



Hopewell Public Meeting

- What is PFAS?
- PFAS in Hopewell Background
- Ongoing Potable Well Investigations
- Remedial Alternatives Analysis Discussion
- Spill Fund Damage Claims
- Answering questions submitted by Hopewell residents concerning PFAS contamination

Immediate Concern Unit (ICU) Representatives:

Ron Trauger: Case Manager & Environmental Engineer

Megan DiMarcantonio: Case Manager

Alexandra Skinner: ICU Supervisor

Bill Hanrahan : Bureau Chief

William Schreyer: Fund Management Section



What are Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances aka PFAS?

- ▶ NJDEP's Division of Science and Research (DSR), and other NJDEP programs have focused on the evaluation of PFAS for over 15 years, and New Jersey is recognized as a national leader on this topic.
- ▶ PFAS are a large group of man-made chemicals that repel water and are resistant to heat and chemical reaction. Because of these properties, they have a wide variety of industrial and commercial uses.
- ▶ One common characteristic of concern of PFAS is that many break down very slowly and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time.
- ▶ PFAS is found in surface water, groundwater, soil, and air—from remote rural areas to densely-populated urban centers worldwide.
- ▶ There are thousands of PFAS chemicals, and they are found in many different consumer, commercial, and industrial products, including materials found in our homes or workplaces.

PFAS Can Be Found in Many Places

- ▶ **Drinking water:** Public drinking water systems and private drinking water wells.
- ▶ **Soil and water at or near waste sites:** landfills, disposal sites, and hazardous waste sites such as those that fall under the federal Superfund and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act programs.
- ▶ **Fire extinguishing foam:** Aqueous film-forming foams (or AFFFs) used to extinguish flammable liquid-based fires. Such foams are used in training and emergency response events at airports, shipyards, military bases, firefighting training facilities, chemical plants, and refineries.
- ▶ **Manufacturing or chemical production facilities that produce or use PFAS:** Chrome plating, electronics, and certain textile and paper manufacturers.
- ▶ **Food:** Fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS and dairy products from livestock exposed to PFAS.
- ▶ **Food packaging:** Grease-resistant paper, fast food containers/wrappers, microwave popcorn bags, pizza boxes, and candy wrappers.
- ▶ **Household products and dust:** Stain and water-repellent used on carpets, upholstery, clothing, and other fabrics; cleaning products; non-stick cookware; paints, varnishes, and sealants.
- ▶ **Personal care products:** Certain shampoo, dental floss, and cosmetics.
- ▶ **Biosolids:** Fertilizer from wastewater treatment plants that is used on agricultural lands can affect ground and surface water and animals that graze on the land.

PFAS in Hopewell Background:

- ❖ 2018: NJDEP established a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) requiring certain public water supply systems to sample for PFAS.
- ❖ 2019: PFAS was detected at two (2) Hopewell Township schools.
 - ❖ Immediate Concern Unit (ICU) initiated potable well investigations to determine the extent of contaminated wells.
- ❖ 2020: NJDEP established Groundwater Quality Standards (GWQS) for 3 PFAS compounds which is used to investigate private potable wells.
- ❖ 2021: PFAS was added to the Private Well Testing Act (PWTA). Upon sale of property, PWTA is required.
- ❖ NJDEP currently regulates PFOA, PFOS and PFNA because it was determined that these 3 PFAS compounds occur in groundwater and drinking water at levels of concern. The NJDEP water standards for PFAS are as follows:

Compound	Standard
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA):	14 ppt
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS):	13 ppt
Perfluorononanoic acid(PFNA):	13 ppt

