State of Delaware

PHOTO: Delaware DNREC

2026 PFAS Implementation Plan

A Decade of Progress and Next Steps to Track, Reduce and Communicate PFAS Exposure in Delaware

March 25, 2026

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
Division of Public Health

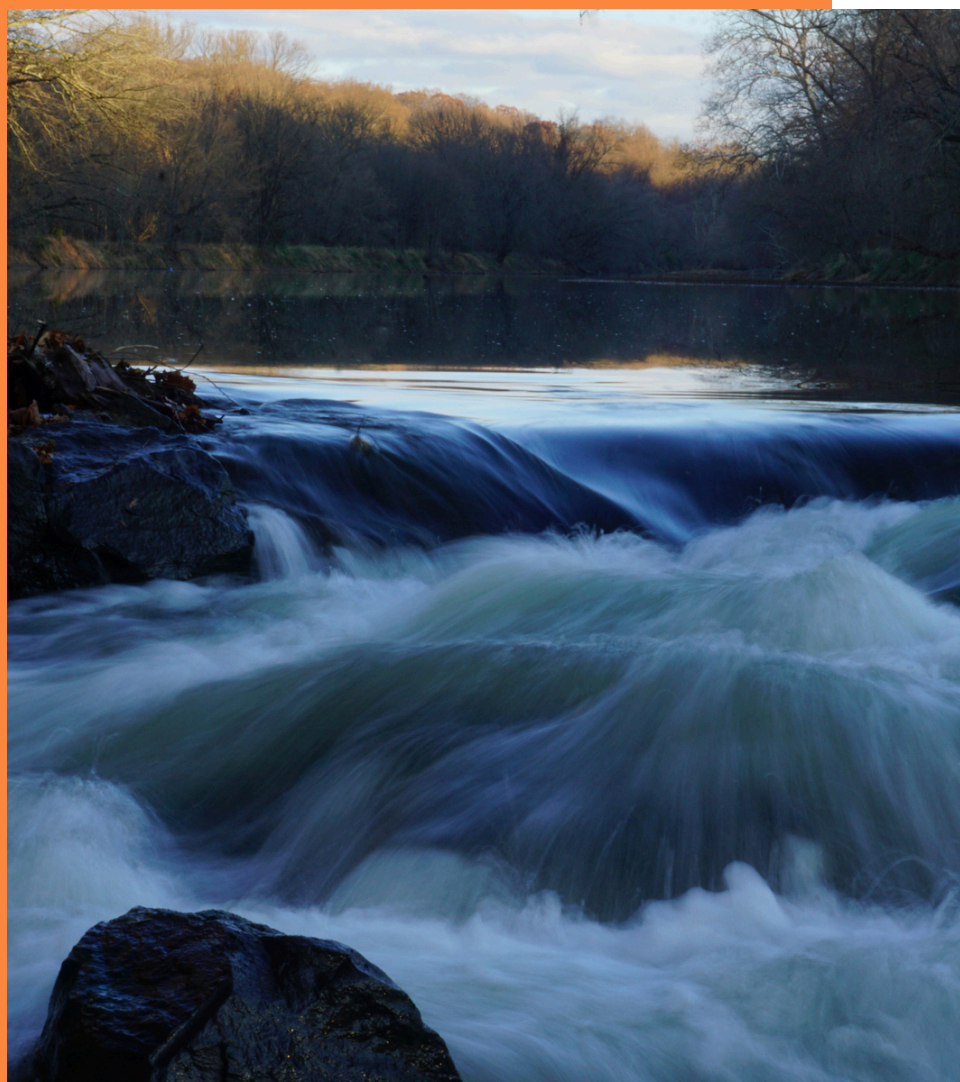
DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Acknowledgements

The *2026 PFAS Implementation Plan* was created through a collaborative effort led by staff from the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health (DHSS-DPH), the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) and the Delaware Department of Justice (DOJ).

This plan also includes significant contributions, including document design and layout, from The Water Center at Penn.

PHOTO: Delaware DNREC



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Acronyms

AFFF.....Aqueous Film-Forming Foam
ATSDR.....U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
CERCLA.....Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CME.....Continuing Medical Education
DEMA.....Delaware Emergency Management Agency
DDA.....Delaware Department of Agriculture
DHSS.....Delaware Department of Health and Social Services
DNREC.....Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
DNREC-DW.....DNREC Division of Water
DNREC-WHS.....DNREC Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances
DOJ.....Delaware Department of Justice
DPHSS-DPH.....DHSS Division of Public Health
EPA.....Environmental Protection Agency
HAL.....Health Advisory Limit
HSCA.....Hazardous Substance Cleanup Act
MCDA.....Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis
MCL.....Maximum Contaminant Level
PFAS.....Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances
PFOA.....Perfluorooctanoic acid
PFOS.....Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid
SRF.....State Revolving Fund
WATAR.....Watershed Approach to Toxics Assessment and Restoration

Letter from the Secretaries

Delaware, the First State, is known for its rich history of innovation, including in chemical manufacturing, which has generated thousands of jobs and stimulated the economy for Delawareans. However, the manufacturing and use of these chemicals has also brought unintended and harmful consequences that we must now work to resolve. One specific group of these chemicals, known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, has emerged as a risk to the health and safety of our residents and environment, being found in our water, soil and air.

