



**EPA Update
Jay Pimpare
Regional Pretreatment Coordinator
EPA New England**

27th Annual EPA New England/NERPCA
Industrial Pretreatment Conference
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Outline

- Overview of ELG Program & Planning Process
- Effluent Guidelines (ELG) Program Plan 16
- Clean Water Act Analytical Methods
- PFAS Topics
- Annual Reports
- EPA Audits
- Awards



POWERING THE GREAT AMERICAN COMEBACK



Press Release: February 4, 2025

Pillar 1: **Clean** Air,
Land, and **Water** for
Every American

Pillar 2: Restore
American Energy
Dominance

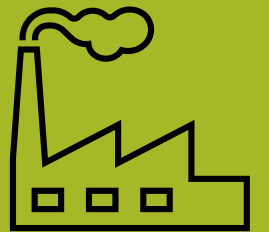
Pillar 3: Permitting
Reform, **Cooperative
Federalism**, and
Cross-Agency
Partnership

Pillar 4: Make the
United States the
Artificial Intelligence
Capital of the World

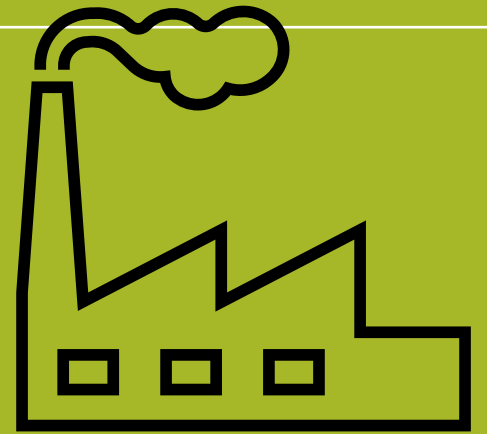
Pillar 5: Protecting
and Bringing Back
American Auto Jobs.

What are Effluent Guidelines?

- Effluent Guidelines are national regulatory standards for wastewater discharged to surface waters and municipal sewage treatment plants. EPA issues these regulations for industrial categories, based on the performance of **treatment and control technologies**.
- The Clean Water Act Section 304(m) requires EPA to annually review existing effluent guidelines and pretreatment standards to determine if revisions are warranted.
- The Clean Water Act does not describe what activities must be included in the review and EPA's current process has evolved over the years, incorporating feedback from the public on how best to conduct these reviews.
- EPA publishes the results of these reviews in the "ELG Plan":



Effluent Limitation Guidelines and Pretreatment Standards Background (ELGs)



October 2025:

To date, EPA has promulgated ELGs for **59** industrial point source categories. These ELGs apply:

35,000 - 45,000 facilities that discharge to surface waters (direct dischargers – NPDES Permits), as well as

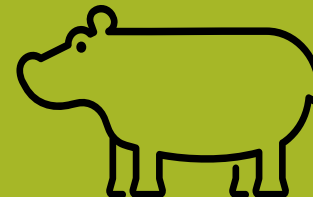
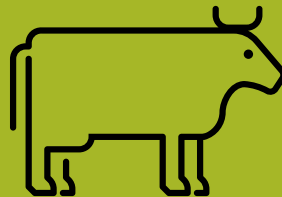
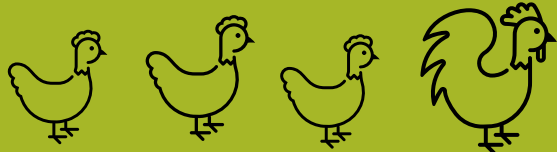
129,000 facilities that discharge to POTWs (indirect dischargers), in the United States.

The standards for indirect dischargers are implemented through pretreatment permits or other control mechanisms issued and enforced by POTWs, states, and EPA regional offices.

