



**Report on the Chemical Regulation Process
Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)
September 2026**

Summary of findings:

- Total number of unique chemical and chemical group listings on the CCL: 209¹
 - The breakdown of contaminant listings, including repeats:
 - CCL 1 (1998): 60 contaminants (50 chemicals, 10 microbes)
 - CCL 2 (2005): 51 contaminants (42 chemicals, 9 microbes)
 - CCL 3 (2009): 116 contaminants (103 chemicals, 1 chemical group, 12 microbes)
 - CCL 4 (2016): 109 contaminant listings (96 chemicals, 1 chemical group, 12 microbes)
 - CCL 5 (2022): 81 contaminant listings (66 chemicals, 3 chemical groups, 12 microbes)
 - CCL 6 (2026) (in progress): 88 contaminant listings (75 chemicals, 4 chemical groups, 9 microbes)
 - Size of CCL across cycles (CCL 1–6; 1998–2026):
 - Lowest at 42 chemicals in 2005 (CCL 2)
 - High of 104 chemicals in 2009 (CCL 3)
 - Intermediate totals of 50 (1998, CCL 1), 97 (2016, CCL 4), 69 (2022, CCL 5), and 75 (2026, CCL 6)
 - Persistence of chemicals across CCL cycles:
 - 3 chemicals appear on 6 CCLs
 - 1 chemical appears on 5 CCLs
 - 25 chemicals appear on 4 CCLs
 - 22 chemicals appear on 3 CCLs
 - 108 chemicals appear on 2 CCLs
 - 50 chemicals appear on 1 CCL
 - Chemicals listed on the CCL that have progressed to final, enforceable regulation under the SDWA: PFOA and PFOS (2 of 209 chemicals)²

¹ Because contaminants are often carried forward from one CCL to the next, the total of unique chemicals and chemical groups is 209. This number is taken from the listings on the tables presented on each respective [CCL page](#). For chemical groups which refer to more than one chemical substance, the EPA may specifically outline the relevant congeners in the technical support documents found on the website. This is true for disinfection byproducts (DBPs), but it is not true for other chemical groups such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and cyanotoxins. There is more on this in the Notes column of each chemical or chemical group. From all six iterations of the CCL, the chemical groups are as follows: Disinfection byproducts (DBPs), Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), Microplastics, Pharmaceuticals, Cyanotoxins, Organotins, Alachlor ESA & other acetanilide pesticide degradation products, and Triazines & degradation products of triazines.

² On March 14, 2023, EPA [announced](#) the proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, PFHxS, PFBS). PFOA and PFOS have followed the standard regulation

- Total number of unique chemicals on the UCMR: 122
 - Across the five UCMRs, seven chemicals appeared twice.³
 - The breakdown of contaminant listings, including repeats:
 - UCMR 1 (Issued 1999): 24 contaminants (23 chemicals, 1 microbes)
 - UCMR 2 (Issued 2007): 25 contaminants (all are chemicals)
 - UCMR 3 (Issued 2012): 30 contaminants (28 chemicals and two viruses)
 - UCMR 4 (Issued 2016): 30 contaminants (all are chemicals) (9 cyanotoxins and 1 cyanotoxin group; 2 metals; 9 pesticides; 3 brominated haloacetic acid disinfection byproducts groups, 3 alcohols, and 3 semivolatile organic chemicals)
 - UCMR 5 (Issued 2021): 30 contaminants (all are chemicals) (29 PFAS and lithium)
 - Total number of chemicals on the UCMR which have received a regulatory determination (RD): 31⁴
- Total number of chemicals on RD announcements: 42
 - Total number of chemicals with final regulatory determinations on RD announcements: 41
 - The breakdown of contaminant listings:
 - RD 1 (2003): 9 contaminants (8 chemicals, 1 microbe)
 - RD 2 (2005): 12 contaminants (all are chemicals, but perchlorate was not given a final determination at the time)
 - Perchlorate has its own RD notice (2011)
 - RD 3 (2016): 5 contaminants (all are chemicals, but strontium's final determination was delayed and remains indefinite)
 - RD 4 (2021): 8 contaminants (all are chemicals)
 - RD 5 (2026): 9 contaminants (all are chemicals)
 - Determinations to regulate: 3 total contaminants
 - From the official and standard RD cycles, RD 4 had the only positive determinations, PFOA and PFOS⁵

cycle from the CCL → (UCMR) → RD, culminating in final NPDWR. The four other PFAS fall under the structural definition of the PFAS chemical group from the CCL 5 and CCL 6, although they were not individually listed on the CCL. PFBS, PFHxS, and PFNA have appeared on the UCMR, but these PFAS chemicals did not receive an explicit regulatory determination.

³ The repeat chemicals include: acetochlor, perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

⁴ The process for the EPA's development of drinking water regulations or lack thereof begins with inclusion on the CCL, monitoring (typically through the UCMR), and then a final regulatory determination (with an RD notice, usually during the RD cycle). Of these 31 chemicals, 30 of them followed this process and ended with negative determinations. Manganese is a special case, as it received a negative determination on RD 1, but then appeared on the UCMR 4.

⁵ A 'positive' determination initiates the regulatory process toward developing enforceable standards, while a 'negative' determination indicates that regulation is not warranted based on the best available evidence at the time. Importantly, negative determinations are not permanent; they may be revisited as new toxicological data, occurrence data, or improved analytical methods become available. One implication of this is that contaminants may reappear on subsequent CCLs after receiving a prior negative determination. For example, 2,6-dinitrotoluene received a formal 'no regulation required' determination in July 2008 (Regulatory Determination 2), but was later included

- As previously mentioned, perchlorate received a positive determination via its own RD announcement on the Federal Register, out-of-cycle⁶
- All other contaminants from RD announcements have received negative final regulatory determinations (excluding strontium, so a total of 38 contaminants)

Table. “EPA's Drinking Water Contaminant Regulatory Development Actions”

An updated and amended version of Table 3 from [this Congressional Report](#) on “Regulating Contaminants Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)”

	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Sixth
Contaminant Candidate List (CCL)	1998	2005	2009	2016	2022	2026
Total	60 contaminants (50 chemicals)	51 contaminants (42 chemicals)	116 contaminants (103 chemicals, 1 chemical group)	109 contaminant listings (96 chemicals, 1 chemical group)	81 contaminant listings (66 chemicals, 3 chemical groups)	88 contaminant listings (75 chemicals, 4 chemical groups)
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)	1999	2007	2012	2016	2021	
Total	24 contaminants (23 chemicals)	25 contaminants (all chemicals)	30 contaminants (28 chemicals)	30 contaminants (all are chemicals)	30 contaminants (all are chemicals)	
Regulatory Determination (RD)	2003	2005	2016	2021	2026	
Total evaluated	9 contaminants (8 chemicals)	12 contaminants (all are chemicals)	5 contaminants (all are chemicals)	8 contaminants (all are chemicals)	9 contaminants (all are chemicals)	
Total positive determinations	None	None	None	PFOA and PFOS	None	

again on the CCL 6 (2026). As a result, these regulatory outcomes should be understood as time-dependent rather than final.

⁶ Perchlorate has appeared on multiple CCL cycles (1998, 2005, 2009) and has undergone extensive regulatory review. The EPA issued a determination in 2011 that perchlorate should be regulated, later withdrew that determination in 2020, and was subsequently required by a 2023 court ruling to resume rulemaking. Most recently, in 2026, the EPA proposed an NPDWR for perchlorate, with a statutory requirement to finalize the rule by May 2027.