



# State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
CONTAMINATED SITE REMEDIATION & REDEVELOPMENT  
BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS & SITE ASSESSMENT

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**PHILIP D. MURPHY**

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**TAHESHA L. WAY**

*Lt. Governor*

**SHAWN M. LATOURETTE**

*Commissioner*

September 15, 2025

Mayor Bob Balaam,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in West Amwell, Hunterdon County. Please see the answers below regarding your August 28, 2025, inquiry.

***Given the recent test results and the limitations of the testing company, I believe we should consider expanding our testing efforts. Could the Department of Environmental Protection assist us with this?***

As of September 3, 2025, the Bureau of Environmental Measurements & Site Assessment (BEMSA), Immediate Concern Unit (ICU), has initiated a new potable well investigation in West Amwell that will be referred to as, Lake Drive & Circle Drive South Groundwater Contamination (PI# 1111469). Currently, two sampling events are being planned where sampling will be conducted at a total of 40 properties (20 per event). In order to allow time for planning and coordinating with labs, these events will take place in November/December 2025. Potable well sampling will continue in order to develop a currently known extent (CKE) area of contamination in which all who have PFAS above standard are identified.

Funding for mitigation of PFAS-contaminated potable wells is available through the NJDEP [Environmental Claims Administration](#). If PFAS is identified in a private potable well, an application to the Spill Fund is encouraged to be submitted.

*“Effective May 19, 2025, pursuant to the [“Using NJDEP CSRR Financial Relief Criteria for Spill Fund Damage Claims and Publicly Administered Remediations”](#) policy, the DEP’s Environmental Claims Administration will compare laboratory analytical results for PFAS to the Contaminated Site Remediation & Redevelopment (CSRR) Financial Relief Criteria. If a private well owner samples their well and the results are above the CSRR Financial Relief Criteria, the well is deemed damaged, and the property owner may file a Spill Fund damage claim. Please note that all Water Supply systems must meet the New Jersey MCLs only, and these regulated entities are not required to meet the CSRR Financial Relief Criteria.”*

Through the Spill Fund, the NJDEP may reimburse homeowners that contract a [certified laboratory](#) to sample their well for PFAS and identify contamination above the NJDEP’s CSRR Financial Relief Criteria (FRC). Further, Spill Fund may pay for the installation of a treatment system or connection to a waterline if available.

Concerning other funds that are not State-related, it is recommended that an inquiry be made to the county or local health department. In the past, local health departments have used available resources to aid in funding private potable well sampling.

***We have encountered a high ratio of positive results, some of which are in new areas, raising concerns that we may have a larger issue than we initially expected.***

PFAS is considered widespread in NJ and is being investigated by multiple agencies. The NJDEP has ongoing PFAS investigations into private potable wells across the State. From the perspective of the ICU, it is our priority to identify those with PFAS above standard in their potable well water and inform of possible mitigation.

PFAS contamination identified in private potable wells has many potential sources and may enter the environment through:

- discharges from private septic systems due to residential use of products that contain PFAS (makeup, cleaning products, etc.),
- atmospheric deposition as a result of industrial releases to air,
- landfills which contain material that have components comprised of PFAS,
- sludge released from water treatment plant's effluent,
- firefighting foam, known as Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), that has been discharged during firefighting or fire fighter training.

Ultimately, resources are available to those who identify PFAS above standard in their private potable well via the Spill Fund. The NJDEP encourages homeowners to hire a certified laboratory to sample their private well for PFAS. Where PFAS is found above the CSRR FRC, the cost of sampling may be reimbursed. In addition, the well owner would be eligible to apply to the Spill Fund for installation of a point of entry treatment system or connection to a waterline. Please let me know if you have any additional questions concerning this topic.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized first name followed by a horizontal line and a second name.

Alexandra Skinner, Environmental Specialist 3  
Bureau of Environmental Measurements and Site Assessment  
Immediate Concern Unit

For a list of certified labs please visit:

[https://njems.nj.gov/DataMiner/DM\\_REPORT\\_REVISED.aspx?RN=PFAS+Certified+Laboratories](https://njems.nj.gov/DataMiner/DM_REPORT_REVISED.aspx?RN=PFAS+Certified+Laboratories)

To view the NJDEP May 19, 2025 "Using NJDEP CSRR Financial Relief Criteria for Spill Fund Damage Claims and Publicly Administered Remediations" policy please visit:

[https://dep.nj.gov/wpcontent/uploads/srp/financial\\_relief\\_criteria.pdf](https://dep.nj.gov/wpcontent/uploads/srp/financial_relief_criteria.pdf)

For Environmental Claims Administration Spill Fund information please visit:

<https://dep.nj.gov/srp/finance/eca-spill-fund/>

To view an updated NJ DOH Drinking Water Factsheet please visit:

[https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas\\_well\\_water.pdf](https://www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/documents/pfas_well_water.pdf)