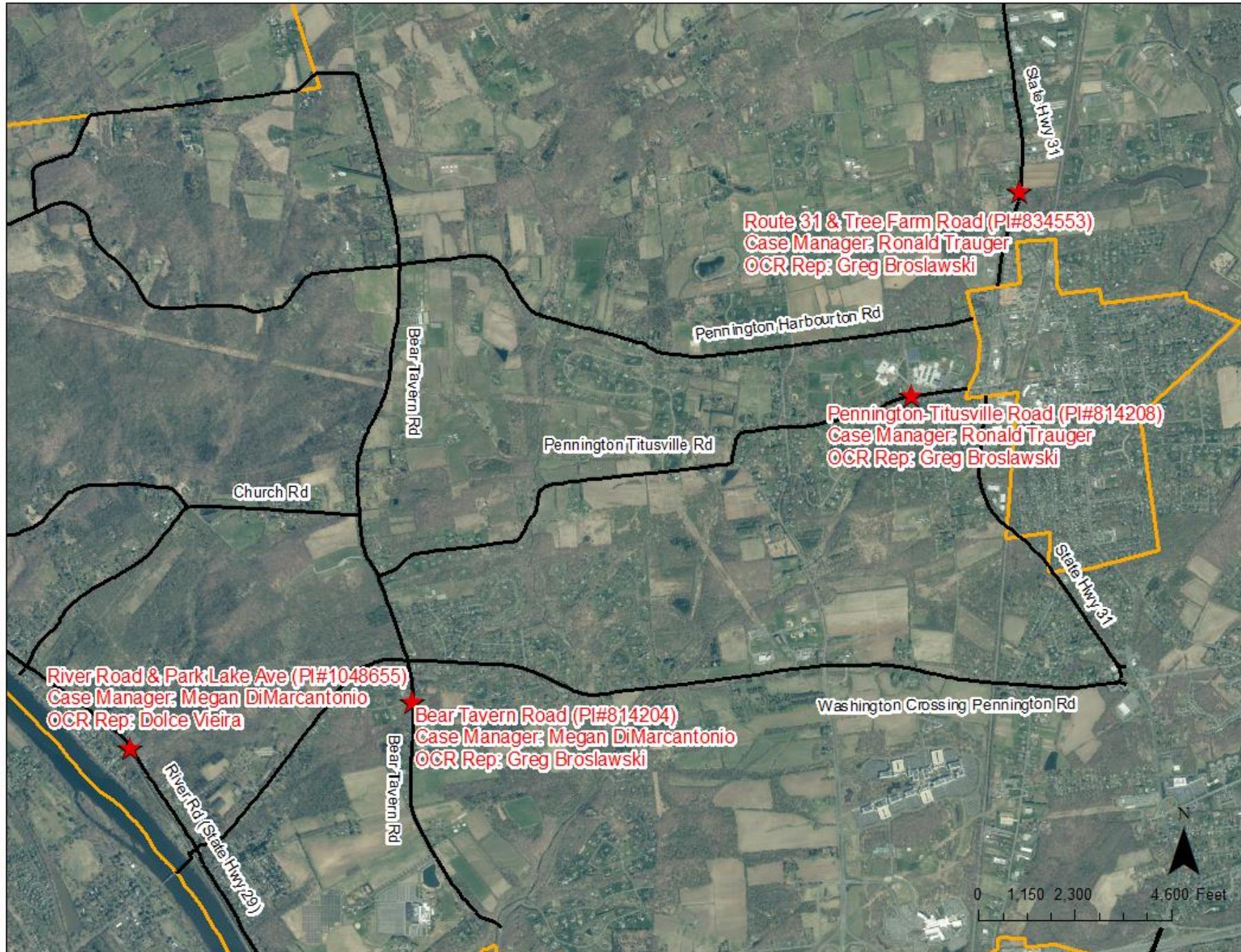
- ❖ 2024: There are four (4) active PFAS potable well investigations in Hopewell Township.

Department (DEP) Involvement:

- ❖ The Immediate Concern Unit (ICU) is conducting four (4) potable well investigations around Hopewell Township. This involves sampling potable wells to identify those affected by PFAS contamination.
- ❖ All properties with exceedances have been informed to file a Spill Fund Damage Claim to determine if they are eligible for assistance.
- ❖ Now we will go through the ICU's involvement in all 4 ongoing investigations in Hopewell, their background, and general statistics.
 - ▶ Pennington Titusville
 - ▶ Route 31 & Tree Farm Road
 - ▶ Bear Tavern
 - ▶ River Road & Park Lake Avenue

