



Lambertville & West Amwell Public Meeting

- What are PFAS?
- PFAS in Lambertville/West Amwell Background
- Ongoing Potable Well Investigations
- Remedial Alternatives Analysis Discussion
- Spill Fund Damage Claims
- Answering Questions Submitted by Residents

Immediate Concern Unit (ICU):

Bill Hanrahan: Bureau Chief

Alexandra Skinner: Supervisor

Fund Management Section:

William Schreyer: Section Chief

Office of Community Relations

Greg Broslawski: Community Relations Coordinator



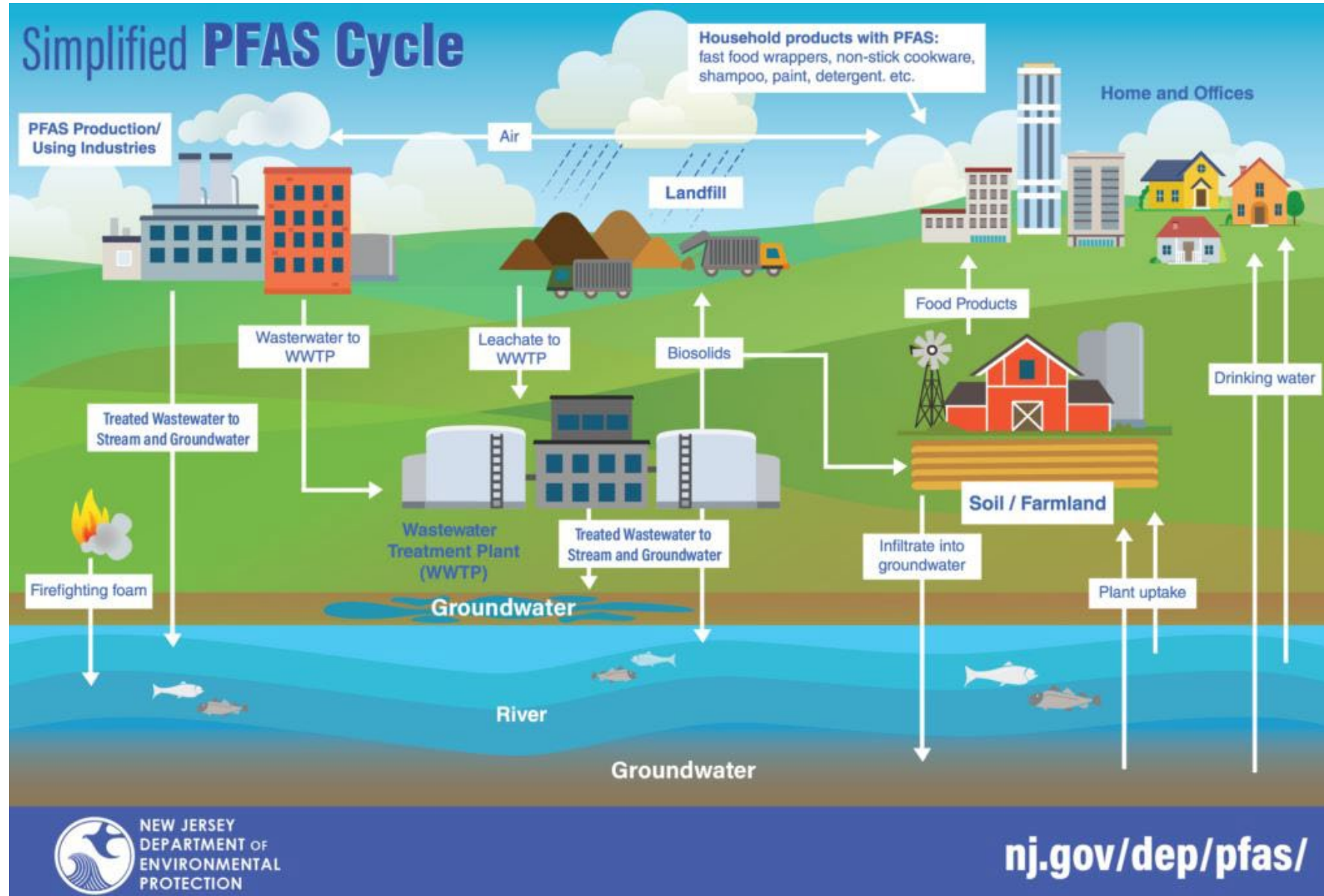
What are Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances aka PFAS?

- ▶ 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 in the environment and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time.
- ▶ PFAS are 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.

Simplified PFAS Cycle



PFAS in NJ Background:

- ❖ 2018: NJDEP established a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) requiring certain public water supply systems to sample for PFAS.
- ❖ 2020: NJDEP established Groundwater Quality Standards (GWQS) for three (3) PFAS compounds which were used to investigate private potable wells.
- ❖ 2021: PFAS were added to the Private Well Testing Act (PWTA). Upon sale of a property, PWTA is required.
- ❖ 2024: USEPA established federal PFAS MCLs.

