

**EXECUTIVE ORDER**  
**24-01**

WHEREAS, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), also known as "forever chemicals" because of their persistence in the environment, are a group of man-made chemicals used in various consumer, commercial, and industrial products, and have been detected in water supplies throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, exposure to PFAS has become a significant public health concern; and

WHEREAS, the EPA has recently published new nationwide drinking water standards to protect communities from PFAS in their drinking water supplies; and

WHEREAS, some community and private water supplies, previously un-tested for PFAS may not meet these new PFAS standards; and

WHEREAS, Harford County has already invested heavily in developing the resources and expertise in the Department of Public Works, Division of Water & Sewer to detect and remove PFAS from the County's public water supply and those investments have proven sufficient to render the public water supply safe from PFAS contamination; and

WHEREAS, many communities and public buildings, including a number of schools, both public and private, throughout Harford County are not part of the Harford County public water treatment and distribution system and, therefore, do not directly benefit from the County's investment in the detection and removal of PFAS from their water supply.

NOW THEREFORE,

Section 1. Be it Ordered by the County Executive of Harford County, Maryland, that the County Executive establishes the Drinking Water PFAS Task Force to:

1. Coordinate among all government entities in Harford County to align efforts for the detection and removal of PFAS from drinking water supplies in order to ensure that the public responses are effective, timely, efficient, and collaborative.
2. Share with public facilities (public and private schools, municipalities, and the like) and private communities throughout Harford County the knowledge and expertise of the Harford County Division of Water & Sewer in the detection and removal of PFAS from drinking water supplies.
3. Establish a web page for the public dissemination of information related to the detection and removal of PFAS from drinking water supplies.
4. Identify sources of public funding available to assist others in the detection and removal of PFAS from drinking water supplies.


The Drinking Water PFAS Task Force shall operate under the direction of the Harford County Deputy Director of Public Works, Division of Water and Sewer and shall be supported by additional County staff as directed. Those to be invited to participate in the PFAS Task Force shall include, but membership shall not be limited to, representatives from Harford County Health Department, Harford County Public Schools, the municipal governments of Aberdeen, Bel Air, and Havre de Grace, and other subject matter experts as may be designated by the County Executive.

Section 2. Be It Further Ordered that this Executive Order shall become effective sixty (60) calendar days after submission to the County Council, unless the County Council disapproves this order pursuant to Section 413 of the Harford County Charter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of Harford County to be affixed, this 30th day of August, 2024.

ATTEST:

  
Kathy Stewart

  
Robert G. Cassilly  
Harford County Executive