - B. The term "state" means the New Mexico environment department when used in this section.
- [20.7.10.100 NMAC - N, 12/04/2002; A, 04/16/2007; A, 10/15/2008; A, 10/28/2010; A, 01/06/2013]
- 20.7.10.101 ADOPTION OF 40 CFR PART 143:**
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Presented By





Drinking Water Regulations

New PFAS Drinking Water Regulations

Compound	MCL (enforceable)	MCL Goal
PFOA	4.0 ppt	zero
PFOS	4.0 ppt	zero
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (GenX)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mix of 2 or more: PFNA PFBS PFHxS HFPO-DA (GenX)	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index

MCL = maximum contaminant level

MCLG = maximum contaminant level goal (*non-enforceable*)

ppt = parts per trillion; equivalent to nanogram per liter (ng/L)



Drinking Water Regulations

New PFAS Drinking Water Regulations

Compound	MCL (enforceable)	MCL Goal
PFOA	4.0 ppt	zero
PFOS	4.0 ppt	zero

February 24, 2026 – “[T]he Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sent two proposed rules, which intend to change how the EPA will regulate PFAS, to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) within the Executive Office of the President. **These two proposed rules aim to extend the regulatory compliance deadline from 2029 to 2031 for two legacy PFAS and eliminate limits for four other PFAS.** The OMB review will ensure that the EPA has complied with regulatory principles and that the President’s policies and priorities are adequately reflected in the rule.” — *Assoc. State Drinking Water Admins.*

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE D.C. CIRCUIT

AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION, ET AL.,
Petitioners,

v.

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, ET AL.,
Respondents.

On Petition for Review of Actions by Environmental Protection Agency

RESPONDENTS’ MOTION FOR PARTIAL VACATUR

Dated: September 11, 2025

ADAM R.F. GUSTAFSON
Acting Assistant Attorney General

Of Counsel:

ROBERT STANDER
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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ppt = parts per trillion; equivalent to nanogram per liter (ng/L)



Drinking Water Regulations

New PFAS Drinking Water Regulations

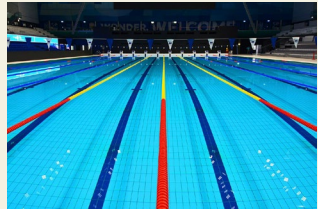
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Mix of 2 or more: PFNA PFBS PFHxS HFPO-DA (GenX)	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index	1.0 (unitless) Hazard Index

What is a ppt?

MCL = maximum contaminant level
MCLG = maximum contaminant level goal (*non-enforceable*)
ppt = parts per trillion; equivalent to nanogram per liter (ng/L)