Nationally, PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, GenX, and PFBS are regulated because it was determined that these six (6) PFAS compounds occur in groundwater and drinking water at levels of concern. PFAS standards are shown in the table to the right.

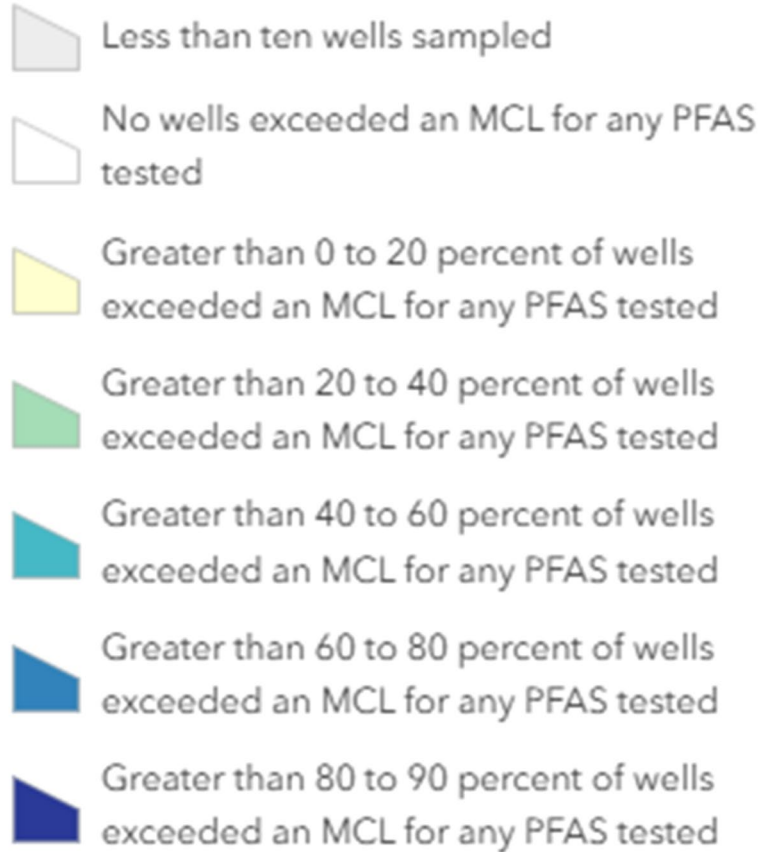
Compound	USEPA MCL* (ppt)
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA):	4
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS):	4
Perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA):	10
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS):	10
Hexafluoropropylene oxide-dimer acid (HFPO-DA or GenX):	10
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS):	2,000**

* USEPA MCL as established by 40 CFR Parts 141 and 142

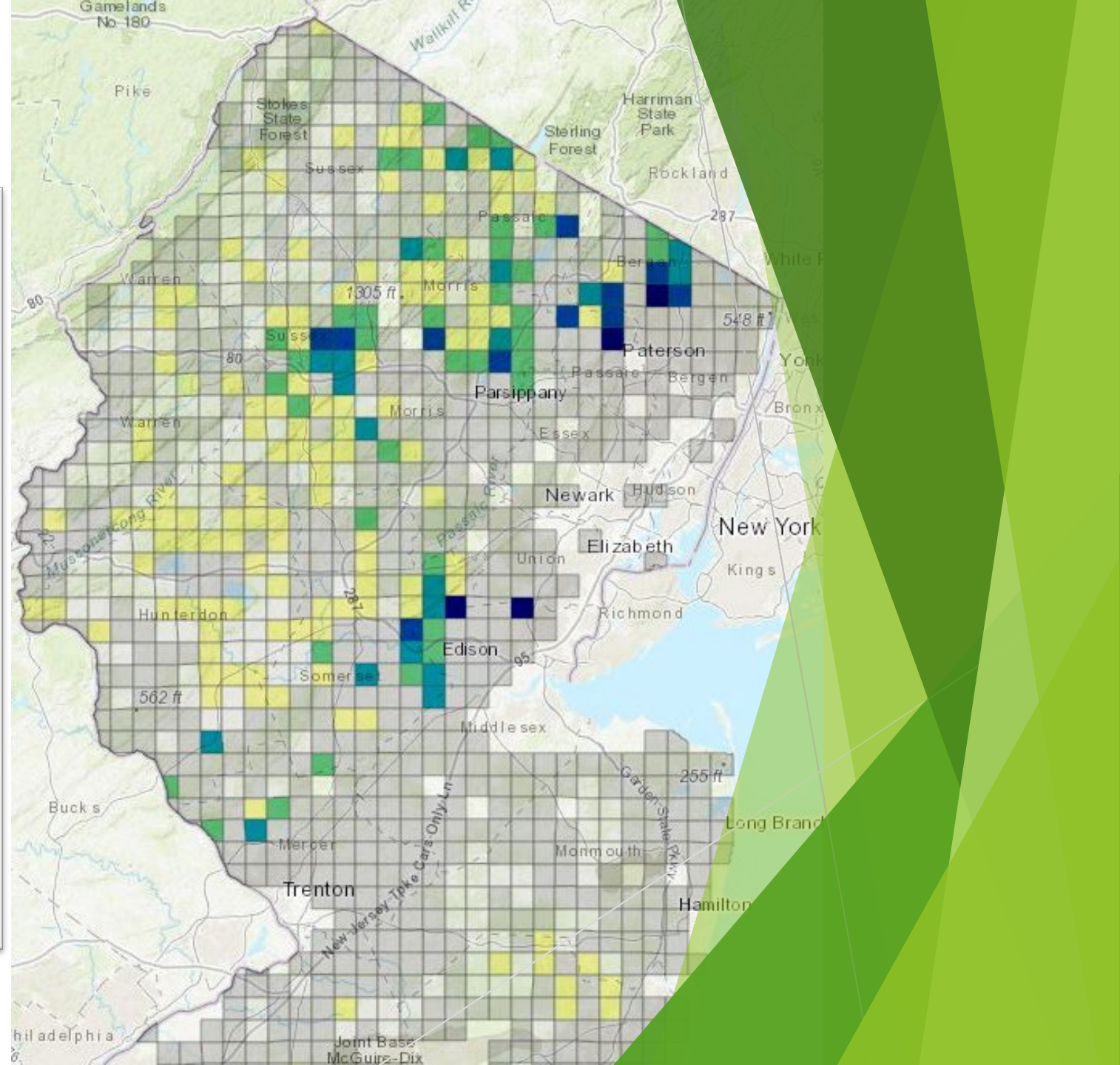
** Derived from USEPA PFAS Hazard Index equation

