



The Board of County Commissioners
County of Hunterdon
State of New Jersey

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John E. Lanza, Director
Shaun C. Van Doren, Deputy Director

Jeff Kuhl, Commissioner
Zachary T. Rich, Commissioner
Susan J. Soloway, Commissioner

September 11, 2025

Commissioner Shawn M. LaTourette
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
401 E. State Street
7th Floor, East Wing
P.O. Box 402
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0402

Re: West Amwell Township & Lambertville City PFAS
Remediation Contractor Issues

Dear Commissioner LaTourette:

On behalf of residents in West Amwell Township and the City of Lambertville, the Hunterdon County Health Department is writing to request assistance from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in resolving an ongoing issue affecting residents whose homes are equipped with PFAS treatment systems funded through the NJDEP Spill Fund.

At present, ten residents in Lambertville and West Amwell Township have reported persistent sulfur, or "rotten egg," odors following the installation of Point-of-Entry Treatment (POET) systems designed to remediate PFAS contamination in their private wells. These systems were primarily installed by Portasoft, a subcontractor of McGowan Well, though one or two installations were reportedly completed by Ken Tren Water Care.

The affected households include:

- **Beth O'Brien**, 2 Hancock St. – 908-419-2377
- **Bridget Coleman**, 2 Hancock St. – 609-613-0160
- **Alex Seiz**, 51 Hancock St. – 609-937-7068
- **Mary Opydyke**, 7 Belvidere Ave. – 609-397-4632
- **Amal Nagib**, 32 Belvidere Ave. – 201-238-0675
- **Andrew Kneckle**, 52 Belvidere Ave. – 609-439-2468
- **Mary Pidgon**, 114 Skillman St. – 908-391-1071
- **Jean Galloway**, 12 Kearny St. – 609-397-8623
- **Kathy Brown**, 19 Old York Rd. – 609-397-2953
- **Marie Wagner**, 1519 Rt. 179 – son's phone: 561-545-5116
- **Erin Dopp**, 219 Jackson St. – 908-627-8757

Based on information provided to us, the process works as follows:

- Residents test their well water for PFAS contamination.
- Where PFAS levels exceed allowable standards, residents are instructed to obtain three vendor quotes for installation of treatment systems.
- Quotes are submitted to the NJDEP Spill Fund, which selects and approves one vendor to complete the work.
- Once installed, water is tested for PFAS, and if within acceptable limits, the Spill Fund pays the vendor directly, with no out-of-pocket cost to the resident.

For the eight impacted homes, McGowan Well has acted as the vendor of record, coordinating paperwork and scheduling with the Spill Fund, while Portasoft performed the actual installation work. Unfortunately, since installation, residents have experienced recurring sulfur odors in their water.

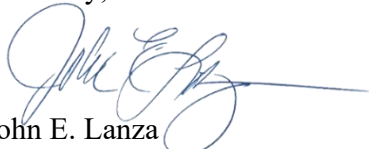
One example involved a resident whose system was installed on December 10, 2024. By January 7, 2025, she reported the odor, and despite repeated system chlorination in January, February, and March, the problem persisted. By April, she began contacting the Spill Fund directly for support, and while some correspondence occurred initially, she reports that communication from NJDEP ceased several months ago despite her ongoing attempts to follow up every two weeks. McGowan Well has consistently responded to her inquiries but has advised that they are awaiting guidance from the Spill Fund before taking further action.

We understand that McGowan Well is aware of the situation and has corresponded with NJDEP staff, including Mr. Bill Schraeyer and Mr. Ron Trauger. However, as of this writing, residents remain without a solution, and they continue to live with this unresolved problem. When asked what guidance residents have received about their water use, McGowan has indicated that the issue is “aesthetic” and not a health concern, though it remains unclear what testing beyond PFAS has been conducted.

Given the length of time this issue has persisted and the ongoing concerns expressed by affected residents, we respectfully request that NJDEP provide clear direction to both McGowan Well and the residents on how this matter will be resolved. Our primary concern is to ensure that these households have safe, reliable, and acceptable drinking water, free from objectionable odors, as was the intent of the Spill Fund program.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your guidance on next steps so that our residents may finally have this issue brought to a resolution.

Sincerely,



John E. Lanza
Commissioner Director

cc:

Senator Shirly Turner, NJ Legislative District 15
Assemblywoman Verlina Reynolds-Jackson, NJ Legislative District 15
Assemblyman Anthony S. Verrelli, NJ Legislative District 15
Mayor Bob Balaam, Township of West Amwell
Mayor Andrew Nowick, City of Lambertville