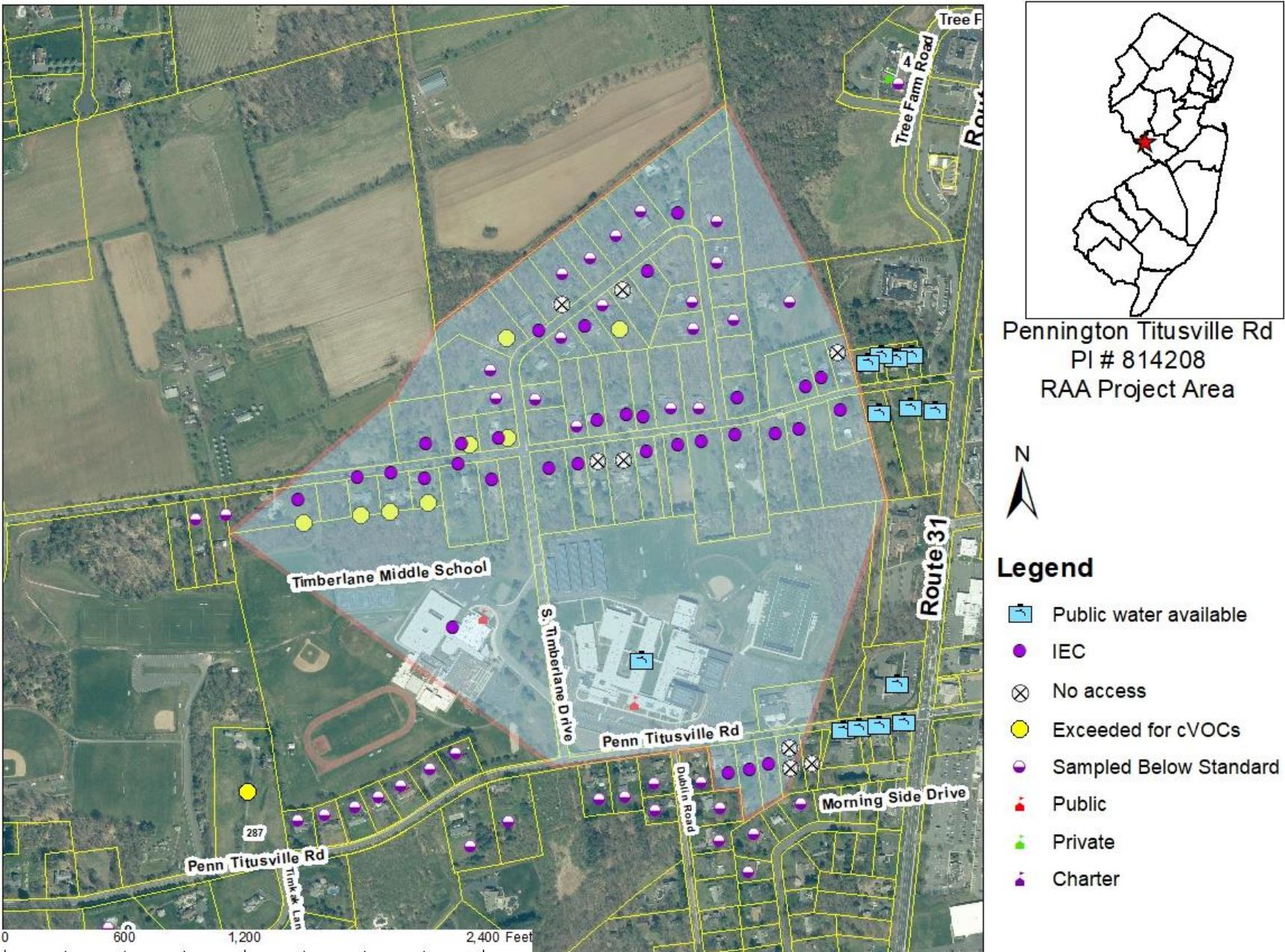


Map of PFAS Potable Well Investigations



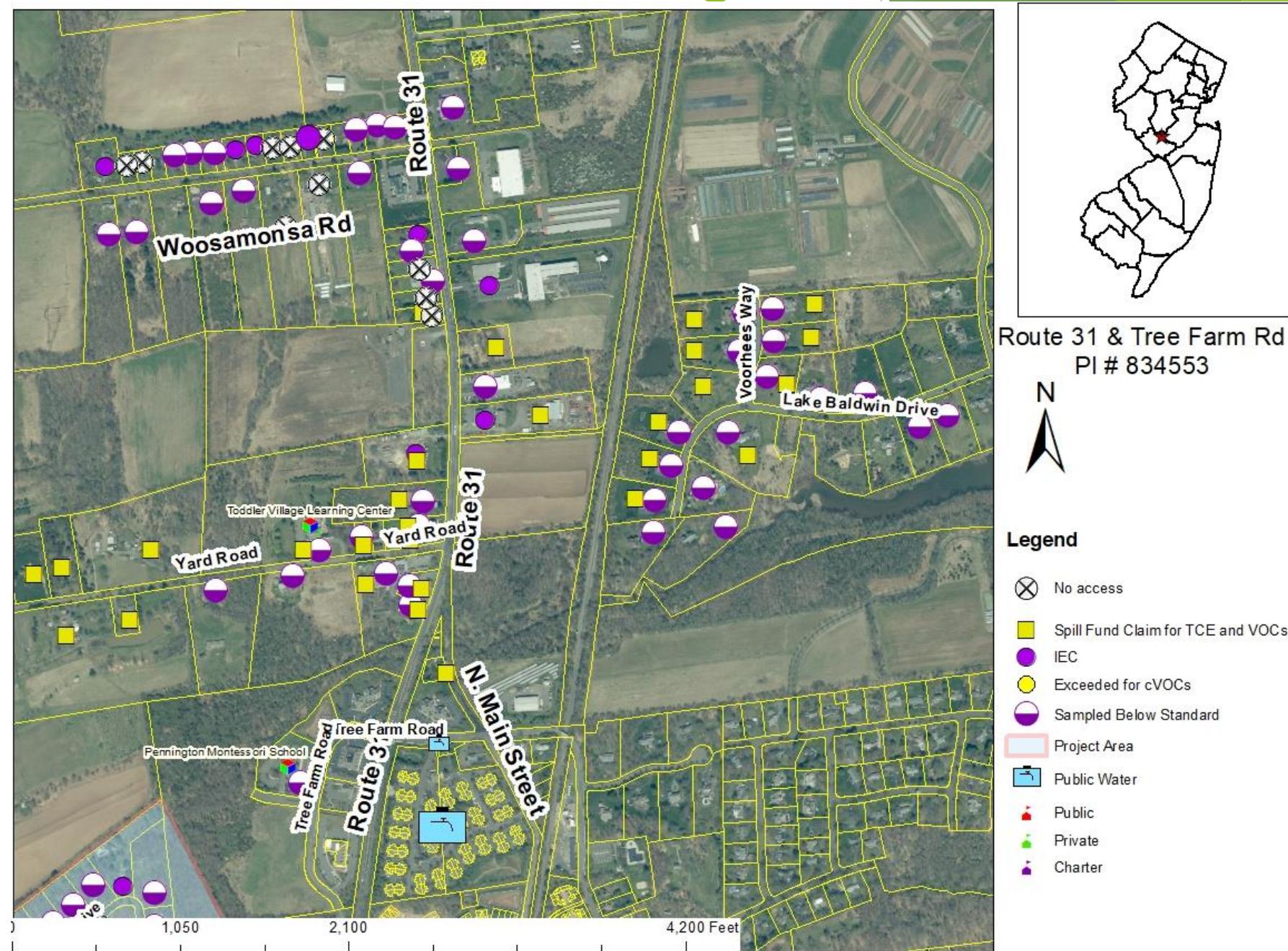
Pennington Titusville Road Potable Well Investigation (PI# 814208)

- ▶ This investigation was initiated due to the detection of PFAS at the Timberlane school.
- ▶ Between 2019 - 2022, six (6) sampling events have been conducted, and over 70 wells have been sampled.
- ▶ 25 Immediate Environmental Concerns (IEC) have been identified, mostly North of the school.
- ▶ A Currently Known Extent (CKE) of contamination has been developed and a Remedial Action Recommendation to Hopewell Township is being analyzed.
- ▶ No further sampling of this area is planned.



