

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[EPA-HQ-ORD-2020-0675; FRL-8870-01-ORD]

**Availability of the Draft IRIS Toxicological Review of Perfluorobutanoic Acid (PFBA) and Related Compound Ammonium Perfluorobutanoic Acid****AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).**ACTION:** Notice of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing a 60-day public comment period associated with release of the IRIS Toxicological Review of Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) and Related Compound Ammonium Perfluorobutanoic Acid. The draft document was prepared by the Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA) within EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD). EPA is releasing this draft IRIS assessment for public comment in advance of a contract-led peer review. Public comments received will be provided to the external peer reviewers. Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG), a contractor to EPA, will convene a public meeting to discuss the draft report with the public during Step 4 of the IRIS Process. The external peer reviewers will consider public comments submitted in response to this notice and provided at the public meeting when reviewing this document. EPA will consider all comments received when revising the document post-peer review. This draft assessment is not final as described in EPA's information quality guidelines, and it does not represent, and should not be construed to represent Agency policy or views.

**DATES:** The 60-day public comment period begins August 23, 2021 and ends October 22, 2021. Comments must be received on or before October 22, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** The IRIS Toxicological Review of Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) and Related Compound Ammonium Perfluorobutanoic Acid will be available via the internet on the IRIS website at <https://www.epa.gov/iris/iris-recent-additions> and in the public docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>, Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2020-0675.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information on the public comment period, contact the ORD Docket at the EPA Headquarters Docket Center; telephone: 202-566-1752; facsimile:

202-566-9744; or email: [Docket\\_ORD@epa.gov](mailto:Docket_ORD@epa.gov).

For technical information on the IRIS Toxicological Review of Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) and Related Compound Ammonium Perfluorobutanoic Acid, contact Ms. Vicki Soto, CPHEA; telephone: 202-564-3077; or email: [soto.vicki@epa.gov](mailto:soto.vicki@epa.gov). The IRIS Program will provide updates through the IRIS website (<https://www.epa.gov/iris>) and via EPA's IRIS listserv. To register for the IRIS listserv, visit the IRIS website (<https://www.epa.gov/iris>) or visit <https://www.epa.gov/iris/forms/staying-connected-integrated-risk-information-system#connect>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****I. Information on IRIS PFAS Assessments**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large class of man-made chemicals widely used in consumer products and industrial processes. The basic structure of PFAS consists of a carbon chain surrounded by fluorine atoms, with different chemicals possessing different end groups. The five toxicity assessments being developed according to the scope and methods outlined in the publicly posted systematic review protocol ([https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris\\_drafts/recordisplay.cfm?deid=345065](https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris_drafts/recordisplay.cfm?deid=345065)) build upon several other PFAS assessments that have already been developed, and represent only one component of the broader PFAS action plan underway at the U.S. EPA (<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epas-pfas-action-plan>).

**II. How To Submit Technical Comments to the Docket at <http://www.regulations.gov>**

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2020-0675 for the draft IRIS Toxicological Review of Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA) and Related Compound Ammonium Perfluorobutanoic Acid, by one of the following methods:

- [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov): Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- **Email:** [Docket\\_ORD@epa.gov](mailto:Docket_ORD@epa.gov).
- **Fax:** 202-566-9744. Due to COVID-19, there may be a delay in processing comments submitted by fax.
- **Mail:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center (ORD Docket), Mail Code: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460. The phone number is 202-566-1752. Due to COVID-19, there may be a delay in processing comments submitted by mail.

**Note:** The EPA Docket Center and Reading Room may be closed to public visitors to reduce the risk of transmitting COVID-19. Docket Center staff will continue to provide remote customer service via email, phone, and webform. The public can submit comments via [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov) or email. No hand deliveries are currently being accepted.

**Instructions:** Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-ORD-2020-0675. Please ensure that your comments are submitted within the specified comment period. Comments received after the closing date will be marked "late," and may only be considered if time permits. It is EPA's policy to include all comments it receives in the public docket without change and to make the comments available online at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), including any personal information provided, unless a comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information for which disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or email that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected. The [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) website is an "anonymous access" system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an email comment directly to EPA without going through [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), your email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD-ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses. For additional information about EPA's public docket visit the EPA Docket Center homepage at [www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm](http://www.epa.gov/epahome/dockets.htm). **Docket:** Documents in the docket are listed in the [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) index. Although listed in the index, some information is not publicly available, e.g., CBI or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Certain other materials, such as copyrighted material, are publicly available only in hard copy. Publicly available docket materials are available either electronically in [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) or in hard copy at

the ORD Docket in the EPA Headquarters Docket Center.

**Timothy Watkins,**

*Acting Director, Center for Public Health & Environmental Assessment.*

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

[FRL-8881-01-ORD]

**Request for Nominations of Experts for the Review of EPA's Draft Toxicological Reviews of Perfluorodecanoic Acid (PFDA), Perfluorononanoic Acid (PFNA), Perfluorohexanoic Acid (PFHxA), Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), and Perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA)**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**ACTION:** Notice; request for nominations.

