

- [HOME](#)
- [ABOUT GOVERNOR HASSAN](#)
- [ABOUT TOM HASSAN](#)
- [MEDIA CENTER](#)
- [JUST FOR KIDS](#)
- [CONTACT GOVERNOR HASSAN](#)



## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

April 15, 2016

### Contact:

Communications Office  
(603)271-2121

### **Governor Hassan, NHDES and NHDHHS Continue Efforts to Address Contaminated Water**

*Additional Steps Include Expanded Well Testing, Increased Delivery of Bottled Water and Assistance with Blood Testing as Appropriate, and Investigation of Other Sites Where Contaminants are Potentially Present*

CONCORD – Continuing efforts to protect public health and ensure clean, safe drinking water for New Hampshire residents, Governor Maggie Hassan, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Commissioner Tom Burack and New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS) Commissioner Jeffery Meyers announced additional steps in the state's ongoing efforts to address water contaminated by perfluorochemicals (PFCs), including expanded well testing, delivery of bottled water and assistance with blood testing as appropriate, and an investigation into the potential presence of these chemicals elsewhere in the state.

"Ensuring that all of our residents and visitors have access to safe, clean drinking water is critical to public health, the well-being of our families, vibrant communities and a thriving economy," Governor Hassan said. "We must continue to work aggressively to address water contamination, collaborating across state agencies and with the federal government and those involved in the private sector to treat and restore contaminated water, assess health impacts and protect against water contamination in the first place. As state environmental and public health officials continue to work vigorously to strengthen our comprehensive response to water contamination, we will continue to focus on providing immediate access to safe drinking water alternatives when necessary, addressing the health and environmental concerns of affected individuals and communities, and working to ensure access to clean drinking water now and into the future."

In March, Governor Hassan wrote a joint letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with Governor Andrew M. Cuomo of New York and Governor Peter Shumlin of Vermont requesting a review of the best available science regarding perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and a lifetime health advisory for states to assess the safety of drinking water, which is expected soon. Once the EPA releases that information, the Governor will work with NHDES and NHDHHS to review the new advisory and evaluate its potential applicability to the state's ongoing efforts.

The Governor and public health officials also continue to call on the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to provide resources for a long-term biomonitoring program for those exposed to PFCs, as a well as a health consultation to assess potential health impacts.

Currently, NHDES is testing private wells within a 1.5 mile radius from the Saint-Gobain facility in Merrimack and providing bottled water to private wells that test above 100 ppt of PFOA, as well as all residents of Litchfield within and abutting a one-mile radius of the facility. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services is evaluating treatment options, as well as potential alternatives for providing connections to public water systems. The department is also contacting other businesses regarding their current or past manufacturing processes that may have used PFCs and investigating additional areas, such as landfills and wastewater treatment facilities across the state, where these contaminants could potentially be present.

"NHDES wants to help every family, every household, every business in New Hampshire to be assured that when they turn on the tap that they have safe, clean drinking water," said NHDES Commissioner Tom Burack. "NHDES is expanding and expediting water-well testing efforts and providing bottled water to residences whose private drinking water wells contain elevated concentrations of PFOA. NHDES, working with Saint-Gobain, is aggressively pursuing a resolution to this situation."

Innovate NH

Balanced Budget

Public Safety

Meanwhile, NHDHHS will assist affected individuals and families whose drinking water wells qualify them for bottled water delivery with options for blood testing. Individuals and families may call the NHDHHS public inquiry line at 603-271-9461 with any and all questions related to the investigation. Beginning Monday, April 18, the public inquiry line will be staffed on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Messages left outside the hours of operation will be returned on the next business day.

"The uncertainty about the potential health impacts of PFCs has the residents of Southern New Hampshire affected by PFOA exposure understandably concerned about it may mean for their health," said NHDHHS Commissioner Jeffrey A. Meyers. "While we don't yet know the impact of PFOA exposure on humans, DHHS is working closely with NHDES to better understand the path of exposure and will work directly with individuals whose private wells show PFOA levels about 100 ppt to help them receive blood testing. We have also provided information and recommendations to healthcare providers throughout the state so they can have informed discussions with their patients about the significance of PFC exposure."

Earlier this month, NHDES sent a letter to Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics regarding water contamination near the Saint-Gobain facility in Merrimack, requesting that the company address the threats to public health and the environment posed by this contamination, including delivery of bottled water as appropriate, treatment of public and private water systems, site cleanup and restoration of impacted water.

For additional information about PFCs and the state's efforts, visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm> and <http://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/investigation-pease.htm>.

Select Language

Powered by  Google Translate

