

## FAST NEWS ON PFAS NEWSLETTER

In the fast-paced news cycle of PFAS, discerning priorities can be a challenge. Weston's PFAS newsletter takes you out of the minutia and into the bigger picture. We have assembled key regulatory updates, expert insights, and state-of-the-science facts, and distilled them to the essentials of what you need to know, why it matters, and how it could impact you. Make this quick quarterly newsletter your starting point to understanding the latest information on PFAS.

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### WHAT WE HEARD AT THE EBI'S CANADA INDUSTRY SUMMIT I

The environmental landscape in North America is evolving, with significant developments in regulations, technology, resource management, and private sector strategies. Environmental Business International's (EBI) inaugural Canada Industry Summit I was held on May 9, 2025 in Toronto, Ontario. The event brought together industry leaders to explore pressing topics such as PFAS, climate adaptation, artificial intelligence (AI)-driven data management, and private equity perspectives on the environmental industry.

Key challenges highlighted during the summit include a shortage of skilled professionals, gaps in industry-specific data, and the need for stronger collaboration across sectors. Despite these hurdles, the industry sees promising opportunities in AI and emerging technologies, adopting sustainable practices, and addressing regulatory drivers like carbon pricing and environmental remediation.

Additional information on EBI, including upcoming events, can be found on their website <https://ebionline.org/environmental-industry-summits/>.



### ► What You Need to Know:

- **PFAS Regulations:** Canada currently lacks a federal standard for PFAS. Discussions suggest upcoming developments in regulatory frameworks, drawing inspiration from international models like the Dutch approach on soils and sediments. Industry experts anticipate stricter limits and highlight gaps in exposure point concentration data.
- **Climate Adaptation:** Nature-based solutions are increasingly recognized for their effectiveness in areas like stormwater management. A recent article in The Military Engineer magazine highlights a practical application of these strategies at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio (Coggin, 2025). There is growing interest in applying such strategies to sectors like mining to enhance climate resilience. Additionally, climate adaptation journals are emerging as valuable resources for sharing insights and advancing knowledge in this evolving field.
- **Technology and AI:** Data aggregation and AI-driven tools are becoming indispensable for efficient resource planning and environmental permitting. However, organizations face challenges including mitigating AI hallucinations and training staff to adapt to evolving technologies. As a result, many companies are prioritizing digitization strategies to streamline workflows and enhance customer-facing applications.

- **Resource Challenges:** The environmental sector faces understaffing issues, with many firms relying on international talent pools to meet demand. Successfully integrating global teams requires thoughtful cultural adaptation and robust mentorship programs. Leveraging AI and automation is considered a critical strategy to bridge workforce gaps and improve operations efficiency.
- **Private Equity Perspectives:** The private sector is driving growth in environmental markets, particularly through mergers and acquisitions. Key focus areas include water and wastewater treatment, renewable natural gas production, and integrated resource management. There is also growing interest in small-scale nuclear reactors and other sustainable technologies deemed essential for long-term resilience.
- **Regulatory and Policy Trends:** Policy shifts such as Canada’s carbon pricing framework and increased defense spending among NATO nations reflect evolving political priorities. The uncertain outlook for AI and electric vehicle markets globally is affecting regulatory responses and central bank strategies.

► **Impact:**

- PFAS regulations are expected to tighten, affecting industries reliant on chemical use and conventional waste management. Proactive adaptation will be key to maintaining compliance and long-term sustainability.
- Implementing nature-based solutions and climate adaptation strategies offer cost-effective approaches to resilience, particularly in mining and stormwater management sectors.
- Investing in AI-driven tools and data aggregation enhances efficiency and reduces resource strain, enabling more accurate and strategic decision-making.
- Growth driven by private equity is opening new avenues for collaboration and innovation in environmental markets, especially in water treatment and renewable energy.
- Regulatory shifts like carbon pricing and increased defense spending among NATO members reflect evolving policy priorities, requiring organizations to adopt forward-thinking strategies.
- Addressing resource challenges and building global partnerships will play a critical role in overcoming staffing shortages and delivering high-quality environmental solutions.

**PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PFAS LITIGATION TRENDS**

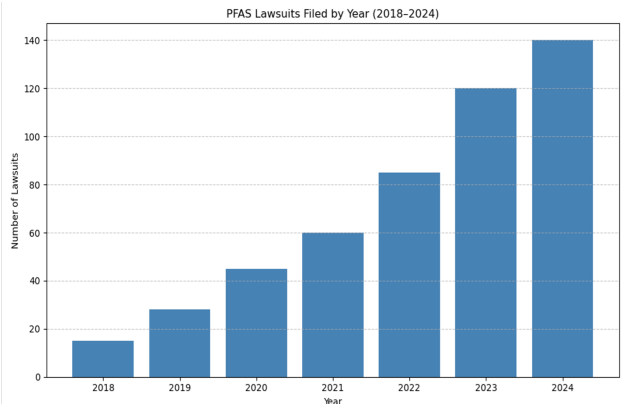
PFAS-related litigation is accelerating across the United States, with a growing number of lawsuits targeting a wide range of sectors from chemical manufacturers and water utilities to product retailers. As regulatory scrutiny intensifies, these legal actions are reshaping risk profiles and compliance strategies for public and private entities.

