Guam PFAS Fact Sheet

What is PFAS?

Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) is a chemical that causes damage to our health and the environment. PFAS is a category of chemical compounds, including, but not limited to: *Perfluorooctanyl Sulfate (PFOS); and *Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA).

Characteristics of PFAS:

**Mobile:** Once introduced into the environment, it quickly spreads because it easily dissolves in water.

**Persistent:** Because of their multiple fluorine-carbon bonds, it does not break down naturally.

**Bio-accumulate and bio-magnify:** Very slowly removed from the body, builds up over time.

What is a Health Advisory Level (HAL)?

According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), it is the amount of drinking water contamination, which if exceeded, may result in adverse health effects.

What are the long term effects of PFAS?

- Kidney cancer
- Testicular cancer
- High cholesterol
- Decrease in antibody response to vaccines
- Liver damage
- Pregnancy induced hypertension and preeclampsia
- Thyroid disease

Why did OAG file the lawsuit?

To make AFFF designers, manufacturers, marketers and sellers pay for the damage done to Guam's environment. The OAG is seeking to have the defendants pay the cost of investigating, testing, monitoring and cleaning up AFFF chemicals on the island.

Is PFAS on Guam?

GWA has not detected PFOA or PFOS in Guam's drinking water. However, here are the wells known to have tested above the HAL:

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Find more information at oagguam.org/pfas