For the past decade, Delaware state agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and the Department of Agriculture (DDA) have worked to better understand and address this contamination, starting in 2016 with surveying for PFAS in public wells. Since then, we have undertaken significant efforts to test, monitor, regulate and reduce PFAS in the environment, including by regulating two main types of PFAS as hazardous substances.

Despite the work we've already accomplished, more work remains to be done to ensure Delawareans can be protected from these harmful contaminants. This implementation plan strengthens our unwavering commitment to reducing PFAS in the environment. It organizes our cross-agency actions into a single blueprint, bringing the expertise of each agency together to address PFAS in a deliberate and coordinated fashion.

Letter from the Secretaries

We share these efforts with Delaware residents now to inform and seek feedback. As the undersigned Secretaries, we endorse these efforts and the compendium of innovation and vision for a healthier future in the First State.

Secretary Greg Patterson
Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

Secretary Christen Linke Young
Delaware Department of Health and Social Services

Secretary Wm. Donald Clifton II
Delaware Department of Agriculture

Secretary Patterson
PHOTO: Delaware DNREC

Secretary Young
PHOTO: Delaware DHSS

Secretary Clifton
PHOTO: Delaware DDA

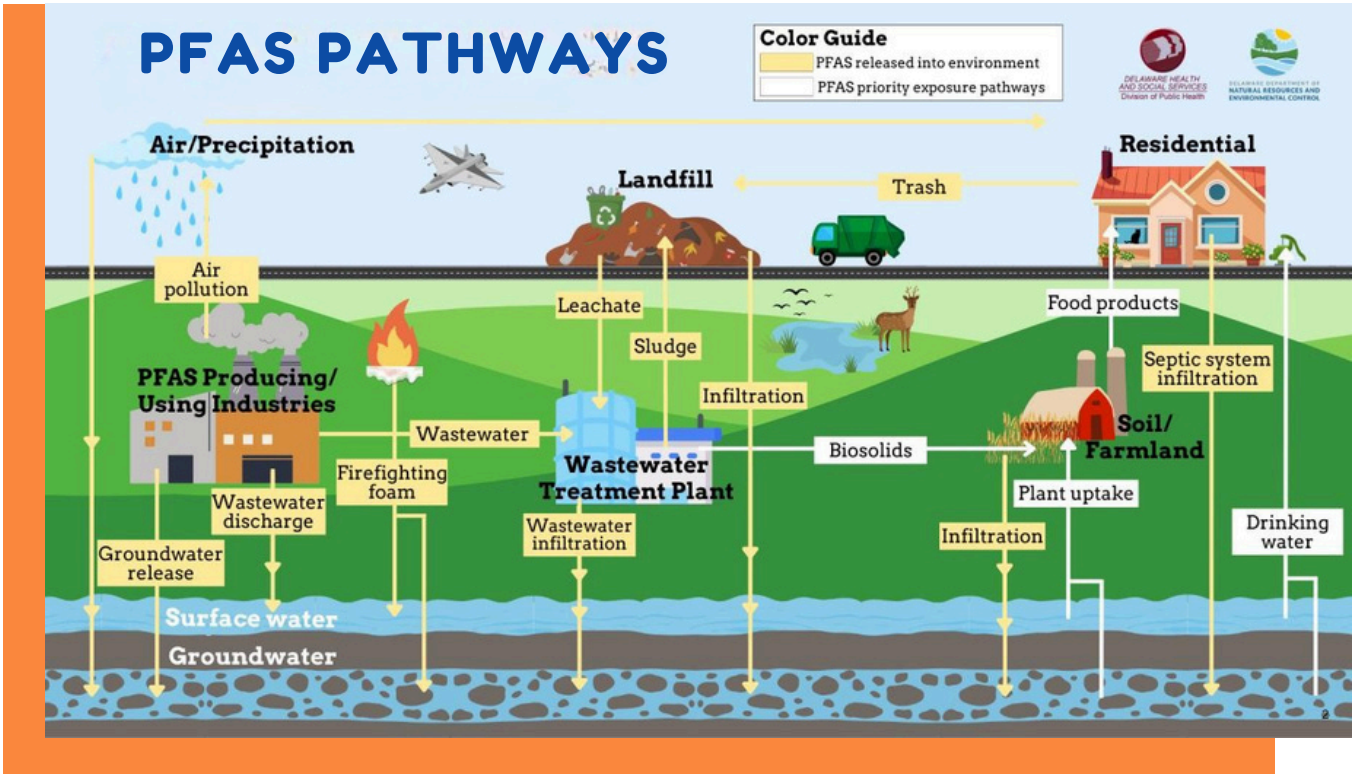
Introduction

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of synthetic chemicals that have arisen as contaminants of emerging concern in the past decade due to their harmful effects on the environment and public health. Since PFAS were first identified in Delaware's groundwater and private wells in 2014, we've taken deliberate steps to protect public health, natural resources and our communities from their associated risks. As our scientific understanding has grown regarding their persistence in the environment and potential health impacts, we've recognized the need for a coordinated, long-term response grounded in science, transparency and public engagement.

In 2016, in response to increasing detection of PFAS and growing public concern, we recognized the need to bring together leadership from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health (DHSS-DPH). This cross-agency collaboration was created to align resources, share data and coordinate PFAS action statewide. Since then we have added a major partner in the Department of Agriculture (DDA) and other integral agency participants. Together we developed the *2026 Strategic Framework for Contaminants of Emerging Concern* to strengthen Delaware's ability to address current and future contaminants. The *2026 PFAS Implementation Plan* is the first plan developed under this framework.

The plan provides a clear, action-oriented roadmap for protecting public health and the environment. We prioritize reducing PFAS at the source, expanding monitoring and cleaning up existing contamination across drinking water, surface water, soil, air and ecological systems. Consistent with Delaware's broader environmental and climate priorities, we center equity, community partnership and accountability — particularly for communities that have experienced disproportionate environmental and health impacts. Through this plan, we commit to sustained implementation, adaptive management and transparent reporting to ensure all Delawareans benefit from cleaner water, healthier environments and reduced exposure to PFAS.