► **What You Need to Know:**

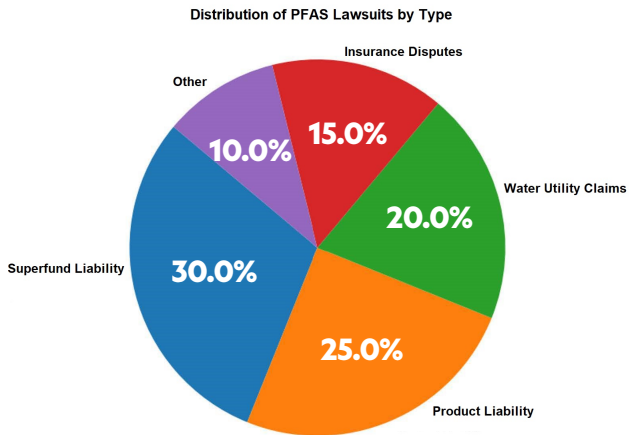
In recent years, several notable litigation trends have emerged as consumers, regulators, and the public increasingly advocate for stronger protections of human health and the environment.

- **Superfund Liability Expansion:** Following the EPA’s 2024 designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the scope of liability has broadened. Potentially responsible parties (PRPs) now include not only manufacturers but also downstream users and site owners (National Law Review, 2025; US EPA, 2021).
- **Product Liability and Consumer Class Actions:** Companies involved in producing or selling PFAS-containing products (e.g., cookware, cosmetics, textiles) are facing lawsuits alleging failure to warn, false advertising, and health impacts (National Law Review, 2025).
- **Water Utility Claims:** Municipalities and water providers are suing PFAS manufacturers to recover the costs of treatment infrastructure and contamination cleanup (National Law Review, 2025).
- **Insurance Disputes:** Insurers are increasingly denying coverage for PFAS-related claims, leading to a secondary wave of litigation over policy exclusions and coverage scope (Environmental Law Institute, 2024).

Although EPA has announced its intent to rescind four of the six PFAS Maximum Contaminant Levels, it is expected that state regulatory agencies will continue advancing their own protective regulations. As a result, emerging legal risks include:



Source: Environmental Law Institute, 2024 PFAS Litigation Update



Source: Environmental Law Institute, 2024 PFAS Litigation Update

- **State-Level Enforcement:** In the absence of federal preemption, individual states are enacting their own PFAS regulations and enforcement efforts, often adopting stricter thresholds and broader definitions of PFAS (Environmental Law Institute, 2024) than federal standards.
- **Scientific Uncertainty Driving Lawsuits:** Even in the absence of conclusive health data, litigation is increasingly being driven by public concern, heightened media attention, and evolving regulatory positions.

► **Impact:** The legal landscape surrounding PFAS is evolving rapidly. With the introduction of new federal and state regulations, advancements in scientific understanding, and rising public awareness, litigation risk is expected to grow. Organizations that take proactive, informed steps will be better positioned to mitigate exposure and maintain compliance. Public and private sector organizations may consider the following strategies to manage emerging risks:

- **Proactive Audits:** Conduct internal reviews of PFAS use, emissions, and legacy contamination liabilities.
- **Supply Chain Due Diligence:** Assess upstream and downstream exposure to PFAS-related risks, especially in manufacturing and product formulation.
- **Legal and Insurance Review:** Reassess insurance coverage for environmental claims and consult legal counsel on potential liabilities under CERCLA and state laws.
- **Stakeholder Communication:** Develop transparent communication strategies to proactively address public and investor concerns about PFAS. If hiring a risk communication specialist is not feasible, organizations can leverage free toolkits from the Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council to support effective messaging.

## THE FRESH PRINTS OF PEER REVIEW

As PFAS research continues to evolve, scientists are exploring innovative approaches to address one of the most persistent environmental challenges. This edition spotlights a selection of peer-reviewed studies published in Q2 2025 that focus on emerging treatment technologies for PFAS in wastewater—one of the most complex matrices to manage using conventional approaches.

The widespread presence of PFAS in wastewater stems from decades of use across a broad range of commercial and industrial applications (Buck, 2011) (Kempisty, 2018) (Kurwadkar, 2022) (Lenka, 2021). Conventional wastewater treatment systems are generally ineffective at removing or destroying PFAS. Therefore, management of contaminated wastewater effluent and biosolids is a significant environmental and regulatory concern. (Buck, 2011) (Kempisty, 2018).

Several novel methods for removing PFAS from wastewater have been documented in recent peer-reviewed literature and are summarized below.

- **Aerosol capture:** Near-surface (within <1-2 inches of water surface) capture of PFAS emitted via aerosolization at a wastewater aeration basin resulted in substantial (62-92%) removal of long-chain PFAS (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA) from the bulk wastewater at a wastewater treatment plant in the northeastern US (Schaefer, 2025).
- **Foam fractionation:** While it has been primarily used for groundwater remediation, foam fractionation was recently applied for removing PFAS from impacted municipal wastewater in Sweden (Malovanyy, 2025). Despite the low foaming potential of the wastewater, an average removal rate of 93% was achieved for long-chain PFAS, including PFOA, PFOS, and PFNA, without any surfactant addition.
- **Foam harvesting during aeration:** Another study investigating the potential effectiveness of foam fractionation in removing PFAS from wastewater in Australia indicated a similar finding. Specifically, between 70-100% removal was attained for long-chain PFAS and concentrated in approximately 2% of the initial feed volume (We, 2025). Note that the approximately 50x PFAS concentration factor is several orders of magnitude lower than that typically achieved during multistage foam fractionation treatment of impacted groundwater.
- **Biochar adsorption:** Biochar, produced through the pyrolysis of organic materials, possesses beneficial properties such as high porosity, surface area, and surface functionality, which makes it highly effective in removing various environmental pollutants. A recent study indicated that biochar-based composites offer a scalable, practical, and effective approach to mitigating PFAS contamination and should be prioritized over conventional treatment methods (Kumar, 2025).

## LET'S MEET UP!



**Savannah District 2025  
Annual Program Review**

**BATTELLE**

**Battelle's International Symposium on  
Bioremediation and Environmental Biotechnology**

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