

EPA's Inaction Puts Drinking Water at Risk, Says Waterkeeper Alliance

The EPA's failure to enforce the Safe Drinking Water Act has put the public at an unacceptable risk, three environmental groups assert in a new complaint. EPA has continually missed the deadlines to revise regulations on drinking water contaminants as they were laid out by Congress in the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the environmentalists claim in their challenge in the US District Court for the Southern District of New York (Waterkeeper Alliance [<https://waterkeeper.org/waterkeeper-groups-sue-epa-on-tap-water-safety/>]).

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires the agency to review and update its regulations for these contaminants every six years, but the group said EPA is "perpetually behind schedule in virtually all phases" of its implementation of this law.

The organization criticizes the Trump Administration, "the Trump administration is proposing to weaken the Clean Water Act and is actively allowing toxic chemicals to pollute our drinking water. It also is failing to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act, which stops polluted water from reaching our taps."

Specific contaminants mentioned in the case include tetrachloroethylene, trichloroethylene, chlorite, Cryptosporidium, haloacetic acids, heterotrophic bacteria, Giardia lamblia, Legionella, total trihalomethanes, and viruses. The Waterkeepers ask the court to set specific dates for EPA to take the actions required by the SDWA and revise regulations for the list of contaminants.