About PFAS



PFAS exposure pathways. GRAPHIC: DHSS-DPH and DNREC

PFAS are a group of human-made chemicals that have been used since the 1930s in many everyday products, such as non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing and food packaging. These chemicals are used often because they resist heat, water and stains. However, those same qualities allow PFAS to break down extremely slowly in the environment, and thus build up in soil, water and the human body over extended periods of time, earning them the nickname “forever chemicals.”

In the late 1990s, public concern about the health impact of PFAS started to grow, and scientists today continue to learn more about their effects. Studies have linked some PFAS to serious health problems, including certain cancers, hormone disruption, weaker immune systems, decreased vaccine response and developmental issues. Humans and animals can be exposed to PFAS through household products, contaminated food and drinking water, air and soil. As a result, PFAS are so widespread that studies show that they have been found in the blood of nearly all people in the United States.

Partners

To address PFAS, we employ a whole-government approach that brings together leadership from multiple state departments, agencies and advisory bodies. This collaboration allows the state to draw on shared expertise, align responsibilities and respond efficiently to emerging challenges. The groups and individuals below represent a network of partners who have been called upon to support action addressing PFAS contamination.

- Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) Secretary
- Delaware Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Secretary
  - Division of Public Health (DHSS-DPH) Director
- Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) Secretary
- Delaware Department of Justice (DOJ) Attorney General
- Offices of Communications under DNREC, DHSS, and DDA
- Legislative Representatives

PHOTO: Delaware DHSS

Current and Past Action

PHOTO: Delaware DNREC

For the past decade, we have taken a coordinated approach to addressing PFAS contamination through monitoring, regulation, community education and targeted cleanup efforts. State agencies, including DNREC, DHSS and DDA, have worked together to better understand how people may be exposed to PFAS, protect drinking water supplies and reduce potential health risks. Protecting drinking water is especially important because it is one of the most common ways people can be exposed to PFAS, and ensuring safe, reliable water is essential to the health and well-being of our communities. The actions we've taken across the state to address PFAS are described below and are followed by a timeline illustration.

2016

In 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a combined PFAS Health Advisory Limit (HAL) of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS. This same year, DNREC listed PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Hazardous Substance Cleanup Act (HSCA). A total of eight PFAS compounds are now listed, and they continue to be reviewed and added as needed. This listing gives DNREC the ability to ensure cleanup of releases of these substances into the environment.

2018

In 2018, DNREC's Division of Waste and Hazardous Substances developed a policy for the sampling and evaluation of PFAS (updated in 2023), and has since been conducting site-specific risk assessments at HSCA sites using EPA screening levels and a state Risk Assessment Calculator.

