



# PFOA Contamination Southern New Hampshire Update

September 30, 2016

NHDES is issuing these email updates during our ongoing investigation into perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and other PFCs in southern New Hampshire drinking water. These updates will also be posted on our website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm>

## **Press Releases**

September 26 - New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Announces Merrimack Village District PFC Blood Testing Assessment Program

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) today announced a program to assess potential exposure to perfluorochemicals (PFCs) among Merrimack Village District Water Works (MVD) customers. DHHS, at the request of Merrimack town administrators and in coordination with the Governor’s office, is conducting a limited community exposure assessment by testing blood (serum) of 200 randomly selected MVD customers.

To read the full release, visit: <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/media/pr/2016/09262016merrimack.htm>

## **Private Well Sampling:**

	SAINT-GOBAIN AREA	TCI AMHERST	FORMER MERRIMACK LANDFILL	FORMER LL&S LANDFILL	TCI MANCHESTER
WELLS SAMPLED	655	198	109	44	4
RESULTS RECEIVED	605	195	85	41	4
≥70	172	16	1	0	0
SCHEDULED	59	1	0	1	0

New results were received this week, to view the current maps for all of these locations, please visit: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm> and look under the subheading: Sampling Maps and Data.

If you live in this area and have not had your well tested and would like NHDES to test your well, please complete the sampling request form: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHDES-S-03-008>

## **Update on PFOA and PFOS Rulemaking:**

The Final Proposed Rule to adopt the emergency Ambient Groundwater Quality Standard for PFOA and PFOS as regular rules was filed on September 23, 2016. The annotated and fixed text final proposals and the summary of comments/responses with the two Environmental Health Program memos are available on-line at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rulemaking/index.htm#poil>

The rules will be on the agenda for the Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules meeting scheduled for October 20, 2016.

**Update on PFOA Test Results Investigation:**

At recent public meetings NHDES had informed stakeholders that it was researching why the results from one lab, Regional Water Authority (RWA), analyzing samples for PFOA seemed to be consistently lower than the other laboratories performing this work on samples from the southern NH PFOA site. Research included designing and implementing a blind performance evaluation test of involved labs, a large number of split-samples using multiple laboratories and analytical methods, and reaching out to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and national analytical chemistry experts in academia. NHDES concluded that RWA and the other labs were following USEPA's approved method, which instructed labs to quantify linear PFOA isomers but, unlike for certain other perfluorinated compounds, was silent on whether to include other forms of PFOA that occur as branched isomers. Accordingly, no lab was at fault. Rather, RWA was not reporting the presence of the branched isomers, whereas the other labs were. When the branched isomers are included, results are similar. NHDES notified USEPA who has issued a Technical Advisory further explaining this issue and instructing labs to include the branched isomers. It can be found at:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwanalyticalmethods/technical-advisory-laboratory-analysis-drinking-water-samples-perfluorooctanoic>

RWA is in the process of issuing revised reports that include the concentrations of any detected branched isomers in the results for the samples they analyzed and NHDES will provide this information to all affected well owners once the combined linear and branched isomer results are received.

**Update on Water Line Extensions:**

**Litchfield:** Bids were received for the three Litchfield water main improvement projects during the week of September 19, 2016. These three contracts are for the water main portion work to extend municipal water to private residences in Litchfield. During the week of September 26, 2016, bids were received for the seven Litchfield water service projects. These contracts are for connection of individual services to the new municipal water system.

**Amherst:** Textiles Coated International, Inc. (TCI) has notified NHDES that it will fund preparation of a design and bid specification package for construction of a public water line to Amherst residents currently receiving bottled water because their wells have been impacted by PFOA.

**Public Water System Test Results:**

Earlier this year, NHDES requested that Public Water Systems in New Hampshire test for PFCs. We have tabulated the information and the posted results we have received thus far. To view the results, please visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm> by looking under the subheading: Public Water System Test Results.

**Public Meeting Presentations:**

NHDES has posted the presentation given at the September 26, Amherst Public Information Meeting: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/documents/pfoa-amherst-final-20160926.pdf>

**Bottled Water Delivery/Availability:**

If you are eligible and have not received delivery of bottled water or have questions about receiving bottled water, please contact Andy Fulton, NHDES at (603) 271-7376 (for Bottled Water Inquiries Only). A listing is available on our webpage: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/documents/pfoa-bottledwaterareas-20160715.pdf>

**Public Inquiries**

If you have questions regarding the NHDES investigation into PFCs found in Southern NH drinking water, please call the Public Inquiry Line at (603) 271-9461 or visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm> Also, please share this report with your interested family, neighbors or friends. Anyone interested in receiving

the reports directly via email should email James Martin, NHDES Public Information Officer at [james.martin@des.nh.gov](mailto:james.martin@des.nh.gov)

###