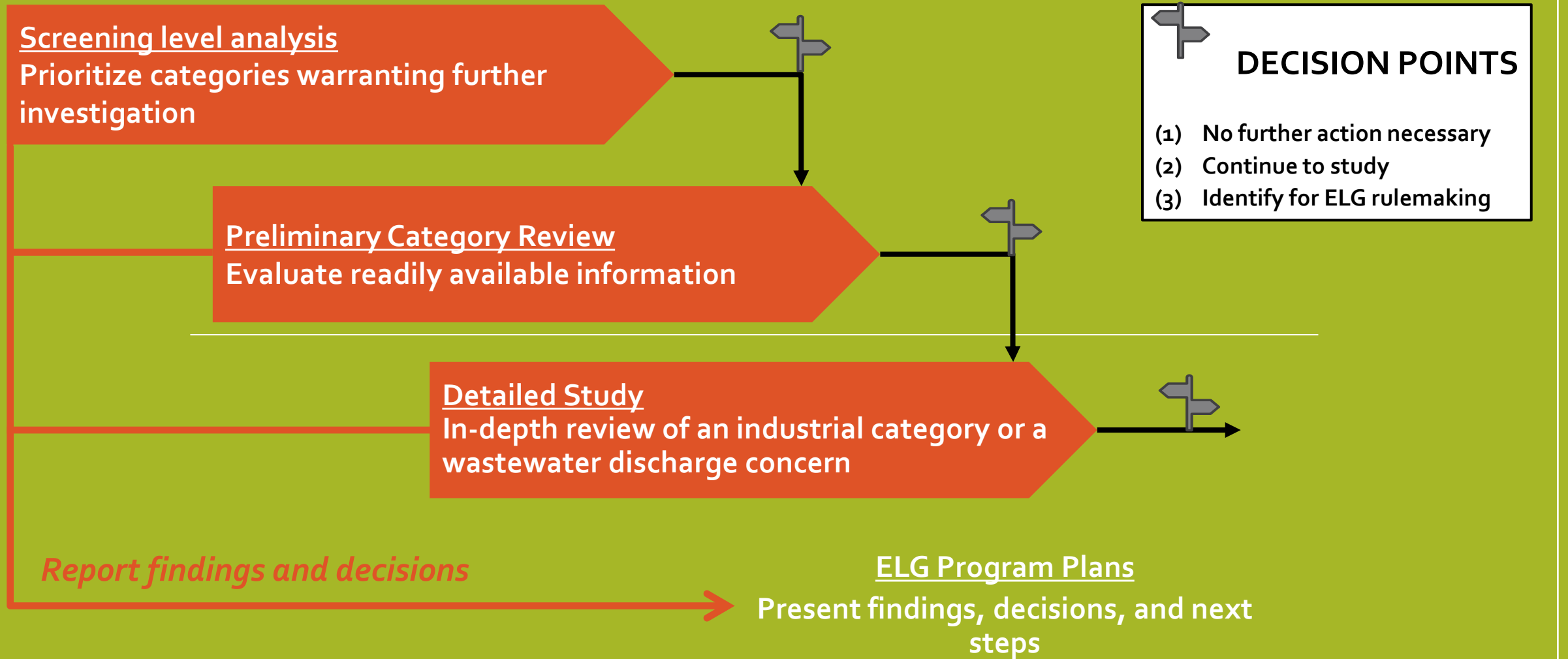
EPA has not established any national technology-based numeric standards for PFAS in industrial wastewater discharges and none of the current ELGs establish effluent limitations or pretreatment standards for PFAS.

What is an Effluent Guidelines Program Plan?

- To fulfill this requirement, EPA has implemented a two-year publication cycle for the ELG Program Plan:
 - Year 1: EPA publishes a *Preliminary ELG Program Plan* which includes: the results of the most recent annual review, announcements on new studies or rulemakings, and updates on existing studies and rulemaking. EPA solicits public input on the contents of this plan.
 - Year 2: EPA publishes the *ELG Program Plan*, which includes: feedback received on the preliminary plan, the results of the most recent annual review, announcements on new studies or rulemakings, and updates on existing studies and rulemaking.