During the same time period, DNREC began conducting routine sampling of public water systems to monitor for PFAS contamination. DNREC maintains a publicly available list of sites under investigation for PFAS in drinking water, groundwater or surface water. This ongoing work helps ensure transparency, guides prioritization of follow-up actions and supports efforts to protect drinking water and community health.

2019

A 2019-2020 PFAS exposure assessment in New Castle, Delaware, found that residents had blood levels of PFAS up to 9.8 times higher than the national average, even though local drinking water met all safety standards. This highlighted the need to understand other ways people might be exposed to PFAS, particularly in communities near military and defense sites where firefighting foams containing PFAS were historically used.

In 2019, DNREC also began including PFAS in their existing fish tissue monitoring routines. The fish tissue data helps DNREC identify where PFAS and other contaminants have accumulated in the food web and where sources may exist within watersheds. It also informs the development of fish consumption advisories to protect people who eat locally caught fish.

2021

In 2021, House Bill 8 was signed into law. This legislation amended Title 29 of the Delaware Code to strengthen safeguards for Delaware's water supplies.

In July 2021, Delaware also reached a major settlement with DuPont, Chemours and Corteva for $50 million, funding environmental cleanup, testing and environmental justice initiatives throughout the state. The state received additional funding in 2026.

2022

To investigate the non-drinking water exposure routes identified in the 2019 exposure assessment, New Castle, Delaware was selected in 2022 by the U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the EPA for a national exposure investigation. The study sampled dust, soil, and air from 41 homes and found PFAS in over half of all samples. In some cases, the concentrations were alarmingly high — comparable to levels associated with increased health risks in prior research. Two types of PFAS were also found to correlate between household dust and residents' blood levels, providing strong evidence that exposure extends well beyond drinking water.

State agencies, including DNREC and DHSS, are using these findings to guide both immediate and long-term strategies to reduce PFAS exposure. These efforts include targeted public education, environmental cleanup and policies to limit ongoing exposure in communities near former military and defense sites.

Additionally, in fall 2022, DNREC's Watershed Approach to Toxics Assessment and Restoration (WATAR) team conducted a comprehensive statewide study to evaluate the nature, extent, magnitude and distribution of PFAS in Delaware's surface waters. This work provided a detailed picture of where PFAS are in our rivers, streams and lakes, helping guide efforts to protect both the environment and public health.

DNREC Secretary Patterson with agency team members. PHOTO: Delaware DNREC

To deepen their understanding of how PFAS move through the environment, DNREC's Water Resource Protection team has launched statewide studies focused on PFAS in wastewater and related waste streams. These studies are continuing and examine several important areas, including:

- PFAS in Biosolids: Characterization and Fate: DNREC is studying PFAS in treated sewage solids, or biosolids, to see how these chemicals persist and whether they can move into soil or crops when biosolids are applied to land. This research helps develop policies and regulations for safely managing land application practices.
- PFAS in Groundwater Associated with Class B Biosolids Land Application Sites: DNREC is evaluating how PFAS from biosolids applied to fields may reach underlying groundwater. Protecting groundwater is critical because it is a source of drinking water for many communities.
- PFAS in Wastewater: Characterization and Fate: DNREC is analyzing PFAS in wastewater before and after treatment to determine how well treatment processes remove these chemicals and where they may end up. These studies help improve water treatment regulations and reduce exposure risks.
- PFAS in Septic Pump-Outs: Characterization and Fate: DNREC is studying PFAS in septic system waste to understand how these chemicals may travel from individual homes into soil, groundwater or wastewater systems. This research helps ensure that septic systems are managed in ways that minimize public and environmental health risks.

Together, these investigations provide insight into how PFAS may persist or migrate through treatment systems and land application practices. This information allows DNREC to make informed decisions, protect drinking water and the environment and reduce long-term health risks for Delaware communities.

PHOTO: DHSS

2023

In 2023, DNREC and partner agencies completed a statewide groundwater sampling project for public potable wells. The results of this project — including actions taken, key PFAS detections and distribution of select PFAS across the state — are documented in the Persistent Pollutants Sampling Report. In addition to sampling, DNREC and DHSS also began implementing response plans when PFAS are detected in private drinking water above state action levels. These plans may involve continued monitoring, hydrogeological studies to identify alternative water supplies or the installation of water treatment systems to ensure affected households have safe drinking water.

House Bill 475 in 2023 also appropriated $918,000 to support reclamation of PFAS-containing foam at the Delaware State Fire School. These funds supported the Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) takeback program, which successfully reclaimed legacy firefighting foam from participating fire departments in the state. Firefighting tanks were cleaned and refilled with safer alternatives, and all AFFF was disposed of through a state-approved vendor at no cost to local fire departments.

