



PFAS MEDIA BRIEFING #4

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DHEC's Role in Private Drinking Water Wells

- DHEC issues permits for the proper construction of private drinking water wells to protect the water quality from surface contaminants.
- All groundwaters of the State are protected as to be potable without the need for treatment

ACRONYMS

EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level

PFAS - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

PFOS - Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid

PFOA - Perfluorooctanoic Acid

Visit our website for the most up-to-date information:

scdhec.gov/PFAS

1 WHAT IS DHEC DOING TO ADDRESS PFAS IN PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELLS?

- The [DHEC Private Individual Well Strategy](#) was drafted in April 2022 to assess potential PFAS impacts to individual well water used for drinking.
- Funding used to support the testing of private drinking water wells was provided by a legislative proviso in the fall of 2022.
- A Quality Assurance Project Plan finalized in January 2023 documents how the strategy is being implemented.
- Sample locations are identified in a number of ways, driven by public interest and historical data:
 - Individual application – there is a [form](#) to request sampling on the [DHEC web page](#);
 - Using the ambient surface water data to identify the areas of potential concern; or
 - Using data and information from specific clean-up sites with known groundwater impact.
- In the absence of drinking water standards, DHEC is using the current EPA Tapwater Regional Risk Screening Levels, consistent with EPA Region 4 Office, of 60 ng/L for PFOA and 40 ng/L for PFOS as action levels. For wells that exceed the action levels:
 - A short-term solution is to provide a point of use filter or filtered water pitcher.
 - The long-term solution is to tie onto a public drinking water system.

2 WHAT IS the DATA TELLING US SO FAR?

- 353 Samples have been collected as of 1/31/2024.
- Only seven (7) wells have exceeded project Action Levels.
- No PFAS were detected in over 50% of private water well samples to date.
- Concentrations are highly variable even in wells close to each other.

3 HOW TO GET INVOLVED

- If you or a family member uses a well for drinking water, you can apply to have your well sampled for PFAS by filling out this [online form](#).
- [Ambient Surface Water results](#) and [Drinking Water results](#) (Note: for privacy reasons, private drinking water well sample results will only be shared with property owners or tenants).