Overview of ELG Planning Process & Review



Preliminary ELG Program Plan 16

December 18, 2024: EPA published Preliminary Plan 16 for a 30-day public comment period. 89 FR 102893

2022 and 2023 Annual Reviews: OWA approach

- Ranked all 59 industrial categories (existing ELGs) based on ordered weighted average methodology using multiple metrics: type & amount of pollutant discharges, size & scope of industry, age of ELG, potential for PFAS discharges, other emerging contaminants.

Preliminary Category Reviews

- Based on public comment and stakeholder input, EPA conducted category reviews for three industrial categories:
 1. Battery Manufacturing (40 CFR Part 461),
 2. Centralized Waste Treatment (CWT) (40 CFR Part 437) and
 3. Oil and Gas Extraction (40 CFR Part 435) Categories

Systematic Category Review Schedule

- EPA initiated a schedule to conduct preliminary category reviews through 2032 for 44 industrial categories that are not currently subject to an ongoing or recent rulemaking, detailed study, or preliminary review.
- Proposed schedule based on the year the ELGs were last promulgated or revised and grouped similar industries together to maximize efficiency.
- The published schedule may change based on public comments, stakeholder input, annual rankings, resource constraints, or other relevant information.

The commencement and pace for these activities will be a function of funding in FY25 and beyond.

Category	40 CFR Part	Year of Promulgation or Last Revision	Annual Review Proposal
Battery Manufacturing	461	1986	2023
Centralized Waste Treatment	437	2003	2023
Oil and Gas Extraction	435	2016	2023
Dairy Products Processing	405	1974	2024
Grain Mills	406	1974	2024
Soap and Detergent Manufacturing	417	1975	2024
Fertilizer Manufacturing	418	1975	2024
Phosphate Manufacturing	422	1974	2024
Asbestos Manufacturing	427	1975	2024
Coil Coating	465	1983	2024
Mineral Mining and Processing	436	1979	2025
Metal Molding and Casting (Foundries)	464	1985	2025
Nonferrous Metals Forming and Metal Powders	471	1989	2025
Copper Forming	468	1986	2025
Aluminum Forming	467	1988	2025
Ore Mining and Dressing (Hard Rock Mining)	440	1988	2025
Coal Mining	434	2002	2025

- **New studies:**

- **Battery Manufacturing Detailed Study**, to better understand the current industry profile (types of battery manufacturing & recycling operations) and pollutant discharges that will inform whether ELG revisions are warranted.
- **Centralized Waste Treatment (CWT) Detailed Study**, to better understand the current pollutant sources, discharges, and treatments that will inform whether ELG revisions are warranted.
- **Study of the Agricultural and Wildlife Water Use O&G Subcategory**, to evaluate produced waters discharges under the agricultural and wildlife use subcategory, possibly including PFAS investigation and regulations and state permits and pretreatment coordination.
- **PFAS Processors Detailed Study**, to better understand PFAS processing facilities that receive PFAS-containing feedstocks and determine if ELG revisions are necessary.

Preliminary Plan 16 announces EPA's intent to develop a generic Information Collection Request (ICR) for collecting effluent data from multiple industrial categories.

The commencement and pace for these activities will be a function of funding in FY25 and beyond.

Updates

- on previously announced rulemakings for the following categories:
 - **Meat and Poultry Products** (40 CFR part 432)
 - **Metal Finishing** (40 CFR part 433) & **Electroplating** (40 CFR part 413)
 - **Organic Chemicals, Plastics, and Synthetic Fibers** (40 CFR part 414)
 - **Landfills** (40 CFR part 445)
 - **Steam Electric Power Generating Category** (40 CFR part 423)
- on three ongoing studies:
 - **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) Category** (40 CFR part 412)
 - **Textile Mills Category** (40 CFR part 410): 1st ICR FRN published in Nov 2023, 2nd ICR FRN published in September 2024.
 - **POTW Influent PFAS Study**: 1st ICR FRN published in March 2024, 2nd ICR FRN published in October 2024.
- Updates on ongoing monitoring of PFAS discharges from airports that use AFFF and to monitor the industry's transition to fluorine-free foam, and from **pulp and paper facilities** that have transitioned to PFAS-free additives in their products.
- Updates on CWA Analytical Methods development, including an intro to a voluntary form to facilitate stakeholder input to help the EPA inform selection of future CWA analytical methods.
- *The commencement and pace for these activities will be a function of funding in FY25 and beyond.*