2024

In 2024, the EPA finalized maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for PFOA, PFOS and three other PFAS classifications, as well as a Hazard Index for one other PFAS in public drinking water. The EPA also listed PFOA and PFOS as Hazardous Substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) during this year. The federal rule did not mandate public disclosure until 2027, and enforcement of MCL violations was not set to begin until 2029.

Delaware adopted the EPA MCLs for all six PFAS as the standard for testing, mitigation and funding decisions for private wells when they were first proposed. These MCLs have been maintained in Delaware despite announcements of potential changes at the federal level (see “2025”). Delaware is one of the first states that has applied these MCL standards to such decisions for private drinking water wells in addition to public drinking water systems.

2025

In May 2025, the EPA announced plans to rescind and reconsider regulations for PFAS other than PFOA and PFOS. For PFOA and PFOS, the EPA plans to develop a rulemaking to provide additional time for compliance, including a proposal to extend the compliance date to 2031.

Senate Bill 72, signed in September 2025, directed DHSS-DPH to establish a publicly accessible website where Delaware residents can view PFAS levels in their public drinking water systems. It also requires DHSS-DPH to notify public water utilities when PFAS concentrations exceed established original EPA MCLs. Upon receiving such notification, water utilities must inform their customers that PFAS levels in their water surpass the MCLs. By ensuring that Delawareans can access PFAS data and receive timely notifications well before federal deadlines, this Act strengthens public awareness and enables residents to advocate for safer drinking water.

On September 11, 2025, the DHSS-DPH Office of Environmental Hazards and Toxicology organized the nation's first Continuing Medical Education (CME) course to enhance physicians' and health professionals' understanding of PFAS, their health impacts and interpretation of PFAS blood serum results. The CME course equipped the medical community with the knowledge to interpret PFAS exposure data, guide patient care and support broader efforts to reduce toxic exposures and protect public health. The CME course was designed so that after attending, participants could list health effects associated with PFAS exposure and describe considerations for clinically evaluating and managing people with concerns about PFAS. Participants also learned how to recognize PFAS contamination in water, identify exposure in populations, verbalize risk communication strategies and discern gaps in PFAS research.

In November 2025, DNREC published Delaware Residents' Awareness of and Attitudes Toward PFAS, a statewide survey of more than 1,200 adults to better understand residents' knowledge of PFAS, their concerns about exposure and possible behavior changes. The survey revealed that most Delawareans had limited awareness of PFAS, with 45% having never heard of the contaminants and only 33% expressing familiarity, though this represented higher awareness than national averages. While drinking water emerged as the primary concern (71% somewhat to extremely concerned), fewer than one quarter of residents recognized common exposure sources like cookware or food packaging.

The survey identified government agencies, health professionals and scientific institutions as Delawareans' most trusted information sources. In response to the survey findings, DNREC committed to expanding public education through its website, community meetings and partnerships while continuing efforts to identify locations requiring immediate public health intervention for PFAS.

PHOTO: Delaware DHSS

Also in November 2025, DHSS and DNREC launched a new grant opportunity to support community outreach and awareness about PFAS. The funding offered is intended to support initiatives that inform the public about the dangers of PFAS, promote testing, and encourage the reduction of PFAS exposure, with a focus on underserved communities. The PFAS Awareness and Outreach Grants are part of a broader strategy by Delaware to tackle contamination and protect public health. Organizations, schools, and community groups are encouraged to apply for funding to develop educational programs and outreach efforts.

PHOTO: Delaware DNREC

2026

The 2021 settlement with DuPont, Chemours and Corteva included a provision for additional funding if the companies reached significant PFAS settlements with other states, which was triggered in late 2025 after a large settlement with the State of Ohio. As a result, in January of this year, Delaware received an additional $25 million to clean up contaminated water and soil and to support community health projects related to PFAS.

One such project is the expansion of DHSS-DPH's private well program to include free PFAS testing. The program, which is expected to launch in Spring 2026, will be open to all Delawareans who rely on private wells as their drinking water source. The initiative is one of the first free state-led PFAS testing programs for private wells in the country.

