

**Agency of Natural Resources
 Department of Environmental Conservation**

**Budget Adjustment Act (H. 145; Sec. 46)
 Well Treatment and Testing for PFAS
 Testimony before Senate Committee on Appropriations**

February 2, 2023

Background

Over the past several years, the Agency of Natural Resources (Agency) has adopted and implemented a strategy on how to address contamination from per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Initially, the Agency was focused on addressing impacts to public and private water systems impacted by known releases of PFAS from industrial or other sites. In addition, the Agency has conducted investigations to determine what the levels of PFAS compounds are in soils and select surface waters when there is not a known source of PFAS. In the course of reviewing our strategy, the Agency determined that it was necessary to look at private water supplies where there is no known PFAS source. This investigation is also in support of our litigation against manufacturers of PFAS compounds.

As a part of this investigation, the Agency plans to test 500 private water supplies that were selected at random from our database of drilled wells. Based on PFAS testing data from public community water systems, we are estimating that 15 percent or 75 wells will exceed the Vermont drinking water standard for PFAS.

Budget Overview.

If the legislature appropriates the \$ 3 million requested in the budget adjustment, the Agency plans to provide these impacted homeowners with appropriate treatment to address PFAS contamination. Treatment may include: 1) a point of use treatment system and plans to connect a home to an existing public community water system; or 2) if connection to a public water system is not a viable option, a Point of Entry Treatment System (POET). The Agency is committed to paying for the operation and maintenance for these systems on a year-to-year basis, based on the availability of funds. Homeowners will be notified at least six months before operation, maintenance, and monitoring obligations are transferred to the homeowner.

In addition, the Agency plans to conduct limited investigations to identify other private water supplies in the area of the contaminated well identified through this initial testing program and, if identifiable, the source of PFAS contamination. Where a commercial or industrial source of contamination is identified, the Agency will seek to recover its costs against the person who caused the contamination.

Budget Adjustment Act – Budget Details

Installation of POETs at 75 impacted private water supplies (estimated cost \$3,400/unit)	\$255,000
One year of operation, maintenance, and monitoring at 75 impacted water supplies	\$255,000
Bottled Water	\$500,000
Limited site investigation	\$500,000
Reserve funding for additional POET installation for impacted wells (could range from 200 to 500)	\$680,000 - \$1,700,000