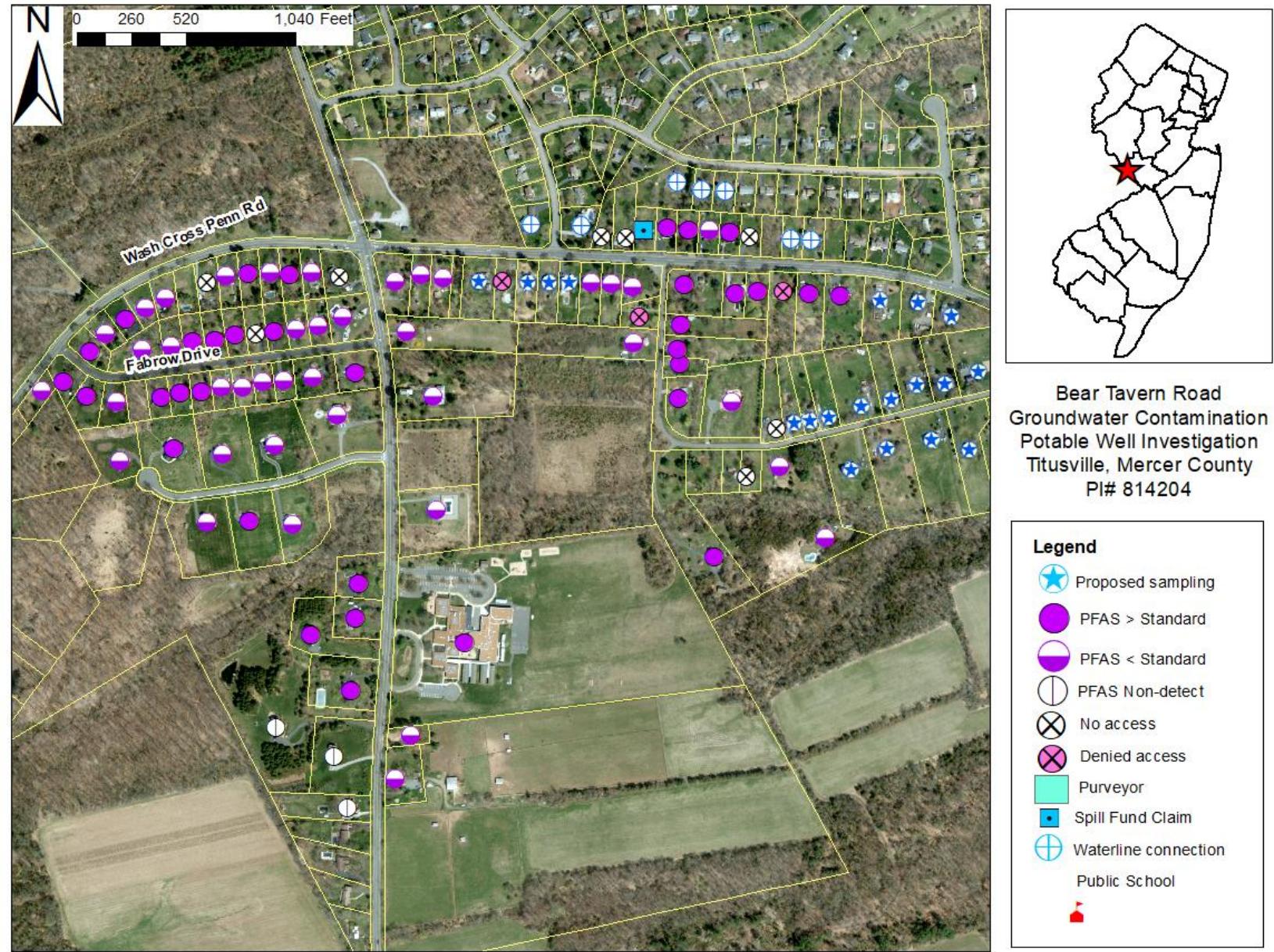
Route 31 & Tree Farm Road Potable Well Investigation (PI# 834553)

- ▶ This investigation was initiated due to the identification of PFAS in a well supplying a shopping center along the Route 31 corridor.
- ▶ Between 2019 - 2022, six (6) sampling events have been conducted, and 68 wells have been sampled.
- ▶ 26 IECs have been identified.
- ▶ ICU is developing a CKE for the site. This will be provided to the Township along with a recommendation for long term remedial action.
- ▶ No further PFAS potable well sampling is planned for this site.