**SUMMARY:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA) requests public nominations of scientific experts for the upcoming peer reviews of five Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessments including: Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA; CASRN 335-76-2), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA; CASRN 375-24-4), perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA, CASRN 307-24-4), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS, CASRN 355-46-4), and perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA, CASRN 375-22-4), and their related salts which are all members of the group per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Each assessment will undergo independent external scientific peer review managed by Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG), a contractor to EPA. A single peer review panel will review all five (5) PFAS IRIS assessments. Interested stakeholders will be provided 30-days to submit nominations for expert reviewers to ERG for their consideration.

**DATES:** The 30-day public comment period to provide nominations begins August 23, 2021 and ends September 22, 2021. Comments must be received on or before September 22, 2021.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit nominations by emailing them to [peerreview@erg.com](mailto:peerreview@erg.com) (subject line: EPA PFAS assessments peer review) at ERG no later than September 22, 2021. Please be advised that public comments are subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act, including communications on these nominations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

*For general information please contact: Vicki Soto, CPHEA; email: [soto.vicki@epa.gov](mailto:soto.vicki@epa.gov).*

*For questions about the peer review, including the nomination process, please contact: Laurie Waite, ERG, by email at [peerreview@erg.com](mailto:peerreview@erg.com) (subject line: EPA PFAS assessments peer review); or by phone: (781) 674-7362.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Background**

*Information on IRIS PFAS Assessments*

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large class of man-made chemicals widely used in consumer products and industrial processes. The basic structure of PFAS consists of a carbon chain surrounded by fluorine atoms, with different chemicals possessing different end groups. The five IRIS toxicity assessments are being developed according to the scope and methods outlined in the publicly posted systematic review protocol ([https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris\\_drafts/recordisplay.cfm?deid=345065](https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/iris_drafts/recordisplay.cfm?deid=345065)) and they build upon several other PFAS assessments that have already been developed, and represent only one component of the broader PFAS action plan underway at the U.S. EPA (<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epas-pfas-action-plan>).

EPA is releasing the announcement to notify the public of upcoming peer review activities related to five IRIS five per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) assessments including: Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA; CASRN 335-76-2), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA; CASRN 375-24-4), perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA, CASRN 307-24-4), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS, CASRN 355-46-4), and perfluorobutanoic acid (PFBA, CASRN 375 22 4), and their related salts which are all members of the group per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). These documents will undergo independent external scientific peer review managed by ERG, a contractor to EPA. EPA has instructed ERG to formulate a single pool of eighteen (18) candidate external reviewers to provide independent external reviews of all five PFAS IRIS assessments. After consideration of peer reviewer nominations submitted to ERG in response to this FRN and after consideration of public comments on the List of Candidates (to be announced in a future FRN), ERG will select from this pool the final list of up to nine (9) peer reviewers in a manner consistent with EPA's Peer Review Handbook 4th Edition, 2015 (EPA/100/B-15/001). EPA

will provide updates on the status of the peer review via the IRIS website (<https://www.epa.gov/iris>). EPA encourages all interested stakeholders to register for the IRIS listserv by visiting the IRIS website at <https://www.epa.gov/iris/forms/staying-connected-integrated-risk-information-system#connect>. Specific questions or comments on the peer review process should be directed to ERG.

**II. Information About This Peer Review**

ERG is seeking nominations of nationally and internationally recognized scientists with demonstrated expertise and research on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in one or more of the following areas: Environmental epidemiology with experience in the application of systematic review principles to environmental exposures and/or immunotoxicity expertise; experimental toxicology with experience in the application of systematic review principles to environmental exposures and/or immunotoxicity expertise, hepatic effects, thyroid effects, developmental effects, biological mechanisms of human disease/health effects, and absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion (ADME) knowledge; and physiologically-based pharmacokinetic (PBPK) modeling, toxicokinetics, and dose-response modeling of animal data. Questions regarding this review should be directed to Laurie Waite, ERG, by email at [peerreview@erg.com](mailto:peerreview@erg.com) (subject line: EPA PFAS assessments peer review); or by phone: (781) 674-7362. For EPA, a balanced review panel includes candidates who possess the necessary domains of knowledge, the relevant scientific perspectives (which, among other factors, can be influenced by work history and affiliation), and the collective breadth of experience to adequately address the peer review charge. In forming this expert panel, ERG will consider public comments on the List of Candidates, information provided by the candidates themselves, and background information. Selection criteria to be used for panel membership include: (a) Scientific and/or technical expertise, knowledge, and experience (primary factors); (b) availability and willingness to serve; (c) absence of any potential organizational or personal conflicts of interest; (d) skills working in committees, subcommittees and advisory panels; and, (e) for the panel as a whole, diversity of expertise and scientific points of view.

*Process and Deadline for Submitting Nominations:* Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified