

# July 2025 National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) Meeting Summary

## Overview

EPA convened NDWAC to gather input on two proposed PFAS regulatory actions:

1. Extending compliance deadlines for Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for PFOA and PFOS.
2. Rescinding and reconsidering the MCLs for four additional PFAS chemicals and the Hazard Index.

The July 28, 2025, meeting drew nearly 400 attendees and lasted over three hours. It featured public comment from 19 speakers followed by NDWAC consultation.

## Public Comment Highlights

### Opposition to Proposed Rollbacks

**Majority stance:** 15 of 19 speakers opposed both the delay and rescission proposals.

#### Key concerns raised:

- Violations of the Safe Drinking Water Act's anti-backsliding provisions.
- Increased public health risks and long-term infrastructure and healthcare costs.
- Loss of public trust and perceived capitulation to chemical industry interests.
- Personal testimony: Several speakers shared deeply emotional stories about health impacts from PFAS exposure, including deaths of family and community members.

### Support for Rollbacks

**Minority stance:** Four speakers, representing industry and trade associations (e.g., Chamber of Commerce, AMWA, National Association of Manufacturers), supported the proposed changes.

#### Key reasons cited:

- Economic and operational challenges for water utilities.
- Scientific concerns with the Hazard Index and regulatory process.
- Desire for regulatory alignment with international standards and more flexible timelines.

## NDWAC Consultation: Compliance Deadline Extension

**Predominant View:** Most NDWAC members opposed extending the deadline, citing ongoing health risks from PFAS exposure.

**Acknowledged Challenges:**

- Small water systems face technical and financial hurdles, including limited lab capacity and high treatment costs.
- Disposal of treatment residuals and cross-state contamination complicate compliance.
- Funding constraints amid proposed cuts to State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and limited IJJA resources.

**Alternative Measures Discussed:**

- Source control strategies and interim filtration measures were raised but seen as insufficient substitutes for enforceable deadlines.

## **NDWAC Consultation: Rescission of Additional PFAS MCLs and Hazard Index**

**Uniform Opposition:** NDWAC members were nearly unanimous in opposing rescission and reconsideration of the four additional PFAS MCLs and Hazard Index.

**Key Concerns:**

- Rescission would erode public trust and delay urgently needed health protections.
- Potential violations of anti-backsliding provisions under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Confusion for utilities and consumers from a “two-track” regulatory approach.
- Rising long-term costs if PFAS regulation is weakened or delayed.

**Notable Comments:**

- Several members criticized the exclusion of two council members from participating.
- Others noted rescission would not reduce PFAS concentrations and urged EPA to let legal challenges play out in court rather than roll back standards.

## **Additional Themes**

- Broader concerns about PFAS contamination pathways, including landfill leachate and food packaging.
- Recognition that upstream source control is helpful but not a substitute for drinking water MCLs.
- Calls for EPA to proactively support small and rural utilities in pursuing funding and compliance solutions.

## **Next Steps**

EPA will consider NDWAC’s feedback in its rulemaking process. **EPA staff reaffirmed that proposed actions are expected to be published in fall 2025, with final decisions anticipated by spring 2026.**