Administrator Zeldin's April 28, 2025, Announcement: Major EPA Actions to Combat PFAS Contamination

Guiding Principles:

- Strengthening the Science – includes test method improvement
- **Fulfilling Statutory Obligations and Enhancing Communication –**
 - ELGs, NPDWRs, RCRA authorities, TRI, CWA & TSCA,
- Building Partnerships
- A Record of Leadership
 - ... Polluter Pays Model ... Source Control ...

Press Release Link: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/administrator-zeldin-announces-major-epa-actions-combat-pfas-contamination>

Meat and Poultry Products Effluent Guidelines Final Action WITHDRAWN

- Facilities covered: All meat first processors (slaughterhouses), meat further processors that generate more than 6,000 pounds per day of finished products (examples: bacon or sausage)
- Independent renderers of meat and poultry products that use more than 10 million pounds per year of raw material
- On August 28, 2025, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin signed a final action to withdraw a 2024 proposed rule that would have revised effluent limitations guidelines and established certain new pretreatment standards for the MPP industry. The EPA's withdrawal reduces future compliance costs for this vital American industry and helps support affordable food prices and cost of living.

Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category

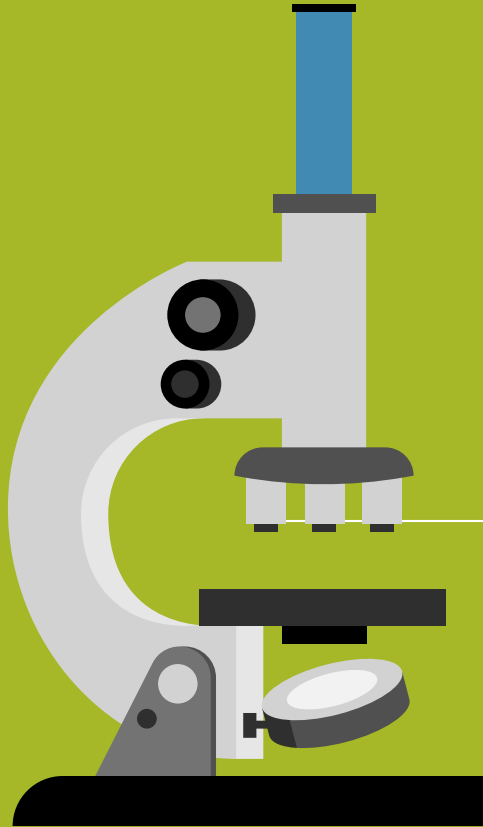
- Deadline Extensions

- With this action, the EPA is extending compliance deadlines for the **effluent limitations guidelines (ELGs)** that apply to coal-fired power plants. This will allow facilities to respond to increases in demand and provide energy reliability for Americans. At the same time, the EPA will gather more information on implementation of the ELGs to evaluate feasibility and ensure a practical approach to protecting water resources while meeting critical energy demand.

The EPA estimates that the proposal would reduce costs by approximately \$30 million to \$200 million per year.

- On October 14, 2025, the EPA hosted a webinar for the public about the proposed rule and companion direct final rule. The agency will host another on November 12, 2025.

CWA Analytical Methods – PFAS 1633 and 1621



- Published in January 2024;
- Proposed for inclusion in 40 CFR 136 in [MUR 22, January 21, 2025. 90 FR 6967](#)
- **Method 1633A for 40 PFAS compounds**
 - Result of a collaboration between the EPA and the Department of Defense.
 - A method to test for 40 PFAS compounds in wastewater, surface water, groundwater, soil, biosolids, sediment, landfill leachate, and fish tissue.
 - Now validated by a multi-laboratory study for use in wastewater.
 - This method can be used in various applications, including NPDES permits.
 - The method supports NPDES implementation by providing a consistent PFAS method that has been tested in a wide variety of wastewaters and contains all the required quality control elements in CWA method.
- **Method 1621 for Adsorbable Organic Fluorine (AOF)**
 - A multi-laboratory validated method to screen for organofluorines in wastewaters and surface waters by Combustion Ion Chromatography (CIC).