A Decade of Action on PFAS in Delaware

2016

- EPA establishes HALs for PFOA and PFOS
- DNREC lists PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under HSCA

2018

- DNREC-WHS develops PFAS sampling and evaluation policy
- DNREC begins routine sampling for PFAS in public water systems

2019

- ATSDR conducts first PFAS exposure assessment in New Castle
- DNREC begins sampling for PFAS in fish tissue

2021

- H.B. 8 signed into law
- Delaware reaches $50M PFAS settlement with DuPont, Chemours and Corteva

2022

- ATSDR conducts second PFAS exposure assessment in New Castle
- WATAR conducts study on PFAS in surface water

2023

- DNREC publishes Persistent Pollutants Sampling Report
- H.B. 475 appropriates $918,000 for reclamation of PFAS-containing foam

2024

- EPA finalizes MCLs for five PFAS
- EPA lists PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA

2025

- S.B. 72 signed into law
- DHSS-DPH holds first CME course
- DNREC publishes survey on PFAS
- DHSS and DNREC launch outreach grant

2026

- Delaware receives additional $25 million from 2021 settlement
- DHSS-DPH plans to launch PFAS testing program for private wells

The Path Forward: Guiding Principles

Over the past several years, we have confronted PFAS contamination affecting communities across our state — from private well owners to farmers and families near former industrial sites. These experiences, combined with input from impacted stakeholders and our frontline agencies, led us to assemble a cross-agency team to chart a unified path forward.

Our guiding principles emerged from this collaboration among state agency leaders. They represent the core set of values guiding our work in 2026 and beyond, including stakeholder engagement, strategic investment in our most affected communities and flexibility to navigate new challenges as they arise.

Stakeholder Involvement

We will continue to work closely with community members, legislators and partner agencies to shape priorities, inform strategies and evaluate progress. Meaningful engagement will ensure transparency, foster trust and promote shared ownership of both challenges and solutions.

Strategic Prioritization

We will prioritize investments and staff resources using a multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) process to focus on areas of greatest need and potential impact, particularly in communities that have been historically underserved or disproportionately affected by environmental challenges. This targeted approach promotes equity, effectiveness and long-term sustainability.

Flexibility and Adaptability

We will adapt the plan as new information emerges and circumstances evolve — whether due to environmental changes, scientific advances, policy shifts or community feedback. This flexible approach allows state agencies to be forward-looking and capable of meeting the changing needs of the people and environment.

Our Strategy

The *2026 PFAS Implementation Plan* establishes a guide for our actions this year, with annual updates in following years. The objectives in our strategy center around protecting public health, assessing sources of PFAS, reducing exposure pathways, engaging communities, communicating clearly and responding to emergencies effectively. By integrating these objectives, the plan provides a clear roadmap for evidence-based, results-driven action with specific, programmatic goals and objectives to be developed at the agency and division level. It is designed specifically to tackle the unique complexities of PFAS contamination while complementing our existing programs and processes.

Protecting Public Health

Drinking Water

Drinking water is the one of the most well-known exposure pathways. Whether from public water systems or private wells, contaminated drinking water poses direct and ongoing health risks to Delawareans. Establishing clear standards, ensuring reliable testing and protecting source waters are fundamental to safeguarding public health and providing communities with safe, clean drinking water.

- Adopt and implement state maximum contaminant levels
- Continue to offer testing and technical assistance for Delawareans with private wells
- Utilize accredited laboratories associated with DHSS and DNREC for analytical testing
- Develop standard operating procedures for communications from drinking water systems during emergency responses
- Monitor and assess surface water sources used for drinking water to identify and manage PFAS risks

Air

PFAS can become airborne through industrial emissions, waste management operations and the use of firefighting foams. Airborne PFAS can be inhaled directly or settle onto soil and water, creating additional contamination pathways. Developing robust monitoring methodologies can help establish regulations and reduce PFAS in air.

- Adopt a regulatory definition of PFAS appropriate for air permitting
- Develop a methodology to conduct health and safety screening modeling for air permitting
- Ensure the use of reliable testing methods to measure compliance with permits
- Develop strong air dispersion modeling techniques to estimate concentrations of PFAS from air emission sources

Food Consumption and Products

PFAS can accumulate in fish, shellfish, wildlife and agricultural products, as well as appear in food packaging and consumer goods such as cosmetics, cookware, furniture, carpets and more. Establishing product standards, consumption guidelines and labeling requirements can empower Delawareans to make informed decisions about their food and everyday products.

- Adopt product bans or require labeling on food or products containing PFAS
- Add PFAS to guidelines for safely consuming fish, shellfish and wildlife

Natural and Working Lands

Agricultural lands can be contaminated through biosolids application, wastewater irrigation and other farming practices that unknowingly introduce PFAS into the food chain. Protecting our working lands is essential not only for farmers' livelihoods but also for ensuring the safety of locally grown food. Monitoring agricultural ecosystems and managing inputs helps prevent widespread contamination while supporting Delaware's agricultural community.

