

INDUSTRIAL WASTE DIVISION OF
MONITORING AND RESEARCH
NEWSLETTER

Summer 2022

**Metropolitan Water Reclamation
District of Greater Chicago**

Monitoring and Research Department
100 East Erie Street, Chicago, IL 60611

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The MWRD is closely following the developing science regarding potential impacts of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other emerging contaminants that end up at our water reclamation plants (WRPs). MWRD staff have been engaging in technical working groups and industry associations to understand the latest science, best practices, and regulatory outlook.

We are also contributing to several national studies of the Water Research Foundation (WRF) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to better understand the risks and impacts of PFAS and other contaminants by providing wastewater and biosolids samples.

The MWRD has taken the following actions to better understand PFAS in our service area:

- Sampled and analyzed PFAS in selected residential segments of MWRD's collection system, representing non-industrial inputs to our WRPs.
- Distributed the "Industrial Waste Division PFAS Initiative Screening Evaluation Survey" to 331 Significant Industrial Users (SIU) in the MWRD's service area. A total of 104 SIUs responded with completed surveys, for a response rate of 31%. Almost all respondents reported that they do not use, produce or discharge PFAS chemicals.
- Provided in-kind support and sampling for a WRF national study investigating management strategies to prevent PFAS from entering water supplies and wastewater. The project aims to gather utility data and fill data gaps to help characterize the PFAS signature associated with different known industrial point sources in the collection system.

Next steps include:

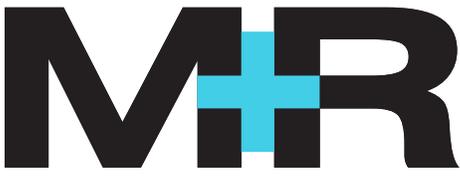
1. PFAS sampling in MWRD intercepting sewers that service industrial areas.
2. Initial outreach/inspections of industries most likely to use/discharge PFAS.
3. Industry partnerships to investigate alternate processes and chemicals as substitutes for PFAS.
4. Direct regulation of industry under provisions of SWCO and CWA (40 CFR 403). USEPA indicated that they would develop effluent limit guidelines for PFAS for nine industrial source categories. Proposed rules for the Organic Chemicals, Plastics and Synthetic Fibers category are expected in 2023 and for the Metal Finishing and Electroplating category in 2024.

On October 18, 2021, the USEPA released its PFAS Strategic Roadmap (Roadmap) which outlines regulatory and administrative actions and enforcement approaches that USEPA intends to take using existing authorities to address PFAS throughout the environment. The Roadmap establishes timelines for actions and goals to proactively restrict release of PFAS in the environment, invest in research and innovation to understand the impact of PFAS in the environment and approaches to control, and to broaden and accelerate cleanup of PFAS contamination. For more information on the USEPA Roadmap as well as other PFAS resources visit their website at: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

The MWRD encourages Industrial Users to stay informed about the latest developments in PFAS regulations that may impact your operations in the near future. Act now to better understand and characterize potential PFAS in your wastestreams and consider the following actions:

- Inventory your products and review the safety data sheets for PFAS. Ask your supplier directly if you're not sure whether or not products contain PFAS.
- Ask your suppliers if they have PFAS-free product alternatives and can provide PFAS-free certification.
- Properly dispose of any PFAS-containing products that are no longer being used. Rather than dumping them down the drain, contact a waste disposal contractor to assist with destruction of PFAS-containing products.
- If your processes use PFAS and discharge to the sewer is necessary, consider collecting a sample of the effluent to determine if pretreatment may be needed. There are treatment systems on the market that can be installed to greatly reduce the PFAS load to MWRD WRPs.
- If applicable, develop an in-house training program to educate your employees on the importance of managing PFAS from your industrial activities at the source.





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CONTINUED COMPLIANCE REPORTS (RD-115)			
40 CFR	Industrial Category	First	Second
403	Non-Categorical	6/1	12/1
410	Textile Mills	3/2	9/2
413	Electroplating	4/27	10/27
414	Organic Chemicals, Plastics, Synthetic Fibers	5/5	11/5
415	Inorganic Chemicals Manufacturing	2/12	8/12
417	Soap and Detergent Manufacturing	6/10	12/10
419	Petroleum Refining	6/1	12/1
420	Iron and Steel Manufacturing	1/10	7/10
421	Nonferrous Metals Manufacturing	3/9	9/9
423	Steam Electric Power Generating	1/1	7/1
425	Leather Tanning and Finishing	5/25	11/25
430	Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard	1/1	7/1
433	Metal Finishing	2/15	8/15
437	Centralized Waste Treatment	6/22	12/22
439	Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	4/27	10/27
442	Transportation Equipment Cleaning	2/14	8/14
455	Pesticide Chemicals	4/4	10/4
463	Plastic Molding and Forming	1/30	7/30
464	Metal Molding and Casting	4/30	10/30
465	Coil Coating	6/1	12/1
466	Porcelain Enameling	5/25	11/25
467	Aluminum Forming	4/24	10/24
468	Copper Forming	2/15	8/15
469	Electrical and Electronic Components	1/14	7/14

Reminders and Updates

- Please use the following address for submitting the Final Compliance (RD-114) and Continued Compliance (RD-115) forms:

**Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
Industrial Waste Division - Pretreatment and Cost Recovery Section**

USPS delivery

Post Office Box 10689
Chicago, Illinois 60610

All other deliveries

**111 East Erie Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611**

- Hexavalent chromium (Cr+6) is required to be collected and analyzed as a 24-hour composite sample, instead of grab sample. Please read the "Change in Monitoring Requirements for Discharge Authorization" article found in the Summer 2021 newsletter for more information. This newsletter can be found at mwr.org.

- Due to staff changes, account contacts for the PTCR Section have been revised. In this newsletter, please see the table listing the contact information of the PTCR Environmental Specialists. The revised staff changes are effective September 9, 2022.
- Users that are required to report based on mass based limits should receive correspondences from the District regarding the use of a conversion factor of 3.785. All Discharge Authorizations (DAs) that are mass based are being amended to reflect the uniform conversion factors. The Special Condition Calculation of Mass Loading in the DA will be amended using the conversion factor of 3.785 liters per gallon.

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