

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Rebate Program for Removal of PFAS in Private Wells

Final Funding Proposal

For submission to the N.H. Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission

Prepared by NHDES MtBE Remediation Bureau – January 7, 2022

Purpose:

To protect public health by reducing exposure to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in drinking water from affected private wells statewide where there has been no offer of alternate water from a third party.

Overview/Background:

As required by state law enacted in 2018, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) implemented new Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS) for four PFAS in September 2019 that are designed to protect the most sensitive human populations from drinking water exposure to PFAS. The current AGQS for PFAS are: 12 parts-per-trillion (ppt) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), 15 ppt for perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), 18 ppt for perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and 11 ppt for perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA).

As of the date of this request, NHDES has tested over 9,000 residential (private) water supply wells across the state for PFAS and has identified over 3,500 wells that exceed one or more of the new AGQS. While there are provisions in state rules for parties that are responsible for contamination of groundwater to remedy water supply wells that violate AGQS, not all PFAS contamination found in the state has been attributed, either technically or legally, to a responsible party. In instances where there is no identified responsible party for a contaminated water supply well, the burden of providing safe drinking water resides with the well owner. Third parties have addressed over 1,000 of the 3,500+ wells that exceed AGQS for PFAS by providing alternate water, either temporarily or permanently, in accordance with state rules; however, as many as 2,000 wells remain that are not currently being provided alternate water from a third party.

Eligibility:

The NHDES will provide a one-time rebate of up to \$1,500 per residential unit to assist eligible private residential well users in the purchase and installation of a treatment system designed to remove PFAS or connecting to an existing public water system. Eligible treatment systems may also be designed to remove other contaminants in addition to PFAS. Eligible applicants include:

- Owners of single or multiple-unit residential properties serviced by private well(s) having a PFAS exceedance with no offer of an alternate water source from a third party. Eligible PFAS exceedances include exceedance of one or more NHDES AGQS and exceedances of any Maximum Contaminant Levels that may be established by USEPA for PFAS.

- Tenants and occupants of residential property serviced by private well(s) with a PFAS exceedance with no offer of an alternate water source from third party where the owner of the property has not applied for the rebate for the same property.
- Vendors and subcontractors may apply on behalf of an eligible applicant with an appropriate waiver of claims between the two parties.

It is recognized that the installation of a treatment system requires ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) for effective contaminant removal. The intent of this program is to provide assistance for the initial installation and does not include rebate funding for the O&M of the treatment system. It is the responsibility of the applicant or the applicant's client to maintain their chosen treatment system once installed.

Process and Administration:

1. NHDES will announce the program via press release, educate treatment vendors about the program, and solicit rebate applications from eligible applicants based on known exceedances.
2. The applicant will submit the rebate application to the NHDES for review with the following documentation:
 - a. Certification that the applicant is not receiving alternate water from a third party
 - b. Certification that the installation complied with applicable state and local plumbing regulations and local permitting requirements
 - c. Analytical lab results showing an exceedance of one or more of the PFAS AGQS
 - d. Photo documentation of the installation
 - e. Filter model and serial number and/or specification sheets for media and equipment installed
 - f. Post-treatment analytical lab result showing PFAS below the AGQS
 - g. Proof of ownership or residency
 - h. Final paid invoice or final invoice from vendor/subcontractor, as applicable
 - i. Waiver of claims, if applicable
3. NHDES will review applications and issue rebates up to \$1,500 upon confirmation of the above documentation on a first come, first served basis.
4. No match will be required from the applicant.

Waivers:

The NHDES, in its discretion, may waive any of these provisions if granting the waiver will result in circumstances that better fulfill the purpose and intent of the initiative described above or if strict adherence to the provision being waived would not be in the best interest of the public, the environment, or the NHDES.

Timeframe:

Upon approval by the Commission, the NHDES will initiate development of the rebate program and conduct the necessary outreach. Given that many property owners with a PFAS exceedance may have already taken action by installing a treatment system and this purchase pre-dates establishment of the proposed rebate program, the program will operate retroactively to eligible costs incurred on or after September 30, 2019.

Estimated Costs for Rebate Program Funding:

The NHDES is seeking \$5M in grant funding from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. At \$1,500 per rebate, approximately 3,000 households could be provided assistance. The following unknowns account for the additional funding above the current known exceedances outlined above:

- NHDES continues to conduct targeted PFAS sampling in areas of potential concern. This ongoing sampling is identifying additional exceedances statewide.
- Results of sampling conducted by private well owners that have not been reported to the NHDES are not reflected in the current known total of AGQS exceedances.

In order to implement and administer the program, NHDES would require additional staff. NHDES would utilize up to 10% of the grant to fund one temporary full time position for 2 to 3 years plus overhead to develop the program, perform education and outreach to vendors and the public, review applications, administer rebates, and develop and maintain a tracking system for treatment installs. The NHDES MtBE Remediation Bureau would absorb personnel costs for the continued administration of the funds beyond the 10%, if still needed. The program will continue until the approved funding is exhausted.

Summary of One or More PFAS MCL Exceedences in Private Wells by County and Town As of Dec. 30, 2021

Prepared by NHDES

PFAS Impacted Private Wells by County

County	Total Wells ¹
BELKNAP	29
CARROLL	41
CHESHIRE	43
COOS	34
GRAFTON	50
HILLSBOROUGH	564
MERRIMACK	100
ROCKINGHAM	959
STRAFFORD	141
SULLIVAN	22
Total Number of Wells¹	1983

Notes:

1. Wells Exceeding one or more PFAS AGQS **and** located outside the SGPP Consent Decree Area as of 12/30/2021.
2. Updated sampling map depicted here: [NHDES PFAS SAMPLING \(arcgis.com\)](https://www.nhdes.gov/arcgis/)
3. Total number of Towns with impacted private wells is **123**.

PFAS Impacted Private Wells by Town

Town	Total Wells ¹	COUNTY
LONDONDERRY	475	ROCKINGHAM
AMHERST	199	HILLSBOROUGH
MERRIMACK	98	HILLSBOROUGH
BEDFORD	91	HILLSBOROUGH
WINDHAM	75	ROCKINGHAM
PLAISTOW	57	ROCKINGHAM
KINGSTON	54	ROCKINGHAM
SALEM	53	ROCKINGHAM
ROCHESTER	50	STRAFFORD
STRATHAM	48	ROCKINGHAM
NASHUA	44	HILLSBOROUGH
HOLLIS	43	HILLSBOROUGH
MANCHESTER	37	HILLSBOROUGH

Summary of One or More PFAS MCL Exceedences in Private Wells by County and Town As of Dec. 30, 2021

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MADBURY	36	STRAFFORD
HOOKSETT	32	MERRIMACK
NORTH HAMPTON	30	ROCKINGHAM
DERRY	29	ROCKINGHAM
DOVER	29	STRAFFORD
HAMPTON	23	ROCKINGHAM
PELHAM	21	HILLSBOROUGH
CONCORD	18	MERRIMACK
PORTSMOUTH	16	ROCKINGHAM
NEWINGTON	15	ROCKINGHAM
TUFTONBORO	14	CARROLL
BERLIN	13	COOS
FRANKLIN	13	MERRIMACK
RYE	13	ROCKINGHAM
TROY	13	CHESHIRE
CLAREMONT	12	SULLIVAN
EAST KINGSTON	11	ROCKINGHAM
FARMINGTON	10	STRAFFORD
LITTLETON	10	GRAFTON
CENTER HARBOR	9	BELKNAP
COLEBROOK	9	COOS
GREENLAND	9	ROCKINGHAM
HILLSBOROUGH	9	HILLSBOROUGH
HINSDALE	9	CHESHIRE
HUDSON	9	HILLSBOROUGH
BETHLEHEM	8	GRAFTON
BRISTOL	8	GRAFTON
EPPING	7	ROCKINGHAM
LACONIA	7	BELKNAP
LEBANON	7	GRAFTON
NOTTINGHAM	7	ROCKINGHAM
WOLFEBORO	7	CARROLL
ATKINSON	6	ROCKINGHAM
DURHAM	6	STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD	6	CARROLL
WALPOLE	6	CHESHIRE
GILMANTON	5	BELKNAP
LOUDON	5	MERRIMACK
MILFORD	5	HILLSBOROUGH
RAYMOND	5	ROCKINGHAM
BOSCAWEN	4	MERRIMACK
CANTERBURY	4	MERRIMACK
CARROLL	4	COOS
CONWAY	4	CARROLL
EFFINGHAM	4	CARROLL
JAFFREY	4	CHESHIRE