- Develop a strategy for managing agricultural inputs containing PFAS, such as biosolids or wastewater spray irrigation
- Develop a strategy for monitoring agricultural ecosystems

Assessing and Identifying Sources and Impacts

Intra-Governmental Coordination

- Continue to refine standard operating procedures for communication between departments
- Develop statewide monitoring protocols
- Standardize identification protocols for sources and impacts across departments and agencies
- Ensure all affected state agencies are working on the same data-sharing platforms and with the most up-to-date information
- Maintain consistent methodology for data verification

Inter-Governmental Coordination

- Continue to coordinate with other states, NGOs, nonprofits and federal agencies to stay up to date on innovative practices and analytical technologies for assessing PFAS

Sampling

- Continue sampling efforts to identify lands, water, air and foods contaminated with PFAS

Research

- Conduct source apportionment studies to continue identifying and quantifying PFAS exposure pathways from various sources and media to guide interventions and remediation
- Conduct human health studies to assess impacts of exposure to PFAS, with a focus on vulnerable communities who disproportionately suffer environmental harms associated with PFAS

Eliminating Sources and Minimizing Exposure

Reducing Exposure Pathways

- Explore legislative and regulatory mechanisms to reduce PFAS exposure pathways from the following media:
  - Air, including dust
  - Consumer products
  - Land application sources
  - Water, including surface water, wastewater, groundwater and stormwater
  - Soil

Cleanup and Disposal

- Continue researching, developing and utilizing sustainable technologies for destruction and disposal
- Incorporate destruction and disposal of PFAS waste using the latest and/or most widely accepted technologies into decision making
- Create disposal guidelines that emphasize permanent destruction over relocation and ensure PFAS waste management does not disproportionately impact other communities or states

Inviting Public Participation

Community Engagement

- Provide at least one virtual and/or in-person listening session per county after publication of the *2026 PFAS Implementation Plan*
- Hold community meetings for PFAS information or updates about PFAS
- Allow sufficient time for public comments on plans and legislation about PFAS
- Maintain timely and easily accessible public communication

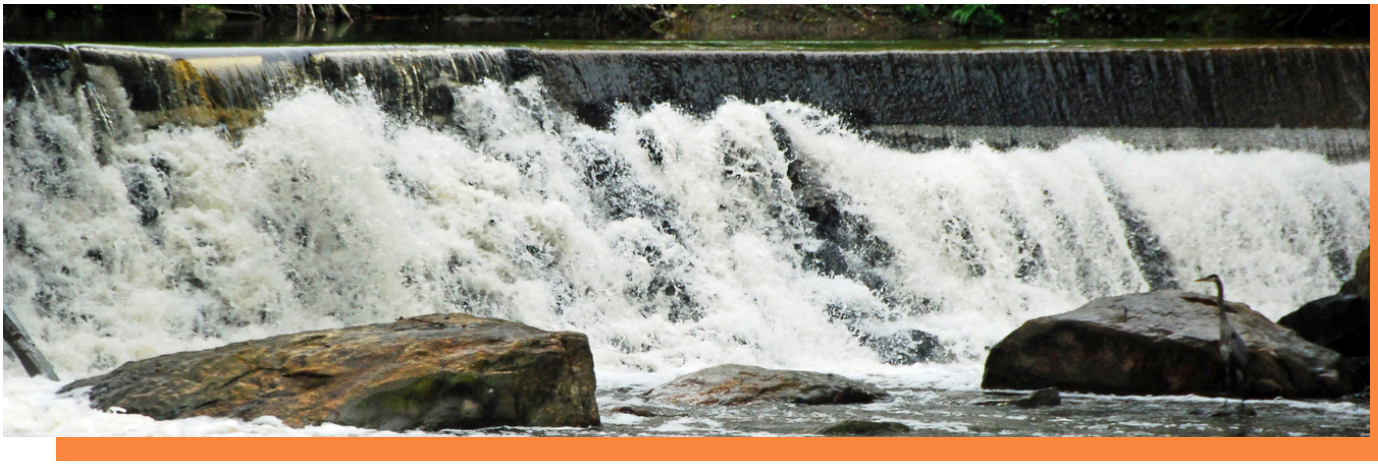


PHOTO: Delaware DNREC

Developing and Deploying an Effective Communications Strategy

Internal Communications

- Develop an internal communication plan for PFAS
- Work across agencies to ensure information reaches at-risk communities and populations
- Train internal employees on best practices in risk communication
- Develop a statewide hub for PFAS information that is easily accessible across agencies
- Identify agency-specific points of contact to facilitate collaboration

Legislative Communications

- Keep legislators informed about PFAS efforts in their communities
- Work with legislators to craft legislation to protect public health and the environment from PFAS
- Continue to report expenditures related to PFAS remediation efforts

Public Communications

- Establish a webpage for the *2026 PFAS Implementation Plan*, including video presentations, a resource mailbox for public comment and progress updates on the plan
- Ensure public PFAS testing results are easily accessible and understandable to the general public
- Post notification of any requirements of PFAS legislation on a website
- Continue providing annual CME workshops for health practitioners
- Share the latest information about PFAS' impacts to human health, livestock and wildlife through various accessible forms of communication and outreach events

