

Perfluorochemical (PFC) Investigation Public Meeting: PFC Blood Testing & Long Term Water Solutions

Hosted by
NH Department of Health and Human Services
NH Department of Environmental Services
Litchfield, NH
July 19, 2016



Perfluorochemical (PFC) Investigation

July 19 Public Meeting Agenda

Introduction:

- Jeffrey A. Meyers, Commissioner, NH DHHS

PFC Blood Testing:

- Benjamin Chan, MD, State Epidemiologist

Sampling Status & Ongoing Activities

- Brandon Kernen, Manager of Hydrology and Conservation, NHDES

Questions & Answers

- Written Questions followed by oral Q&A



Introduction

Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

NH Department of Health and Human Services

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Perfluorochemical (PFC) Blood Testing

Benjamin Chan, MD, MPH
State Epidemiologist

NH Department of Health and Human Services

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PFCs and Health

- For more detailed information about PFCs and studied health effects, please visit our website: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/pfcs/index.htm>
- Review our “Frequently Asked Questions” and “PFC Fact Sheet” documents (tonight’s handouts)



“How is NH DHHS facilitating PFC blood testing?”



Availability of PFC Blood Testing

- PFC blood testing is being offered for those who are on private wells and live on streets in areas eligible for bottled drinking water from DES (where private wells have tested above 70 ppt PFOA, PFOS, or PFOA/PFOS combined)
- PFC blood testing will be free for these individuals



Purpose of PFC Blood Testing

- To provide concerned individuals with their specific blood PFC levels
- To better understand levels of PFC exposure in the community



PFC Blood Testing Process

- Step 1: Register for PFC blood testing
 - Registration website:
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/pfcs/blood-testing.htm>
 - Call the DHHS Public Inquiry Line
- Step 2: Complete exposure questionnaire and consent form (online)
- Step 3: Blood draw (requires a requisition form)
 - You will be mailed a blood draw requisition form
 - Southern NH Medical Center & Portsmouth Regional Hospital are performing blood draws and processing specimens



PFC Blood Testing Process

- Step 4: Serum testing for PFC levels
 - Blood (serum) sample will be sent to DHHS Public Health Laboratories where it will be shipped to an out-of-state laboratory
- Step 5: Results
 - Reported from the testing laboratory to DHHS
 - DHHS will mail results to individual participants



Understanding PFC Blood Testing

For those who decide to get their blood tested for PFC levels, we want you to understand what a blood test can and cannot be used for...



A PFC Blood Test is an Exposure Test

- A PFC blood test is a test of exposure to PFCs
- This test has been used to learn about levels of exposure to PFCs in the various communities
- It will tell a person their level of exposure to specific PFCs at the time of the test
- It will not tell a person where those PFCs came from



A PFC Blood Test is Not a Medical Test

- A PFC blood test is not a medical or health-related test
- It is not medically needed by your healthcare provider to monitor your health
- Neither DHHS nor a healthcare provider will be able to tell a person whether finding PFCs in your blood has/will harm your health



A PFC Blood Test Can be Compared to Other Tested Populations

- Most people in the United States have various PFCs detectable in their blood
- Your PFC blood level can be compared to levels in other populations tested
- If you drank contaminated water, your blood PFC level likely will be higher than the general U.S. population



Who is Responsible for Monitoring my Health?



Primary Healthcare Providers Should Monitor your Health

- Your primary healthcare providers are responsible for monitoring and addressing any health concerns you may have
- They can best assess your health based on a thorough history and physical exam
- NH DHHS has provided resources and information to help clinicians make informed decisions



ATSDR Assistance and Support

- PFCs are an emerging national Issue
- The CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances Disease Registry (ATSDR) is developing national healthcare provider recommendations for monitoring the health of exposed individuals
- NH DHHS has requested that ATSDR perform a "Health Consultation" to evaluate potential health concerns related to drinking water exposure around the Saint-Gobain plant



There is No Treatment for PFC Exposure

- There is no way to remove PFCs more quickly from your body
- Blood PFC levels will go down slowly over time
- There are no medical therapies for finding PFCs in your body



Preventative Health Recommendations

- Individuals can proactively look out for their health by seeking routine medical care
- Maintain healthy lifestyles and undergo routine medical screening as recommended by your healthcare provider
- Get your private drinking water tested for contaminants known to cause health problems:
http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/well_testing/documents/well-testing.pdf



NH DHHS Public Inquiry Line: 603-271-9461

- Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Public Inquiry Line
- Concerns about your individual health are best addressed by your healthcare provider
- Register for PFC blood testing:
<http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/pfcs/blood-testing.htm>



Sampling Status & Ongoing Activities

Brandon Kernen

Manager of Hydrology and Conservation,
Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau
NH Department of Environmental Services

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SAINT-GOBAIN

 1.5 Mile Radius

PFOA + PFOS (PPT)