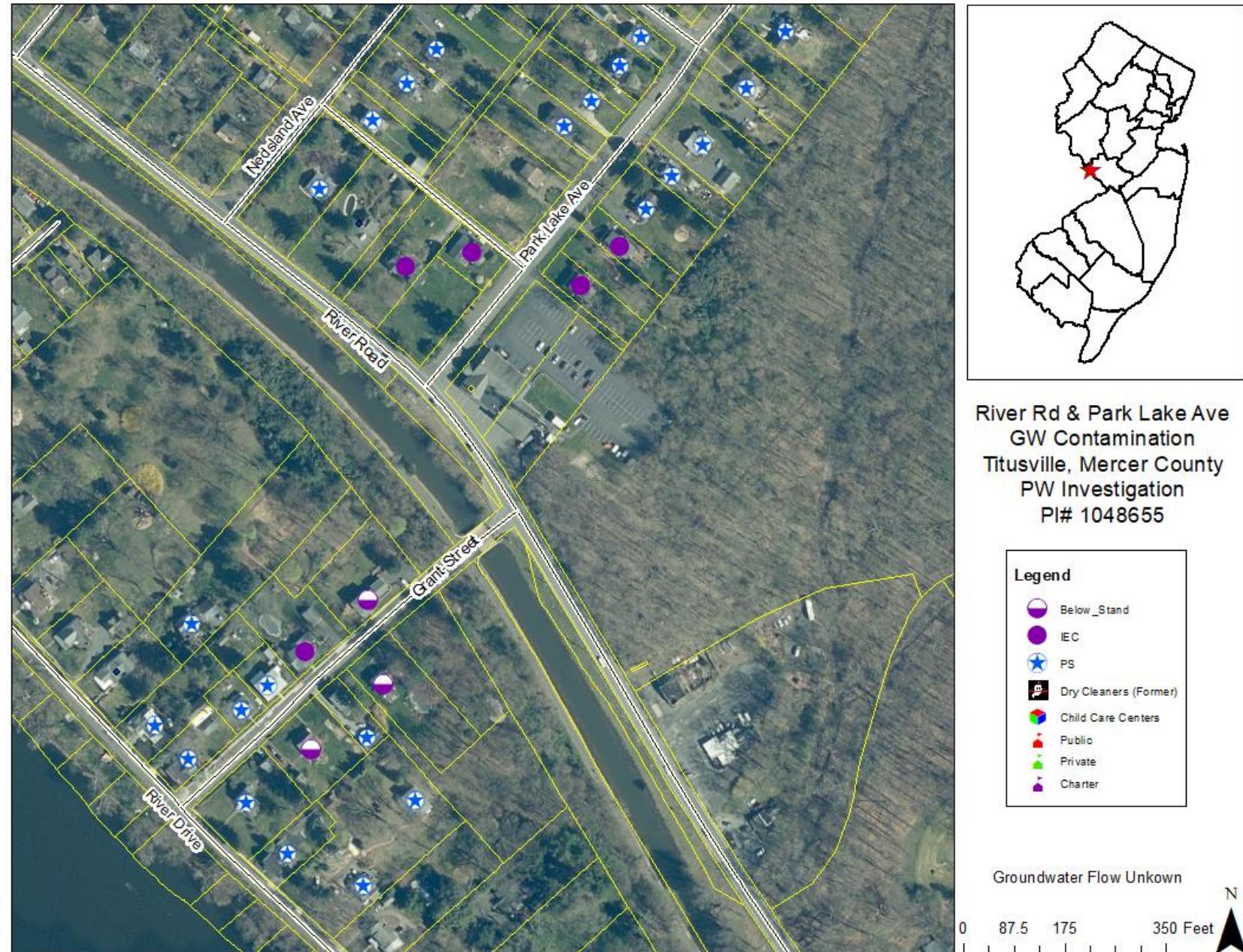
Bear Tavern Road Potable Well Investigation (PI# 814204)

- ▶ This investigation was initiated due to the identification of PFAS above standard in the Bear Tavern Elementary School.
- ▶ Eight (8) potable well sampling events have been conducted between January 2020 and November 2023.
- ▶ Out of the seventy-seven (77) wells sampled, thirty-two (32) PFAS exceedances have been identified to date.
- ▶ This investigation is ongoing and additional potable well sampling is tentatively scheduled for May 08, 2024.



River Road & Park Lake Avenue Potable Well Investigation (PI# 1048655)

- ▶ This investigation was initiated when the Firehouse sampled their well and detected exceedances of PFAS.
- ▶ Currently, one (1) sampling event was conducted on November 01, 2023.
- ▶ Five (5) IECs have been identified by the ICU to date.
- ▶ Additional sampling events are currently being planned. Tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2024.



Currently Known Extent (CKE) & Remedial Alternative Analysis (RAA)

- ▶ Using all available potable well sampling the NJDEP develops a Currently Known Extent (CKE) of ground water contamination.
- ▶ After the CKE is finalized, the ICU analyzes viable long term remedial actions to provide clean drinking water to those within the CKE. Long term remedial measures include Point of Entry Treatment Systems (POET), and the extension and connection of properties to a public water system.
- ▶ Based on this analysis the NJDEP then provides a recommendation to the Township for the most protective and cost-effective remedial action to protect all contaminated wells within the CKE.
- ▶ Property owners outside of the CKE that were not included in a NJDEP potable well sampling event may conduct sampling of their own well. If contamination is identified, property owners may be eligible to file a Spill Fund Claim with the Environmental Claims Administration (ECA).





