

Perchlorate: A Final Number Please

It has been almost 30 years since perchlorate was first discovered in drinking water wells and military bases across the county and over 20 years since EPA and other organizations began carrying out risk assessments on perchlorate. Perchlorate is not currently regulated in drinking water and after years of wrangling, including Senate hearings, lawsuits, and National Research Council (NRC) and Science Advisory Board (SAB) reviews, in January 2026, EPA proposed a final drinking water regulation for perchlorate of 20 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). This presentation will examine the health basis for EPA's regulation, and how perchlorate risk assessments conducted over the years raised issues fundamental to the practice of risk assessment.