



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hopewell Township PFAS Public Meeting – Pre-Submitted Questions

Well Sampling, Environmental Claims Administration-Spill Fund, and Drinking Water Questions:

How can we determine if there is PFAS in our neighborhood?

The easiest way to determine if PFAS has been identified in your neighborhood is to call your township/county health department. The health department will have all records of private and public well testing and the results.

Is contamination concentrated in a certain area of the township?

As can be seen by the Department's mapping of the sampling that has been conducted to date in the area of Timberlane Middle School, there is not a specific area of the township where PFAS contamination is concentrated.

What is being done to determine the source of the PFAS contamination in this area?

After a receptor investigation is completed by the Immediate Concern Unit (ICU) the case will then be transferred to the NJDEP Bureau of Environmental Measurement & Site Assessment (BEMSA) Site Assessment section for a source investigation.

Do I need to have my well tested for PFAS?

Testing for PFAS, and the full suite of contaminants included in the Private Well Testing Act (PWTa) is advisable, if the homeowner has not conducted this sampling before. NJDEP recommends the below testing regimen for other contaminants:

Every year (at least): Total Coliform, Nitrates, and pH

Every five years (at least): Lead, VOCs, SOCs, Iron, and Manganese

At least once: Mercury, Gross Alpha, and Uranium

Are we going to be required to test our private well water for PFAS?

Currently there are no requirements for private residences to test for PFAS. At the point of sale, a home with a private well would be subject to the Private Well Testing Act (PWTa), and therefore would need to test for the three regulated PFAS contaminants, along with the full suite of compounds regulated under the PWTa. More information about the PWTa is available at the following [link](#).

How can we test our well water/drinking water for PFAS?

Contact a certified laboratory which has been certified by the NJDEP to sample for PFNA, PFOA and PFOS. A list of certified laboratories is available at the following [link](#).

Is it possible to request that the DEP test our well?

The Department conducts receptor "step out" sampling based on location of previously identified contaminated wells. As a resident you will be sent a letter notifying if your home is part of the investigation and requesting your participation in that investigation. If you are not part of the investigation, you may always sample the well yourself.

Will reimbursement be provided for the initial well water test collected by the homeowner?

No, the Spill Fund does not pay for initial well water samples collected by the homeowner. The Spill Fund will, however, pay for confirmation sample costs if a claim is submitted and determined to be eligible. The reason for this is that the initial sample will not have undergone a data quality review by the Department's Office of Data Quality. In addition, the Department cannot know the exact circumstances under which the sampling was conducted. Therefore, a second sample is required to confirm that the contamination is present. The second (confirmation) sample would be reimbursable if a claim is submitted and determined to be eligible for Spill Fund assistance.

Is there any difference in the quality of the testing among New Jersey approved water testing companies?

All laboratories which perform sampling and analysis for the Spill Fund program must be state certified in the acceptable laboratory method used to analyze for PFAS. This is U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Method 537.1. The laboratory may subcontract this analysis to a lab that is certified for PFAS analysis if they do not have this specific certification.

How much do water tests including PFAS cost?

Currently, the costs are in the range of \$300 - \$600 per test. This is dependent upon the individual lab.

If the initial test shows levels above what the standard is but the confirmation test is below, will reimbursement for the test still be provided?

No, because you are not considered to be damaged. The Spill Fund would then recommend that a third sample be conducted. If the third sample is above the standard, and you submit a claim that is found to be eligible, the second and third samples, confirming contamination exists, are both eligible for reimbursement.

How often should our well water be tested if we have a POET system?

The Spill Fund Point of Entry Treatment (POET) System specifications for wells impacted by contaminants, including PFAS, require that one raw water sample and two treated water samples be collected and analyzed by a New Jersey certified laboratory every year. However, if needed, the Spill Fund may conduct additional sampling. These sampling events are generally scheduled by the vendor that installs the POET and are paid for by the Spill Fund for eligible claims.

To what extent are these forever chemicals a factor for those on Trenton Water Works?

Trenton Water Works has not exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL) for the three regulated PFASs (PFNA, PFOA, PFOS). Sample results have mostly been below analytical detection limits. Detailed sampling results is available at https://www9.state.nj.us/DEP_WaterWatch_public/.

Has the drinking water at the schools in Hopewell Township been tested for PFAS?

If a school has over 25 staff and students and has their own well or is a school that is connected to a public water system, then their water is being sampled for the three regulated PFAS'. If the results exceed the running annual average for the Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL), then all consumers of the water are notified.

Has the NJ DEP lowered the acceptable levels of PFAS in the water?

Prior to 2019, there were not enforceable standards for any PFAS in drinking water.

PFOA and PFOS: Under regulations adopted by DEP in 2020, quarterly monitoring for PFOA and PFOS has been required for public community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems since Jan. 1, 2021.

PFNA: Under regulations adopted in 2019, monitoring for PFNA has been required for community water systems serving 10,000 people or less with groundwater and non-transient non-community water systems January 1, 2019. Testing requirements for all other community water systems started January 1, 2020.

Will the EPA advisory with lower PFAS levels than New Jersey's lead to a change in the current NJ maximum contamination levels (MCL)?

The Health Advisory will not automatically change NJ's MCLs. NJDEP is evaluating the health advisory and is in the process of reviewing the data through which it was derived. EPA is expected to propose an MCL for PFOA and PFOS by the end of 2022. If the EPA MCL is more stringent than NJ's, then the EPA MCL will supersede NJ's. If NJ's is more stringent than EPA's, the NJ MCL will stand, but NJDEP will reserve the right to promulgate a stricter standard.

What is the preferred depth of a private well?

There is not an overall recommended depth for a private well. Local geologic characteristics can vary significantly, and the cost to go deeper into confined aquifers, rather than drilling to the water table can become extremely expensive in some regions. However, minimum construction standards for a domestic well vary dependent upon whether it is drilled into an unconsolidated or consolidated geologic formation. Well casings are required to be a minimum of 50 feet deep and 4" in diameter in unconsolidated geologic formations, while in consolidated geologic formations, well casings must be at least 6" in diameter, a minimum of 50 feet deep and extend 20 feet into competent rock. In general, newly constructed wells must be installed by a licensed well driller in New Jersey, who should be able to advise on site-specific conditions. 94 domestic wells have been drilled in Hopewell Township since January 2010. Those wells ranged in depth from 115 feet to 900 feet while the casing depths ranged from 50 feet to 106 feet.

Health Related Questions:

Several questions that were submitted ahead of the public meeting inquired about the health-related effects of PFAS contamination. For more information about the health related effects of PFAS contamination, please check out the [NJ Department of Health's PFAS in Drinking Water Fact Sheet](#). Additionally, County and Local health departments may have further information about the health-related effects of PFAS contamination.

Other Questions:

Several questions that were submitted ahead of the public meeting exceeded the scope of the topic of this public meeting. For more information about PFAS, please visit the [NJ Department of Environmental Protection's PFAS website](#).