New Jersey Spill Compensation Fund

- Spill Compensation Fund Background
- How Well Water Claims are Referred
- Prioritization of Claims
- Claims Procedures
- Point of Entry Treatment Systems (POET)

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Spill Compensation Fund

- ▶ New Jersey Spill Compensation and Control Act (Spill Act) was enacted in 1977 (N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11 et seq.) and created the Spill Compensation Fund
- ▶ Administered by Environmental Claims Administration (ECA) within Contaminated Site Remediation and Redevelopment (CSRR) of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
- ▶ Implemented through the *“Processing of Damage Claims Pursuant to the Spill Compensation and Control Act”* rules, N.J.A.C. 7:1J

Spill Compensation Fund

- ▶ Revenues for the Fund provided by tax levied on transfer of petroleum and other hazardous substances from major facilities
- ▶ Non-lapsing, revolving fund made available to the residents, municipalities, and businesses in New Jersey through damage claims filed with NJDEP

Spill Fund Claims - N.J.A.C. 7:1J

- ▶ “Fund of last resort” - must exhaust all other sources of funding - including potential responsible party(ies)
- ▶ For Assistance - One must first incur damages - speculative damages are not eligible
- ▶ Ineligible if Claimant knew or should have known about the discharge.
- ▶ Responsible parties are ineligible

How Well Water Claims Are Referred

- ▶ From Private Well Testing Act Sampling
- ▶ Referrals from other NJDEP programs
- ▶ DEP Hotline calls
- ▶ Routine Homeowner sampling (Certified laboratory results)

Prioritization of Claims

N.J.A.C 7:1J-2.2 (b) The administrator shall prioritize the categories of claims that are eligible for compensation in the following order:

1. **Homeowner claims**: Potable water damages and restoration
2. **Schools/Child Care Facilities** - Potable water damages and restoration at schools and childcare facilities; and
3. **All other categories of claims**.

Claim(s) Procedures

- ▶ Submittal of claim needs to occur within one-year of date of discovery of the damage
- ▶ All appropriate forms and required data need to be completed and sent to the ECA for review and processing
- ▶ ECA reviews submittals for completeness and eligibility
- ▶ Claimants are notified by ECA/Spill Fund of claim validity/eligibility

Guidelines for Homeowner Potable Well Water Claims

- ▶ Submit claim application by **CERTIFIED MAIL**, or by other means that provide receipt showing date of mailing and date of delivery. Claims cannot be submitted electronically.
- ▶ Provide copies of **INITIAL** and **CONFIRMING** water test results from a **NJ state certified water-testing laboratory**.
- ▶ Include a copy of **CURRENT TAX BILL** or **DEED**.
- ▶ If **NO** waterline is available, provide **THREE (3) ESTIMATES** for a **Point-of-Entry Treatment (POET)** system.
- ▶ If a waterline is available, provide **THREE (3) ESTIMATES** from licensed plumbers to **HOOK-UP** and **THREE (3) ESTIMATES** from **CERTIFIED** well sealer to **SEAL** the well.

Point of Entry Treatment System (POET)s

- ▶ Provides whole house treatment. Spill Fund also pays for maintenance and sampling of the POET system
- ▶ Maintenance eligibility ends when house is sold (7:1J-2.5c)
- ▶ Well sealing is required if the home is connected to public water (if water line is available)

Spill Claims

- ▶ More information on Spill Claims:
 - ▶ www.nj.gov/dep/srp/finance/eca.htm
- ▶ Spill Fund General Questions Hotline:
 - Phone: 609-984-2076
 - Email: srp_Spillfund_gq@dep.nj.gov

Resources for Property Owners

- ▶ www.nj.gov/dep/pfas- includes all information of PFAS within the state including exposure and health effects
- ▶ IEC Guidance:
www.nj.gov/dep/srp/guidance/IEC/
- ▶ [NJDEP | Private Wells | Private Well Testing Act \(PWTA\)](#)
- ▶ Certified Lab: www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/pwta/pwta_lablist.htm
 - ▶ For PWTA testing and well testing for property owners



Questions