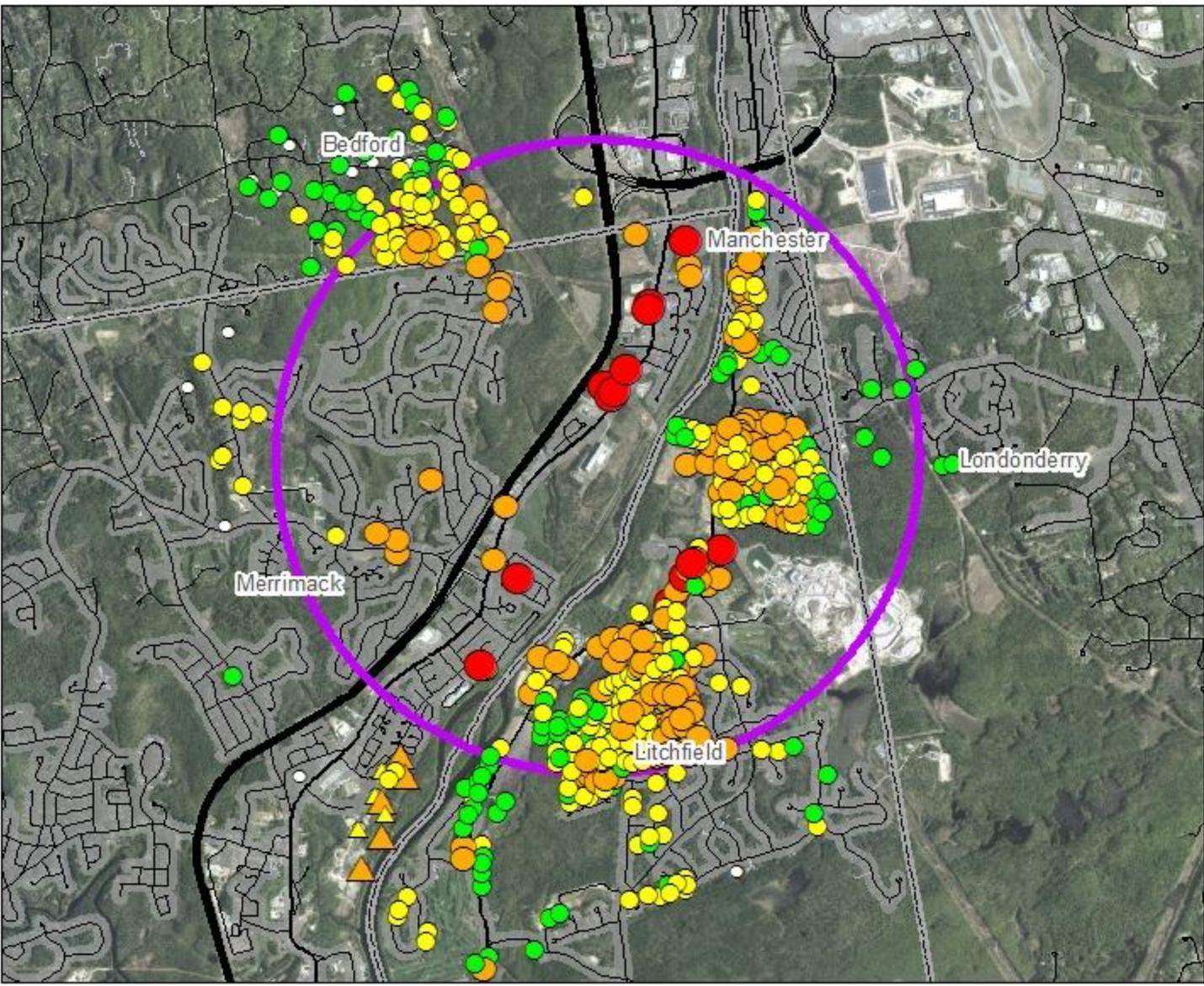
-   ≥400
-   70 - <400
-   10 - <70
-   < 10
-   Pending

Public Water Supplies

-  Water Distribution
-  Political Boundary

1 in = 4,000 feet

1:48,000



WELLS SAMPLED	RESULTS RECEIVED	PFOA & PFOS ≥70 PPT	APPOINTMENTS SCHEDULED	REMAINING WELLS
588	569	171	9	11



NHDES Ongoing Activities

- Bottled water provided to 480 homes & businesses
- Ongoing testing
 - Plume extent
 - Sensitive Sites Soils
 - Agriculture
- Water system extension design completed 7/18/16
- Saint-Gobain currently reviewing the design
- Next steps should be determined in August
 - Permanent solution
 - Interim solution





Private Wells and Community Water System

Cost Considerations

	Properly Maintained Well	Minimally Maintained Well	Community Water System
Average Annual Operating Cost	\$625-\$833	\$150-\$360	\$600-\$800
Monthly Operating Cost	\$52-\$69	\$12.50-\$30	\$50-\$67
Fire Protection/Insurance Savings	\$0	\$0	-\$100 to -\$300 (cost savings)

Minimally Maintained Well Costs

- New Well Pump/Tank (every 10 years)
- Electricity

Properly Maintained Well Costs

- New Treatment System (non PFC Contaminants)
- Water Quality Testing



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Questions & Answers:

- Written Questions
- Oral Q&A



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