New Jersey is grateful for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials and USEPA Science Advisory Board members who have studied the potential human health effects in arriving at the health advisories that USEPA announced today for the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) known as PFOA, PFOS, PFBS and GenX. While these advisories do not represent enforceable drinking water standards in New Jersey, USEPA has indicated the agency will likely follow with enforceable standards. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is prepared to expand its existing regulation of these harmful “forever chemicals” in collaboration with our federal partners.

As our scientific understanding of PFAS continues to expand and evolve, we are learning just how potentially harmful these chemicals are to human health at very low levels. In 2019, New Jersey became the first state to set an enforceable drinking water standard for any PFAS. With enforcement standards for PFOA, PFOS and PFNA in drinking water, New Jersey is and will remain a national leader in protecting the public from the numerous health concerns that PFAS present. NJDEP experts will carefully review these new federal health advisories in the context of New Jersey’s existing programs and take all appropriate steps to ensure the delivery of safe drinking water throughout the state. NJDEP will keep water systems, local governments, and the public fully informed about the implications of these and other new advisories every step of the way.

New Jersey continues to pursue strong legal actions against the polluters that created this problem. As we move forward, NJDEP will work diligently to continue to identify sources of financial assistance, including through the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to help cover the costs of advanced treatment systems necessary to remove these chemicals from our water supplies.