



Frequently Asked Questions

Potable Well Sampling – Expanded Site Investigation Area

1. What is a potable well?

The term “potable well” refers to a well that is used as a water source for drinking water and cooking. Potable wells have different construction standards than some other wells such as irrigation wells or livestock wells. Most wells connected to a family residence are potable wells.

2. Why is the DNR conducting potable well sampling?

The DNR is conducting potable well sampling due to potential risk associated with per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS). A large source of PFAS contamination in groundwater has been identified at and in the vicinity of the JCI/Tyco Fire Technology Center on Industrial Avenue in Marinette, and the JCI/Tyco facilities on Stanton Street in Marinette. The total size of the area with groundwater contamination (also referred to as extent of groundwater contamination) is currently unknown.

To better understand the extent of PFAS contamination in groundwater and potential exposure to the community, the DNR is sampling potable wells to ensure that community residents have accurate information regarding potential PFAS in their potable wells that may contain PFAS from contaminated groundwater.

3. What will the DNR be testing my water for? The DNR will be testing drinking water for 36 PFAS compounds. PFAS are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been used in industry, firefighting foams, and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s.

4. Who will conduct the sampling of my well?

The DNR has retained the services of a qualified contractor, Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions (Wood) to conduct the sampling activities. Wood has supported the DNR on several projects involving PFAS since 2019 and has a regional office in Madison, WI. Wood has been supporting PFAS related projects nationally since 2006 including the Conceptual Drinking Water Supply Plan for 14 communities in the East Metro area of neighboring State of Minnesota.

5. At what levels are PFAS considered unsafe?

At the request of the DNR and in accordance with the state’s groundwater law, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) reviewed scientific literature and



recommended [cycle 10](#) and [cycle 11](#) groundwater enforcement standards for 18 PFAS compounds.

For more information on the cycle 10 and cycle 11 recommended groundwater standards, please visit DHS's website: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/water/gws.htm>.

For more information regarding the Wis. Admin. Code ch. NR 140 rule process that is addressing Wisconsin's standards for PFAS, please review the DNR website: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Groundwater/NR140.html>.

6. Am I required to have my well sampled?

Participation in sampling is voluntary. DNR will only sample wells where landowners return both a *Potable Well Survey* and a signed *Access Permission Agreement* giving their consent to sample. The DNR strongly encourages residents to have their potable well sampled at this time as additional opportunities for sampling by the DNR are unlikely. Having your well tested will inform you of potential PFAS exposure risk at your property.

If you opt out of sampling, the DNR requests that you to complete the *Potable Well Survey* indicating you would not like your potable well sampled. The survey should be returned in the stamped and self-addressed envelope provided as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can email a copy of the completed *Potable Well Survey*, to the DNR at the following email address: DNRJCFAS@wisconsin.gov.

7. Do I have to pay for DNR sampling my well?

No. Within the Expanded Site Investigation Area, the sampling and associated laboratory analysis will be completed by the DNR at no cost to you as the well owner.

8. How long will sampling well take?

The DNR's contractor, Wood, will discuss sampling protocols with you prior to sampling your well. In most circumstances, Wood will be able to collect a sample from an outdoor location at your property and sampling personnel will be on your property for less than an hour.

9. Will the DNR or DNR contractor need to enter my home during sampling?

Upon receipt of a signed *Access Permission Agreement*, the DNR's contractor, Wood, will contact you to discuss your well(s), components of your individual water system (i.e., water treatment systems, softeners, etc.), determine the most appropriate sampling location(s) and to determine the schedule for sampling your well.



In most cases, Wood will be collecting samples from outdoor spigots that provide untreated water and therefore will not be required to enter your home.

If you are unsure about your water system, Wood representatives may need to enter the basement/utility room to evaluate the system and select the most appropriate sampling location. Any need to enter a property would be discussed during the initial coordination call and approved prior to on-site arrival.

10. How long before results are available?

All well owners can expect to receive results from DNR/Wood via US Postal Service within 30-days of the sampling event.

11. What happens if my drinking water has levels of PFAS above the levels recommended by the Department of Health Services?

The DNR will notify well owners within 24 hours of receipt of analytical results that are above any DHS recommended groundwater quality standards (as identified in Question 5). If your well has PFAS at or above any of the recommended [cycle 10](#) and [cycle 11](#) groundwater enforcement standards, the DNR will contact you regarding a temporary supply of drinking water to be provided by the DNR to you at no cost, within the guidelines of state law.

12. Will the DNR provide me with an alternative water source if PFAS is detected in my well?

Well owners with PFAS detected above the recommended enforcement standards in their drinking water may be eligible for a temporary drinking water supply provided by the DNR. The DNR will continue to work to identify and work with any responsible parties to provide replacement water solutions to residents with impacted wells, as required by Wisconsin law. Where state funds are spent, the DNR will take actions to recover those funds from those responsible for the PFAS contamination.

For additional information: For more information about PFAS and PFAS in the Marinette and Peshtigo area, including additional FAQ's, please refer to the following websites:

- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Contaminants/Marinette.html>
- <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/PFAS>