

August 28, 2025

EWG comments on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency July 2025 announcement regarding perchloroethylene regulation under the Toxic Substances Control Act

Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OPPT-2020-0720

The Environmental Working group submits comments to the U.S. EPA on perchloroethylene, or PCE/Perc, urging the agency to maintain the December 2024 perchloroethylene regulations and prohibit the continued use of this toxic solvent. The use of PCE presents an unreasonable risk to exposed workers and community members. For workers exposed in an occupational setting, PCE causes acute and chronic health harms including an elevated risk of neurological harm, kidney dysfunction, respiratory difficulties and greater risk of several different types of cancer, including lung and breast cancers.

When released in the environment, PCE ends up contaminating air, groundwater and soil near industrial facilities, hazardous waste sites and other locations where it was once used. People are exposed to PCE by breathing in its vapors or skin contact with it or with contaminated soil or water. EWG's Tap Water Database, which is based on data from state drinking water agencies' water system tests for 2021-2023, shows that nationwide, this contaminant is detected in drinking water in 46 states, affecting a combined population of 19 million people.¹

EPA's proposed delay of PCE regulations promulgated in December 2024, as well as potential changes that the agency indicated in its July 30, 2025 announcement in the Federal Register,² including a possible change in the Existing Chemical Exposure Limits for PCE, would expose both workers in industrial and business settings as well as residents in nearby communities, especially children and pregnant people, to significant risks to their health. Due to the unreasonable risks for both workers and consumers the EPA should not reconsider the phase out of use in dry cleaning. To protect public health, EWG urges the EPA to maintain the December

¹ Environmental Working Group. 2025. Tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene)

<https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/contaminant.php?contamcode=2987>

² U.S. EPA. July 30, 2025. Perchloroethylene (PCE); Regulation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Request for Comment. FRL-8329-03-OCSPP.

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/07/30/2025-14429/perchloroethylene-pce-regulation-under-the-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca-request-for-comment>

2024 perchloroethylene regulations,³ and to initiate a phase out process to move towards safer replacements for this toxic solvent.

Signed,

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³ U.S. EPA. December 18, 2024. Perchloroethylene (PCE); Regulation Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). FRL-8329-01-OCSP.
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/12/18/2024-30117/perchloroethylene-pce-regulation-under-the-toxic-substances-control-act-tsca>