# The Long, Winding Road(Map) to PFAS Regulation

Jessica E. Merrigan jmerrigan@spencerfane.com



## Where Are We?



### **Evolving PFAS Regulation**

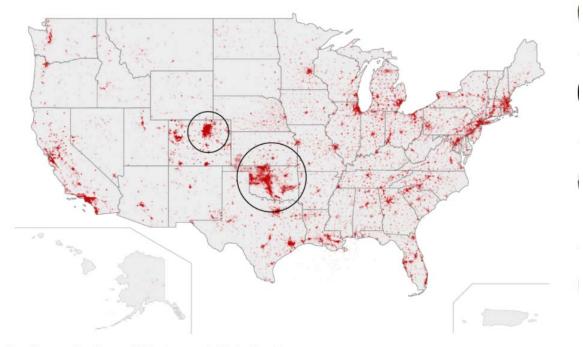
- An ever-emerging contaminant
  - PFOA and PFOS have been under review and restriction for nearly 20 years
  - But the scope of PFAS is still growing
  - Broad class of constituents of concern now includes replacement products for first generation PFAS
- Broadly changing regulatory scheme
  - State Patchwork to fill in for federal gap
  - Large range of testing requirements
  - By January 2021 nearly 20 states had state specific drinking water rules for PFAS

#### **Expanding Federal Role**

- EPA action of PFAS dates back to 2002 TSCA actions on PFOS followed by PFOA
- EPA issued its first provisional health advisory for PFOA and PFOS in 2009, which was updated in 2016 to 70 ppt for combined PFOA and PFOS
- These limits have not yet been incorporated into a MCL
- EPA has repeatedly its intent to expand the science and regulation of PFAS
- PFAS data incorporated into TRI filing beginning with 2020 available data is growing

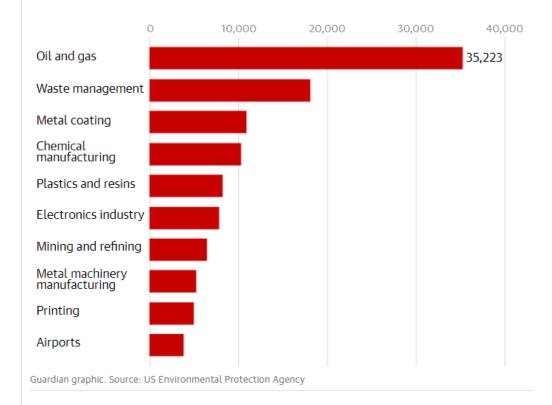
# The EPA identified more than 120,000 facilities that may expose people to PFAS $\,$

The biggest clusters of facilities are in Oklahoma and Colorado

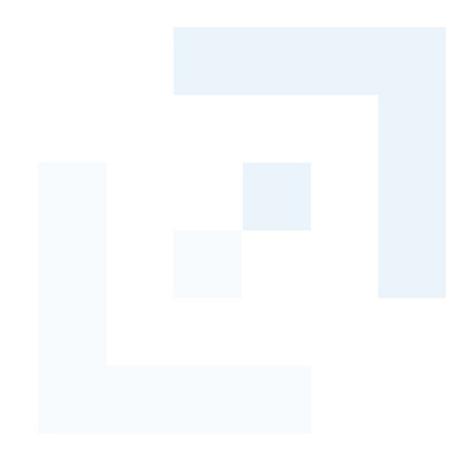


#### Facilities potentially handling PFAS - top 10 industries

Facilities may be counted twice if they belong to multiple industries



# So What Now?



#### So What Now?

- Don't forget about the state requirements federal requirements are a floor, not a ceiling, and existing state rules will continue (many will expand)
  - Note that neither KS nor MO have implemented state specific restrictions
- Time to start tracking the rapidly changing federal program.



#### PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitments to Action 2021–2024





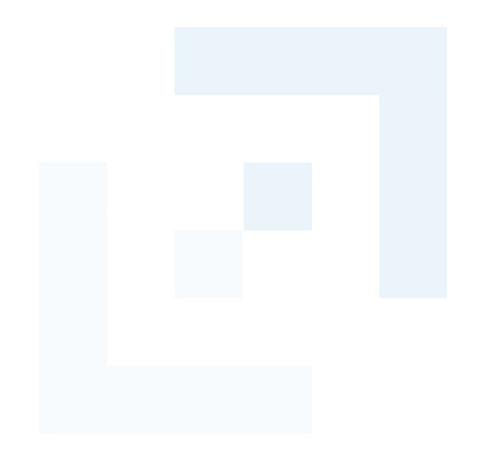


ane

#### **EPA Strategic Roadmap**

- In October 2021 EPA released its 3-year strategic roadmap
- EPA plans to use its authority under CWA, RCRA, CERCLA, TSCA to collect data, prepare risk evaluations and issue restrictions
- EPA Describes the Roadmap central directives as:
  - Research
  - Restrict
  - Remediate

# Research



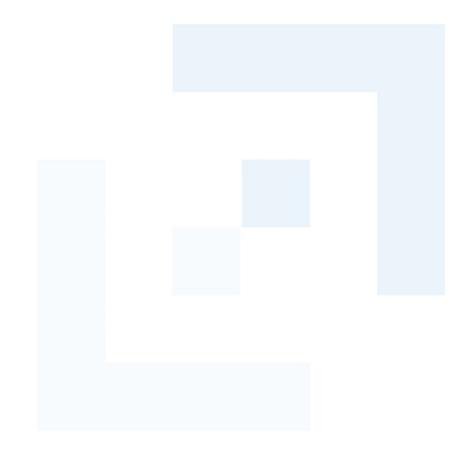
#### Research - Collect Data

- National PFAS Testing Strategy (October 2021)
- Expanded TRI Reporting {Planned Proposed 2022}
- TSCA Section 8 Reporting (Proposed rule June 2021, expected final 2022)
- Nationwide Drinking Water Monitoring {UCMR 5 final 12/21}
- Multi-laboratory Validated Analytical Method for 40 PFAS (single-lab validated method as of 2021, multi-lab expected by fall 2022)
- Update PFAS Analytical Methods for Drinking Water {Planned Fall 2024}
- Monitor Fish Tissue for PFAS

#### Research – Assess Data

- Review prior TSCA assessments and assess new SNUR
- Toxicity Assessment for GenX and five additional PFAS {October 2021}
- Monitor Fish tissue and evaluate human biomarkers {Planned Summer 2022}
- Finalize list of PFAS for use in fish advisory programs {Planned Spring 2023}
- Finalize risk assessment for PFOA and PFOS in biosolids {Planned Spring 2024}

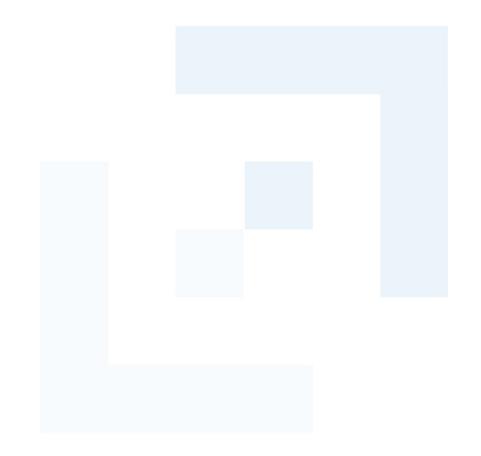
# Restrict



### Restrict: Prevent PFAS from Entering Environment

- Restrict abandoned PFAS under TSCA {Planned Summer 2022}
- Establish National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for PFOA and PFOS {Proposed rule planned 2022, final planned 2023}
- Publish health advisories for GenX and PFBS {Planned 2023}
- Restrict PFAS discharge through Effluent Limitation Guidelines Program {Proposed 2022 and ongoing}
- Develop ambient water criteria {Proposed Winter 2022 and Fall 2024}

# Remediate



#### Remediate: Cleanup PFAS Contamination

- Evaluate of RCRA Options {Began October 2021}
- Certain PFAS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances {Planned Proposed Spring 2022, Final Summer 2023}
  - EPA submitted proposal to OMB on January 10, 2022, to identify PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances
- Consideration of Precursors as Hazardous Substances {Planned ANPR Spring 2022}
- Guidance on Destruction and Disposal {Planned Fall 2023}
- Evaluate PFAS testing in environment {Ongoing}
- Evaluate PFAS reduction in environment {Ongoing}

# QUESTIONS?

