## Robinson+Cole

# Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS): Regulation and Ramifications

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# PFAS: Regulatory and Legal Overview

- Regulatory Context
  - o Water
  - o Soil
  - Disclosure Requirements
- Transactional Considerations
- Litigation Considerations







## Regulatory Context: Water

- US EPA: Drinking water health advisory level (HA) of 0.07 ppb for both PFOS and PFOA (May 2016)
- Massachusetts: Stay tuned
- Other states:
  - Many at 0.07 ppb for now
  - Vermont: 0.02 ppb



# Regulatory Context: Soil

#### Massachusetts:

- PFAS considered "contaminants of concern" (COCs) under Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) and "hazardous material" under Chapter 21E
- Reportable Concentrations and Method 1 Cleanup Standards have not yet been established under the MCP
- Notification required for concentrations that pose an "imminent hazard"

#### Other States:

- Connecticut: No numeric criteria under Remediation Standard Regulations, treated as "additional polluting substances"
- New Hampshire: Soil direct contact risk-based soil screening level of 500 ppb

## Regulatory Context: Disclosure Requirements

- Massachusetts—Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA)
  - Science Advisory Board (SAB) is considering PFAS
  - To date, SAB has recommended adding the following (and salts) to TURA list of toxic and hazardous substances:
    - PFOS, PFOA (C8)
    - PFHxS, PFHxA (C6)
    - PFBS, PFBA (C4)
- California—Prop. 65
  - In November 2017 PFOA and PFOS were added to list of substances known to cause reproductive toxicity.

### PFAS: Transactional Considerations

- Due Diligence
  - o Assess Risks
  - Establish Baseline
- Know your own products and operational risks
- Structure of Transaction
  - Stock versus asset
  - Entity form and structure
- Pitfalls
  - Known versus unknown
  - Beware reopeners



# Litigation Considerations

- Personal Injury Claims
- Class Action Claims
  - Property Damage
  - Personal Injury
  - Medical Monitoring
- Public Water Supply Cases
  - Chemical/Manufacturing Facilities
  - Firefighting Foam Sites

## Questions and Discussion