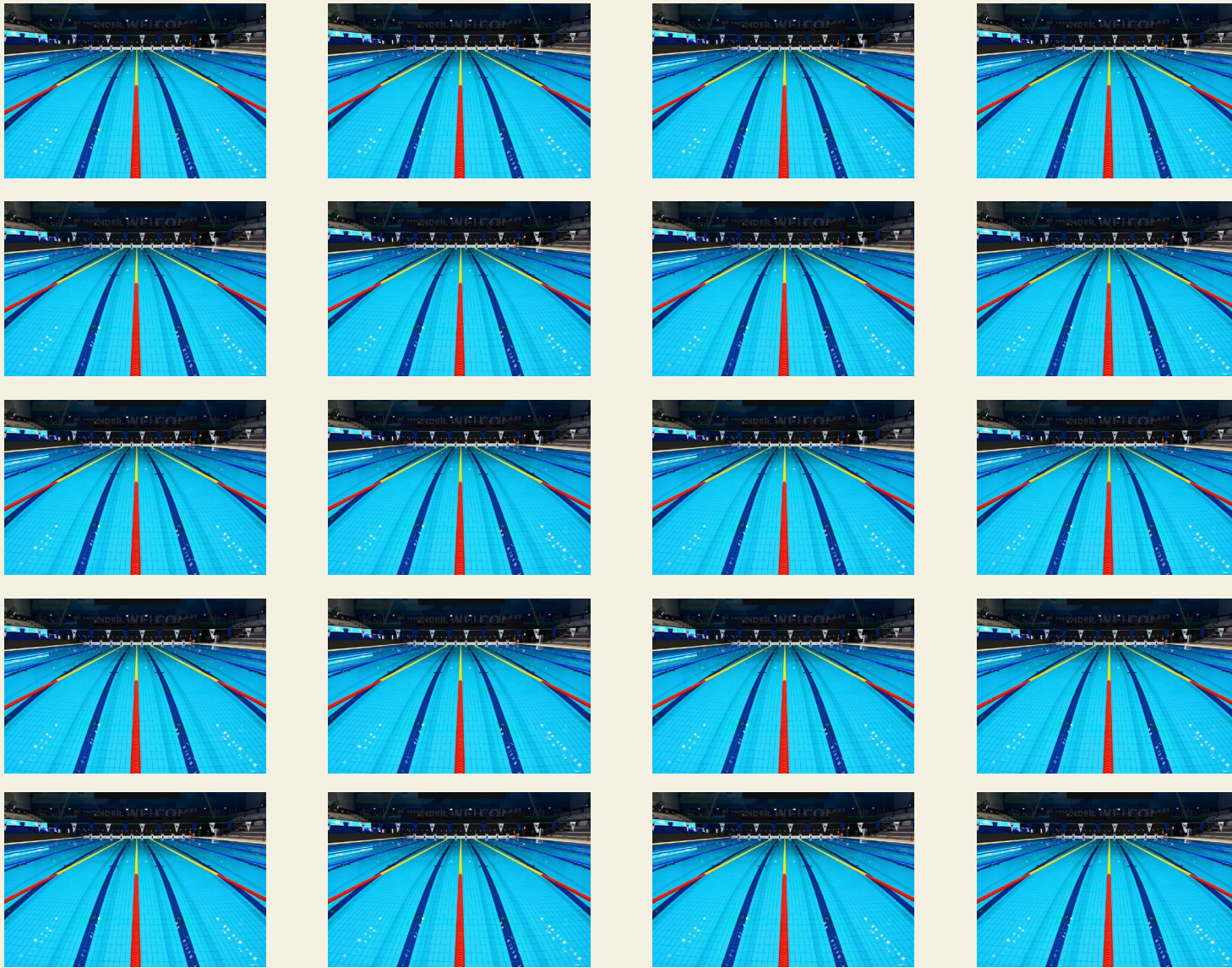


Drinking Water Regulations





Drinking Water Regulations





Drinking Water Regulations

→ 1 part per trillion (ppt) is about the same as a single drop of water in **20** Olympic-size swimming pools!

→ Certain PFAS chemicals are toxic at very low amounts when consumed regularly over a long period of time.

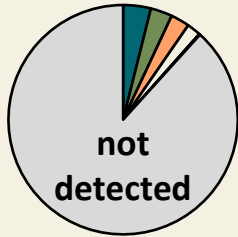


→ YES, it is worth it to reduce your exposure!



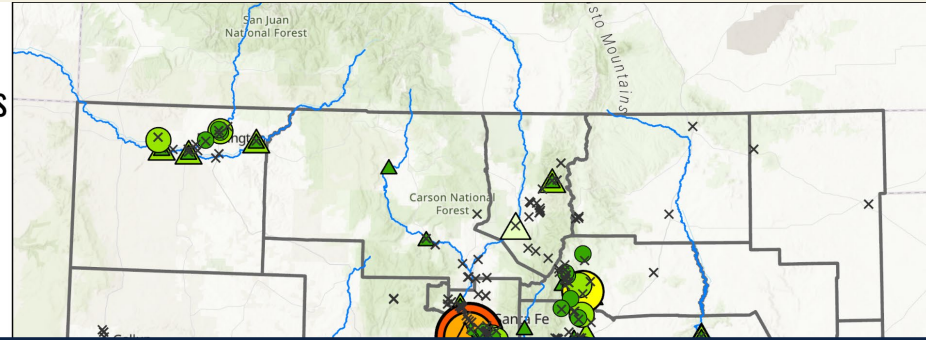
PFAS in New Mexico – Drinking Water Sources

Treated drinking water



- PFBS
- PFHxS
- PFOS
- PFOA
- PFNA
- GenX
- ND

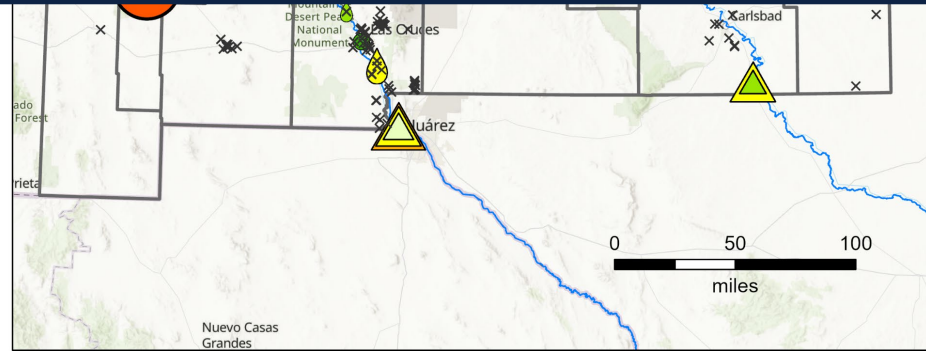
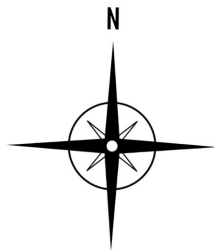
PFAS in
NM Source Waters
n = 1,808
2016–2026
ΣPFAS (ppt)