Summary of One or More PFAS MCL Exceedences in Private Wells by County and Town As of Dec. 30, 2021

Prepared by NHDES

NEWBURY	4	MERRIMACK
NEWTON	4	ROCKINGHAM
NORTHWOOD	4	ROCKINGHAM
PITTSFIELD	4	MERRIMACK
SOMERSWORTH	4	STRAFFORD
ALTON	3	BELKNAP
BRADFORD	3	MERRIMACK
FRANCONIA	3	GRAFTON
GOSHEN	3	SULLIVAN
HAMPSTEAD	3	ROCKINGHAM
HANOVER	3	GRAFTON
HOPKINTON	3	MERRIMACK
KEENE	3	CHESHIRE
LISBON	3	GRAFTON
MILTON	3	STRAFFORD
SUCCESS	3	COOS
SUNAPEE	3	SULLIVAN
SUTTON	3	MERRIMACK
TAMWORTH	3	CARROLL
ALLENSTOWN	2	MERRIMACK
BRENTWOOD	2	ROCKINGHAM
CANDIA	2	ROCKINGHAM
CHARLESTOWN	2	SULLIVAN
DEERFIELD	2	ROCKINGHAM
EXETER	2	ROCKINGHAM
FITZWILLIAM	2	CHESHIRE
FREMONT	2	ROCKINGHAM
GILFORD	2	BELKNAP
GOFFSTOWN	2	HILLSBOROUGH
HANCOCK	2	HILLSBOROUGH
HOLDERNESS	2	GRAFTON
MARLOW	2	CHESHIRE
MEREDITH	2	BELKNAP
NEW BOSTON	2	HILLSBOROUGH
NEW LONDON	2	MERRIMACK
RUMNEY	2	GRAFTON
STRAFFORD	2	STRAFFORD
WENTWORTH	2	GRAFTON
WESTMORELAND	2	CHESHIRE
WHITEFIELD	2	COOS
ACWORTH	1	SULLIVAN
BOW	1	MERRIMACK
CHESTER	1	ROCKINGHAM
COLUMBIA	1	COOS
DUBLIN	1	CHESHIRE
ERROL	1	COOS

Summary of One or More PFAS MCL Exceedences in Private Wells by County and Town As of Dec. 30, 2021

Prepared by NHDES

FREEDOM	1	CARROLL
GRANTHAM	1	SULLIVAN
HAMPTON FALLS	1	ROCKINGHAM
HENNIKER	1	MERRIMACK
KENSINGTON	1	ROCKINGHAM
MADISON	1	CARROLL
MARLBOROUGH	1	CHESHIRE
MONT VERNON	1	HILLSBOROUGH
NEWFIELDS	1	ROCKINGHAM
NEWMARKET	1	ROCKINGHAM
NORTHFIELD	1	BELKNAP
OSSIPEE	1	CARROLL
PEMBROKE	1	MERRIMACK
PIERMONT	1	GRAFTON
ROLLINSFORD	1	STRAFFORD
SHELBURNE	1	COOS
THORNTON	1	GRAFTON
WILTON	1	HILLSBOROUGH
Total Number of Wells¹	1983	