Private Well Testing Act Results (Summarized in 2-mile grid)

PFAS data



Click [here](#) to view this map online.



NJDEP Involvement:

- ❖ The Immediate Concern Unit (ICU) is conducting a potable well investigation and a source investigation in Lambertville / West Amwell Township. This involves sampling potable wells to identify those affected by PFAS contamination and examining potential sources of PFAS contamination.
- ❖ All owners of properties with exceedances have/will be 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 this case, its background, and general statistics.



ICU Involvement

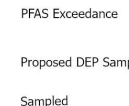
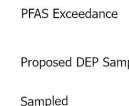
Belvidere Ave. & Allen St. Potable Well Investigation (PI# 1074364)

- ▶ On September 23, 2024, the Attorney for West Amwell informed NJDEP of multiple wells contaminated with PFAS in the Belvidere Ave. & Allen St. area.
- ▶ The results were reviewed on September 30, 2024, and a potable well investigation was initiated based on multiple exceedances of PFAS above standard.
- ▶ This investigation is ongoing and additional potable well sampling is scheduled for December 17, 2024.



Belvidere Ave & Allen St
Groundwater Contamination
Potable Well Investigation
Lambertville/West Amwell
Hunterdon County
PI# 1074364

Legend



Schools



PFAS Exceedance
Proposed DEP Sampling
Sampled

Public
Private
Charter

Dry Cleaners (Former)
Child Care Centers
Dry Cleaners
Roads (Centerlines)

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



- ▶ Using all available potable well sampling results, the NJDEP develops a Currently Known Extent (CKE) of groundwater 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 municipalities 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).

A high-speed photograph of water splashing, showing clear droplets and ripples in shades of blue and white. The water is captured in mid-air, creating a sense of motion and freshness. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white, making the blue water stand out.

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)

William Schreyer, Section Chief
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Contaminated Site Remediation and
Redevelopment

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 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 PWTA Sampling Data
- ▶ Referrals from other NJDEP programs
- ▶ NJDEP Hotline calls
- ▶ Routine homeowner sampling (certified laboratory results)
 - ▶ Private Well Owners collect either one sample or two samples

Spill Fund Initial Sampling

- ▶ The NJDEP is aware that the costs to sample private wells for PFAS are expensive. To address this issue the NJDEP is allowing for the collection of one PFAS Raw (un-treated) sample result under the following conditions:
 - ▶ The private well owner and laboratory must submit the full laboratory data deliverables in electronic format with the Spill Fund Claim Form. This method of confirmation sampling will result in longer Spill Fund Damage claim processing time, as the results need to be reviewed by CSRR's Office of Data Quality (ODQ). However, the private well owner will be reimbursed in full for the cost of this sample.
 - ▶ Alternatively, the private well owner can request that the laboratory collect an initial and confirmation PFAS sample. This method of confirmation sampling does not require the submission of the full laboratory deliverables and will result in faster claim processing. However, the private well owner will only be reimbursed for the cost of the confirmation sample.

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 **water test results from a NJ state certified water-testing laboratory**:
 - ▶ **INITIAL and CONFIRMATION**
 - ▶ **Initial with full data deliverables**
- ▶ 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

A high-speed photograph of water splashing, showing intricate droplets and ripples in shades of blue and white. The water is captured in mid-air, creating a sense of dynamic movement. The background is a soft, out-of-focus white.

Questions

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