CWA Analytical Methods – Methods Update Rule 22

EPA proposed **Methods Update Rule (MUR)**, [MUR 22, January 21, 2025, 90 FR 6967](#)

Proposing three new methods into 40 CFR Part 136: 2 PFAS & 1 PCB

EPA Method 1628: an analytical method capable of measuring all 209 PCB congeners.

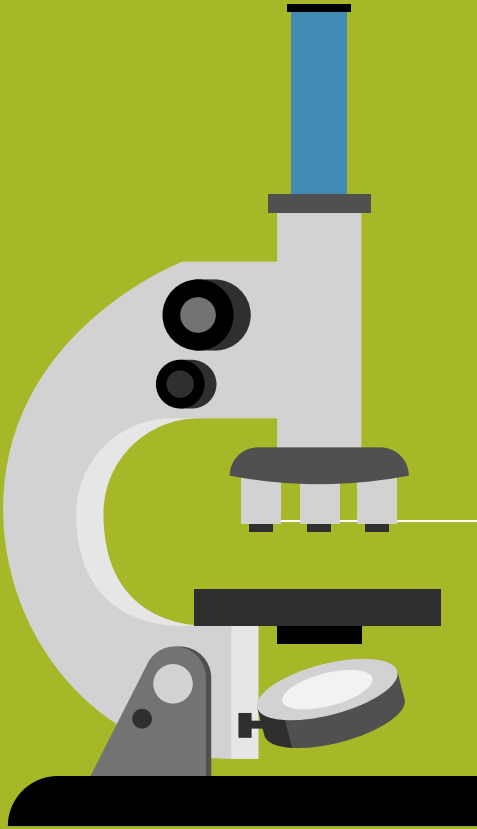
Proposes to codify analytical methods developed by Voluntary Consensus Standard Bodies (VCSB) as is consistent with the National Technology Transfer Act. These analytical methods include:

ASTM D8421 measuring the same 40 PFAS compounds as EPA Method 1633A.

Standard Method 4500-PAA measuring peracetic acid.

Standard Method 4500-H₂O₂ measuring hydrogen peroxide.

This action also proposes to: withdraw the existing EPA methods for measuring seven Aroclors (PCB mixtures); simplify sampling requirements for two volatile organic compounds, acrolein and acrylonitrile, and make a series of minor corrections to existing tables of approved methods.



E-Rule – 40 CFR Part 127

- POTWs with an approved pretreatment program
40 CFR 403.12(i)
- Pretreatment annual reports to the Approval Authority documenting program status and activities performed during the previous year. December 2025 Deadline
- SIUs & CIUs with State/EPA as Control Authority
40 CFR 403.12(e) & (h)
- SIU/CIUs must submit a report on their compliance status at least semiannually (once every 6 months).

Addressing PFAS Discharges in NPDES Permits and Through the Pretreatment Program and Monitoring Programs – Dec.

2022

Recommendations for Publicly Owned Treatment Works

Establish universe upstream & downstream

- Conduct IU inventory of PFAS industries, including non-SIUs
- Collaborate with drinking water to determine downstream intakes
- Consider sludge disposal goals

Develop sampling plan

- Use method 1633 in conjunction with 1621
- Include IUs identified in PFAS inventory
- Select collection system monitoring locations to differentiate industrial vs. domestic influent contributions where possible
- Frequency recommendation: quarterly

Implement solutions

- Incorporate monitoring requirements into IU control mechanisms
- Incorporate local limits into IU control mechanisms
- Local limits can be BMPs
- Ensure IUs are in ICIS and submitting data electronically
- Notify affected public water suppliers

