

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 16, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

I write to you today regarding reports that your Agency is withholding a scientific assessment on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and a growing pattern of interference with the Agency's scientific work, especially towards the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) program. A recent article¹ states that the EPA is delaying the release of a report on a PFAS compound called Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA) that was due out in April of this year.

The delay in issuing the PFNA report coincided with EPA's decision, in May of this year, to rescind some PFAS Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, one of which happens to be PFNA. This seems to be more than coincidence given that there has been strong industry pushback on regulating PFAS. The Trump Administration, Republicans in Congress, and industry have been hostile to the IRIS program which conducts these assessments. IRIS has consistently been a target with repeated attempts to weaken or dismantle its ability to perform independent scientific reviews of chemicals, like PFNA.

We both know that PFAS poses a significant public health threat to our water, food supply, and farming communities. It is necessary to take steps to combat PFAS contamination, yet this delay and erosion of capacity directly contradict your repeated public statements about both transparency and the need for strong, science-based PFAS policies. You recently announced the PFAS OUTreach Initiative² to help protect communities and ensure water systems are in compliance with PFAS drinking water standards by providing resources, tools, and technical assistance. But by not releasing this report you are limiting the Agency's ability to provide that assistance and ultimately protect communities from PFAS contamination.

I request clear answers to the following:

1. Why has the PFNA toxicity assessment not been released? Who directed its delay?
2. Have IRIS staff been reassigned or reduced under your leadership, if so, why?
3. When will you commit to releasing the PFNA assessment publicly and ensuring that future IRIS reports are published without political interference?

¹ <https://www.propublica.org/article/epa-pfna-forever-chemical-report>

² <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/trump-epa-announces-next-steps-regulatory-pfoa-and-pfos-cleanup-efforts-provides>

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter that concerns the health of millions of Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chellie R", followed by a horizontal line.

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related
Agencies