

# WELL CONTAMINATION

The Township has been made aware of PFAS and PFOAS/PFOS in some private wells located in the area of Route 31 and Rymon Road. This site has been designated by the NJDEP as the Route 31 & Rymon Road GW Contamination Site (NJDEP Site ID 647180 and PI Number 834057). Potable drinking water of our residents is a critical concern for the Governing Body of the Township of Washington. The Township Committee would like to also warn residents of some inaccuracies and misinformation that has been distributed to the public surrounding the Ground Water Contamination and response to PFAS contamination in the Township.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) recently amended its rules under the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act (NJ SDWA) to address per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). NJDEP adopted the amendments on March 31, 2020 and published them in the *New Jersey Register* on June 1, 2020. The amended rules, 52 N.J.R. 1165(b), require all operators of public water systems to begin testing for the chemicals PFOA and PFOS as of April 1, 2021. Furthermore, beginning December 1, 2021, NJDEP's new rules also require private well owners to monitor for PFOA, PFOS, and PFNA pursuant to the New Jersey Private Well Testing Act. See N.J.A.C. 7:9E-2.1(a)(12). This will require testing during private residence real estate transactions.

The NJDEP has conducted rounds of samplings and will continue to conduct rounds of samplings as part of their process to determine the extent and source of the contamination site while remaining in contact with Washington Township officials, Washington Township professionals, staff, and other governmental agencies who have continued to assist in this investigation. If you have received, or do receive, a notification letter by the NJDEP, the Township Committee stresses the importance of responding appropriately and acting accordingly as directed by the NJDEP to make sure that your well is tested and, if found to be contaminated with PFAS, have the prescribed filtration system installed. The testing and the installed filtration system (if needed) will be at no cost to the property owner and paid for by the DEP.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection will continue to monitor the situation.

For more information:

NJ Department of Health Factsheet on PFAS in Drinking Water (health effects): [Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) in Drinking Water \(nj.gov\)](#)

DEP website regarding PFAS. [Click here](#)

Spill Fund Claim Process / Application. [Click here](#)

Tips if you have PFOAs in your drinking water. [Click here](#)

[Click here](#) for a list of certified well testing companies.

Reduce the health risks from "forever chemicals" [Click here](#) for article