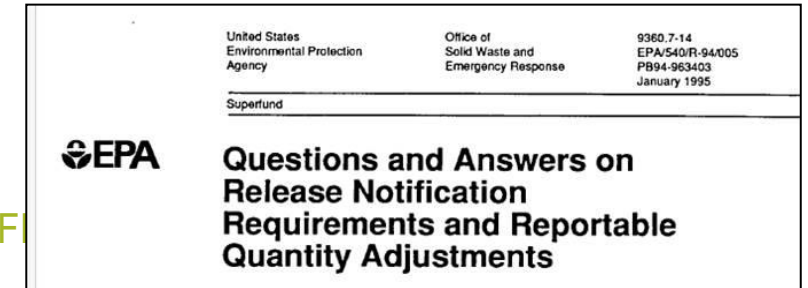
NPDES Permit Requirement

- Beginning the first full calendar year after the effective date of the permit, the Permittee shall conduct or require annual sampling of the following types of industrial discharges into the POTW:
 - **COMMERCIAL CAR WASHES**
 - Platers/Metal Finishers
 - • Paper and Packaging Manufacturers
 - • Tanneries and Leather/Fabric/Carpet Treaters
 - • Manufacturers of Parts with Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or teflon type coatings (e.g., bearings)
 - • Landfill Leachate
 - • Centralized Waste Treaters
 - • Known or Suspected PFAS Contaminated Sites
 - • Fire Fighting Training Facilities
 - • Airports
 - • Any Other Known or Expected Sources of PFAS

Sampling shall be conducted using **Method 1633** for the PFAS analytes listed in Attachment E

FYI – Other PFAS Activities – around EPA

- CERCLA – PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substance
 - Published May 8, 2024, 89 FR 39124
- RCRA – Proposal to list 9 PFAS as haz constituents
 - Published February 8, 2024, 89 FR 8606
- 3 TSCA Actions–
 - “Active-Inactive Rule” or “Significant New Use Rule” - January 11, 2024, 89 FR 1000
 - PFOA, PFNA, PFDA formed during fluorination of Plastic Containers
 - Granted Petition to begin TSCA Section 6 actions - Letter dated July 10, 2024
 - Request for Comment on Risk Management – September 30, 2024, 89 FR 79581
- Research
 - EPA Awards \$15 Million for Research on PFAS Exposure and Reduction in Agriculture – Sept 2024
 - EPA Awards Nearly \$1.5 Million to Clarkson University to Develop and Demonstrate Technology to Detect and Degrade PFAS – Aug 2024
- EPCRA (Toxic Release Inventory) Reporting - Nearly 200 PFAS are subject to reporting to TRI for reporting year 2024. October 2024 proposal to a 16 individual and 15 categories of PFAS to be required to be reported beginning in 2025.



EPA Webpages of Interest

<https://www.ecfr.gov/>

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes>

<https://www.epa.gov/npdes/national-pretreatment-program>

<https://echo.epa.gov/>

Clean Water Needs Survey

<https://www.epa.gov/cwns>

Region 1 Audits Completed 2025

► FY2025 - Performed 12 Audits Completed

Massachusetts

South Hadley

Ware

Westborough

Northampton

Gardner

Springfield

Haverhill

Plymouth

Brockton

Montague

New Hampshire

Concord (NH DES)

Dover

FY 26 Audit Projections

Massachusetts

New Bedford

Erving

MWRA Deer Island

Palmer

Lynn

New Hampshire

Concord

Merrimack

North Attleboro

Great Barrington

MWRA Clinton

Webster

Milford

Pending Approval of POTW IPP's

- ▶ Portsmouth, NH - Pease NH0109000
- ▶ Portsmouth, NH - Peirce Island
NH0100234
- ▶ Northbridge, MA MA0100722

New Hampshire Update

- ▶ Working on statute change that will make the state's pretreatment program's authority clearer.
 - ▶ Once statute change goes through, the rule rewriting process can restart.
- ▶ Almost a full year of electronic annual reports collected.
- ▶ 2026 will be the final year for funding for leachate treatment for PFAS.

Annual Industrial Pretreatment Program Awards

Vendor Introduction

Questions?

Justin Pimpare
EPA New England
Pimpare.justin@epa.gov