



January 2020 Update

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics is aware of the injunction preventing NHDES from enforcing the PFAS MCL/AGQS limits proposed in 2019. As part of our continued commitment to the community, we will continue sampling for any properties that have already received a sampling request letter or access agreement and we will voluntarily continue bottled water deliveries for locations that have tested above the proposed 12 ppt standard for PFOA. Additionally, we will begin bottled water deliveries for locations that are already in the sampling queue and test above 12 ppt.

We will continue to work collaboratively with NHDES on next steps. Below is more information on the program.

On September 20, 2019, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics submitted a *Work Plan for Sampling of Water Supply Wells and Provision of Alternate Water* (the Work Plan is [available here](#)) to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). Our goal with this Work Plan is to:

1. Create a plan for identifying water supply wells within the Consent Decree Outer Boundary with PFAS concentrations above the new PFAS Ambient Groundwater Quality Standard (AGQS).
2. Provide interim bottled water to occupants of properties where past sampling has identified PFAS concentrations above the new PFAS AGQS.
3. Provide interim bottled water to occupants at properties where sampling conducted under this Work Plan identifies PFAS concentrations above the new PFAS AGQS.

The Work Plan identifies 360 properties for sampling and a framework for expanding the program based on the results of the first round of sampling. We already submitted, and NHDES has already approved, the first addendum to the Work Plan (available [here](#)), which identifies an additional 220 wells for sampling. We will routinely identify additional wells for sampling based on this approach.

The properties we've identified for additional sampling are shaded brown on the map. Additional properties within the Outer Boundary that aren't being sampled as part of this program will be considered for future sampling as described in Section 3.2 of the Work Plan.

The following approach was used to identify properties in the initial sampling event:

- **Distance from existing water lines:** Properties located more than 150 feet from an existing water line were assigned a higher priority given they are likely served by a water supply well located on the property. Properties within 150 feet of an existing water line were preliminarily assumed to be connected to a water line. These assumptions will be further evaluated as a part of a survey as discussed in Section 2.0 of the Work Plan.
- **Proximity to wells with PFOA detections:** Properties within 1,000 feet of a residential water supply well with an existing detection of PFOA equal to or greater than 24 parts per trillion (ppt) were sampled during an early phase of the Work Plan.
- **Distance from wells previously sampled:** We phased a subset of properties located more than 2,000 feet from previously sampled water supply wells to increase the density of data in areas where fewer samples have been collected.
- **Proximity to the pre-Groundwater Management Zone (GMZ) Boundary:** The initial sampling plan considered properties within 2,000 feet of the pre-GMZ boundary as a starting point.

The NHDES later requested an additional set of properties for the next round of sampling. For this group of properties, we used the following approach:

- **Neighboring Parcels:** We identified “neighboring parcels” as those located within a 60-foot buffer around properties that have been offered interim alternate water. The list of properties that have been offered interim alternate water includes the properties identified in Table 1 of the Work Plan and several parcels identified by NHDES as eligible for alternate water since submittal of the Work Plan.
- **Distance from existing water lines:** “Neighboring parcels” located more than 150 feet from an existing water line were included given they are likely served by a water supply well located on the property.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Regarding the Residential Well Sampling Program

Question: Who is eligible for bottled water?

Residents become eligible to receive bottled water in certain areas when their well has been tested and found to have a PFOA concentration above the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for drinking water/Ambient Groundwater Quality Standard for groundwater of 12 parts per trillion (ppt).

Question: Why now?

On September 30, 2019, new Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS) went into effect in New Hampshire for four per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including a new AGQS for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) of 12 parts per trillion (ppt). Prior to this time, NHDES followed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 ppt. Wells that were previously tested and found to have a result above 12 ppt are now eligible for bottled water.

Question: Why am I not receiving bottled water if my neighbors are?

There are many factors that affect the concentration of PFOA in any given well and it is not uncommon for one well to test below the AGQS while a well on a neighboring or nearby property tests above the AGQS. You can find a map showing the variation in PFOA concentrations in sampled wells on the NHDES website

(<http://nhdes.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=66770bef141c43a98a445c54a17720e2>).

Additional well testing is underway in accordance with a Work Plan approved by NHDES.

Question: My well is within the outer boundary but not in the work plan or addendum. How can I get my well sampled?

NHDES recently approved a sampling plan that includes a framework for scheduling additional sampling. SGPP periodically submits addenda to that sampling plan for NHDES approval. If you'd like your well sampled you may request sampling, and your well may be incorporated into the next addendum submitted to NHDES if additional data is needed in your area.

Question: My property is on the list of properties for priority sampling in the Work Plan submitted to the NHDES. Can you proactively send me water?

At this time, only the properties with wells that tested above the recently revised PFOA AGQS of 12 ppt are eligible to receive bottled water. There are many factors that affect the concentration of PFOA in any given well and it is not uncommon for one well to test below the AGQS while a well on a neighboring or nearby property tests above the AGQS. Should PFOA be detected at a concentration above 12 ppt, you will be notified of your eligibility for bottled water.

Question: If my well hasn't been tested, how can you tell me the concentration is below the new limits?

Saint-Gobain is working diligently with NHDES to sample wells in accordance with the approved Work Plan to identify wells with PFOA concentrations above the new AGQS.

Question: What are next steps for testing more wells?

The NHDES-approved Work Plan identified 360 properties for sampling and a framework for expanding the sampling program based on the results of the first round of sampling. Saint-Gobain has already submitted, and NHDES has approved, the first addendum to the Work Plan, which identifies 220 additional wells for sampling. Going forward, additional wells to be sampled will be routinely identified by Saint-Gobain. The approved Work Plan and associated addendum and status reports are available on the NHDES website.

Question: My well was tested in 2016 which was nearly four years ago. Can you come and retest my well?

Saint-Gobain is currently working on sampling of wells that haven't been previously tested, in accordance with the Work Plan approved by NHDES.

Question: My property is on the list of properties for sampling in the Work Plan submitted to the NHDES. What are next steps?

A representative from Golder Associates will contact you to request permission to collect a sample from your well. If permission is granted, Golder will contact you to schedule a convenient time for sampling and once sampled, Golder will submit the samples to a laboratory for analysis. Current analytical turn-around times range from three to five weeks. Golder will share results with property owners within five days of receiving the results back from the laboratory.

Question: What is the timeline for sampling? When will my well be sampled?

Sampling of wells identified in the Work Plan is underway and an addendum to the Work Plan has been submitted to NHDES identifying the next set of wells to be sampled. The NHDES-approved Work Plan includes a framework for expanding the sampling program based on the results of the sampling.

Question: I'm receiving bottled water. Will this cost anything?

Saint-Gobain will continue to provide bottled water at no charge while we work with NHDES to identify potential longer-term solutions.

Question: I'm receiving bottled water. Can I use my well water for washing, cleaning, or other uses?

Water with PFAS levels above the drinking water standards/MCLs can be used for bathing, showering or washing clothes and cleaning. Please see more information from NHDES [here](#).

