



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, or the EPA, is investigating contamination from several industrial sources around Route 31 and Rymon Road in Washington Township, New Jersey.

The EPA is taking action to protect community members from PFAS contamination.

Drinking Water Sampling

The EPA sampled drinking water at almost 350 properties since December 2024 and has spoken with nearly everyone in the study area about PFAS contamination.

The EPA provided results to most properties in the study area by phone and will continue to send letters with sampling results to community members over the next several weeks.

Bottled Water Deliveries

The EPA is providing bottled water to more than 180 properties where PFAS was found above the EPA's drinking water standards called the Maximum Contaminant Levels or MCLs.

If the EPA samples drinking water and PFAS is found above the EPA's MCLs, the EPA will contact the property owner as soon as it receives those results to begin providing bottled water.

Soil Sampling

With permission from owners, the EPA took soil samples from 5 of the farm fields where PFAS sludge was dumped or used as fertilizer from the late 1950s to late 1970s. The EPA also sampled the soil at several neighboring homes.

The EPA is working with state and federal agencies including the Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration to understand how soil and water contamination at farms might impact crops and livestock.

Sampling of the Musconetcong River

The EPA is collecting samples from the Musconetcong River this spring in coordination with NJDEP, the National Park Service, and other stakeholders to understand if PFAS may be impacting the river, wildlife, and people who use the river for recreation.

The NJDEP is conducting a fish tissue study to determine if PFAS contamination in the area is impacting fish in the Musconetcong River.



Community Meeting

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Warren County Technical School – Cafeteria, 1500 Route 57, Washington, NJ

The EPA will present on the work that was completed, what the results show so far and the next steps for the investigation. Community members will have time to ask questions.



Next Steps: Installing Treatment Systems

The EPA is installing individual water treatment systems to address contamination and protect residents and workers.

If the EPA found that drinking water at a property has PFAS levels above the EPA's MCLs, that property will be eligible to receive a free water treatment system called a Point-of-Entry Treatment, or POET, system.

A POET system is a water filtration system that is installed where the water enters a home or other building. It treats all the water distributed throughout the entire plumbing system and will ensure every tap runs water that is treated for PFAS.

After the EPA installs the POET system and sampling results show it effectively removes PFAS, the EPA will discontinue bottled water deliveries to that property. The EPA will continue to maintain the POET system, including routine sampling to ensure the filters are working properly, and will replace the filters as needed.

If a property has an existing POET system, the EPA will still need to test to make sure it is filtering out PFAS, and the EPA may make changes to the system if needed. The EPA will be offering to maintain all POET systems in the study area.

Facts and Definitions

PFAS: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances are a group of man-made chemicals, commonly known as "forever chemicals," that are not found naturally in the environment. The two PFAS compounds made in the largest amounts in the United States were perfluorooctanoic acid, also known as PFOA, and perfluorooctane sulfonate, also known as PFOS. PFAS can be found in air, soil, and water as a result of manufacture and use. They do not break down in the environment. PFAS can seep through the soil into groundwater and may adversely impact people's health and the environment. See <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas> for more information.

MCLs: The EPA's Maximum Contaminant Levels are standards for the maximum acceptable level of a contaminant in public drinking water.

POET: Point-of-Entry Treatment systems are systems that treat water before it enters the home or building. PFAS and other contaminants are filtered out of the water before it flows throughout the plumbing system.

Background

For several decades until the 1970s, a historic textile manufacturing facility known as Castle Creek Fabrics and Northern Dyeing Corporation spread industrial textile waste sludge that was contaminated with PFAS over several farm fields in the area.

Beginning in 2020, the NJDEP sampled drinking water and soil in the area and reimbursed affected residents and businesses for their purchases of bottled water and treatment systems for their homes. In November 2024, NJDEP requested that the EPA take over the investigation of the site due to high levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in groundwater and soil.

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The EPA Study Area

