



**For immediate release:**  
Wednesday, October 17, 2018

**For more information:**  
Megan Ahearn 212 349-6460 x1166

**NYPIRG STATEMENT ON THE ONGOING FAILURE OF THE NYS DRINKING WATER QUALITY COUNCIL TO ISSUE RECOMMENDATIONS ON CONTAMINANT LEVELS FOR TOXIC CHEMICALS IN DRINKING WATER;**

**NYPIRG ANALYSIS SHOWS MORE THAN A MILLION NEW YORKERS LIVE IN COMMUNITIES WHERE TOXIC CHEMICALS UNDER REVIEW WERE DETECTED**

At its first meeting in more than six months, the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council today failed to issue its final recommendation on minimum contaminant levels for the toxic chemicals PFOA, PFOS and 1,4 dioxane, in further violation of the October 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline imposed under state law.

NYPIRG’s analysis of federal and state data shows that drinking water test samples for hundreds of communities affecting more than a million New Yorkers have exceeded the recommended public health-based contaminant levels for these toxic chemicals. (Analysis available at: [https://nypirg.org/pubs/201810/final\\_merged.pdf](https://nypirg.org/pubs/201810/final_merged.pdf).)

New Yorkers—particularly those in the hundreds of communities with documented exposures to these toxic chemicals—expected the Council to do its job.

The Council promised—imprecisely—to meet again in “November or December” to make final recommendations on drinking water levels for these toxic chemicals to the Department of Health.

Given the Council’s failure, the Governor should direct the New York State Department of Health to use its existing authority to issue stringent public health-based maximum contaminant levels for these toxic chemicals on an emergency basis. Every day that goes by, is another day that too many New Yorkers are being needlessly exposed to toxic substances.

New Yorkers can learn about contaminants in their drinking water and threats to their local water supply by visiting NYPIRG’s *What’s in My Water?* searchable-by-zip-code website at <https://nypirg.org/whatsinmywater/>.

**-30-**