For immediate release:
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NYPIRG STATEMENT ON ANNOUNCED RULEMAKING TO ADOPT DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR PFOA, PFOS, 1,4-DIOXANE

CALL FOR STANDARDS TO BE ADOPTED RAPIDLY AND TO REFLECT LATEST SCIENCE

(Albany, N.Y.) Governor Cuomo and the New York State Department of Health announced today that the rulemaking process is underway to adopt drinking water standards for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane. The Health Commissioner is moving forward with levels recommended by the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council at 10 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS and 1 part per billion (ppb) for 1,4-dioxane.

A report from NYPIRG found that drinking water for over 2.8 million New Yorkers have levels of 1,4-dioxane in their drinking water supplies above 0.3 parts per billion, and drinking water for more than 1.4 million New Yorkers contained levels of PFOA/PFOS above 4 parts per trillion.

A report issued by the Natural Resource Defense Council in April 2019 recommended a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) of 0ppt for PFOA, PFOS, and a few other PFAS chemicals, and a combined maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 2ppt.

The following statement is attributable to Liz Moran, Environmental Policy Director for NYPIRG:

“Now that the Health Department has made the important first step towards setting drinking water standards for PFOA, PFOS, and 1,4-dioxane, it is critical the Department sets levels that will ensure public health is protected and serve as a model for the nation. The more science that comes out about these chemicals, the clearer it becomes that there is likely no safe level of exposure. The department should establish a combined maximum contaminant level of 2ppt for PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS chemicals and a maximum contaminant level of 0.3ppb for 1,4-dioxane. These chemicals have polluted the drinking water supplies serving millions of New Yorkers – setting stringent standards as rapidly as possible is critical to keep people from getting sick and to prevent future drinking water contamination crises.”

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