



# HRA HOT TAKE:

## APRIL 10, EPA ANNOUNCED DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR PFAS HOW ABOUT STOPPING PFAS POLLUTION AT THE SOURCE?

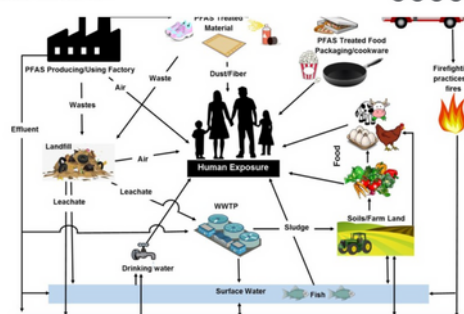
This is a major step in the long struggle by communities across America to get regulatory action on these industrial "forever chemicals" that pose significant health risks, including cancer. The Haw River has been one of the most contaminated by PFAS in North Carolina. Maximum contaminant levels will be set for 5 types of PFAS, plus a limit on combined levels.

All public water systems have three years to complete their initial monitoring for these chemicals and must inform the public of the level of PFAS measured in their drinking water. If PFAS levels exceed these standards, solutions to reduce PFAS must be implemented within five years.

### Burlington will curb PFAS discharges, per legal settlement with Haw River Assembly

Elevate Textiles, one of the city's industrial customers, agrees into install new technology, phase out use of compound in some production lines

BY LISA SORG - AUGUST 2, 2023 2:18 PM



There are 10,000 types of PFAS from a variety of sources, including the textile and chemical industries. (Illustration: EnviroScience Inc.)

Levels of toxic PFAS in Burlington's wastewater have decreased more than 6,000% over the past three years and are expected to decline further, the result of a settlement agreement between the City and the Haw River Assembly finalized this week.

**OUR LEGAL WORK WITH THE SOUTHERN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CENTER IS HOLDING POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE AND ENFORCING THE CLEAN WATER ACT.**



### PFAS POLLUTERS NEED TO BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

The Haw River Assembly welcomes this news to protect drinking water, but we continue to push for enforceable standards to stop PFAS pollution at the source before it gets into drinking water. We urge the North Carolina General Assembly to support legislation to stop PFAS discharges and require polluters to pay for cleanups - goals set out in the [NC DEQ Action Strategy for PFAS in 2022](#).



The burden of preventing PFAS from contaminating our waters and communities must be on the polluting industries. Read more about the impact of EPA's decision in [NC NEWSLINE by Lisa Sorg](#)

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## Settlement reached to control Burlington's PFAS pollution into the Haw River

Novel investigation leads to significant reduction of Burlington PFAS pollution

[HRA and the SELC successfully settled with the City of Burlington in 2023](#), showing that municipalities can and should hold polluters accountable, *before* the PFAS pollution can reach the wastewater treatment plants.