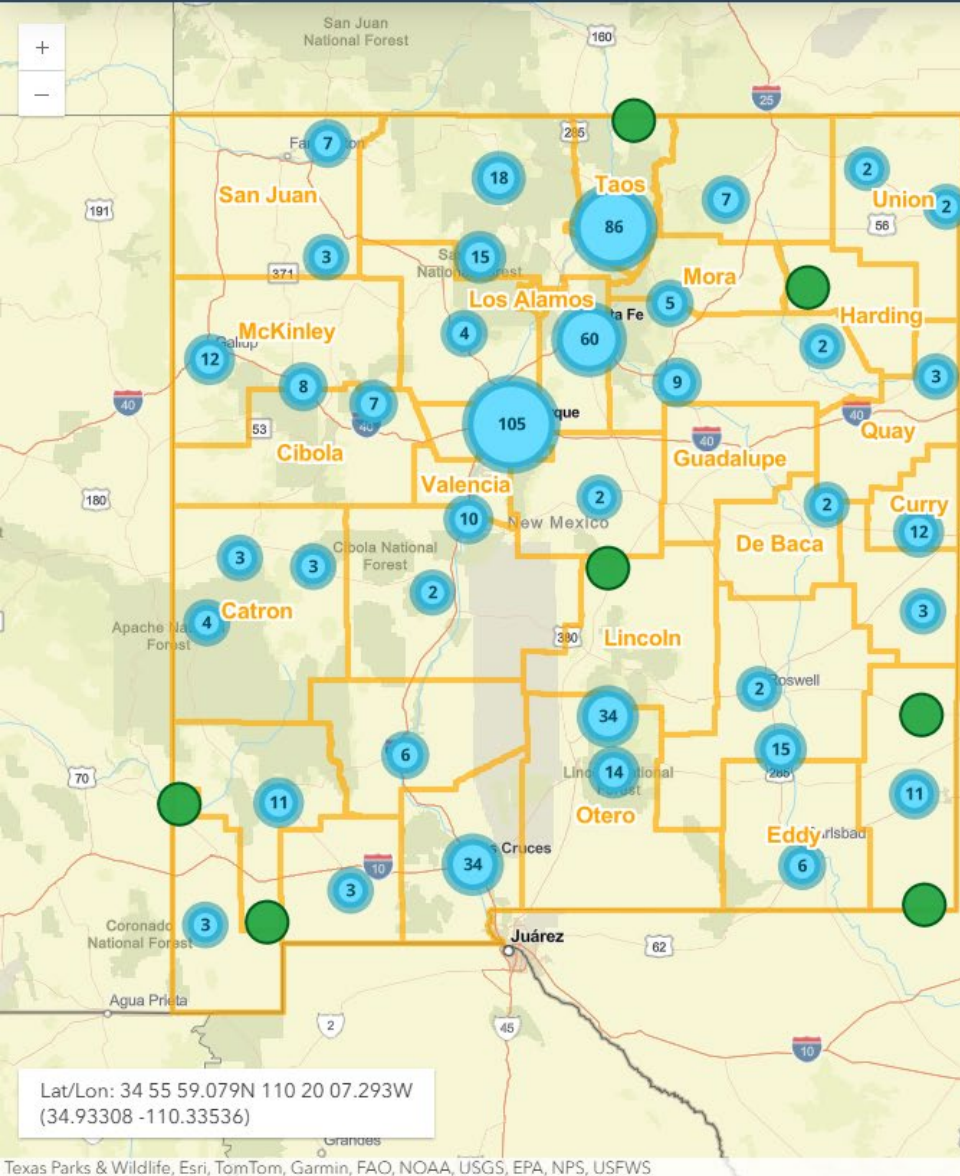


1. PFAS use history
2. Hydrogeologic conditions
3. Public or private DW (or both)



Colors = individual PFAS
Gray = not detected





Zoom To...

County

Show Counties on Map






Bernalillo

System

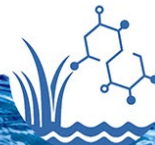
Labels

Abiquiu Elementary School

System Water Quality Status

-  Has exceedances
-  Has detections
-  No detections
-  Not tested
-  At this zoom level, nearby systems may be grouped into a single symbol.

Emerging Contaminants Program





PFAS Exposure

How can I reduce my exposure?

Water

- Contact your drinking water utility for PFAS results
 - New Mexico Drinking Water Watch:
 - <https://dww.water.net.env.nm.gov/NMDWW/>
- Private wells: submit a sample for testing (\$)
- Install treatment – PFAS can be *removed* from water
- Talk to your healthcare provider about PFAS



PFAS Summary



PFAS are a large family of human-made chemicals



Some PFAS have toxic effects when exposure occurs over long periods



New laws address PFAS in drinking water and commercial and industrial products



Exposure CAN be reduced!



Thank You!



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