Engaging with Emergency Services

Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) Protocols

- Continue to follow up-to-date DEMA protocols for dealing with hazardous materials, including coordinating with and through the proper channels

Emergency Collaboration

- Minimize use of PFAS-containing foam in livestock population management
- Reduce use of PFAS in firefighting gear and foam (AFFF)
- Track and analyze responses during unavoidable use of PFAS in emergency incidents

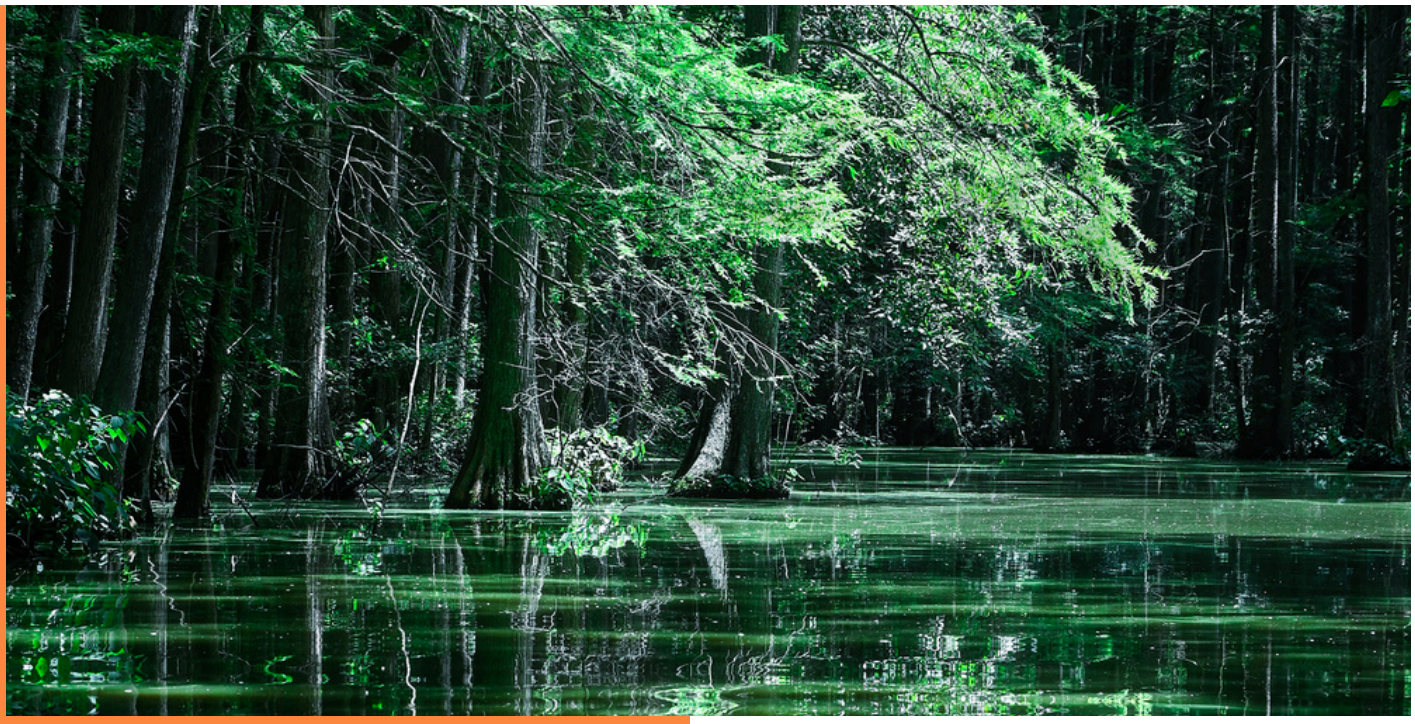


PHOTO: Delaware DNREC

Annual Performance Indicators and Accountability

The *2026 PFAS Implementation Plan* is our outline for action, guiding long-term management and targeted interventions. We will review the plan annually and update as needed to reflect emerging priorities, evolving environmental conditions and innovative approaches.

Each year, we will publish an annual summary that clearly reports accomplishments, measures progress against defined goals and identifies concrete next steps. By integrating PFAS management into existing programs and daily operations, we will ensure coordinated, efficient and results-driven action across the state.

Delaware state agencies will actively engage the public throughout this process, including holding at least one public meeting after releasing an updated PFAS implementation plan and annual summary. Public input will directly inform priority-setting and action planning.

A detailed breakdown of planned actions, timelines and progress metrics is available in the appendix, enabling ongoing tracking and accountability.

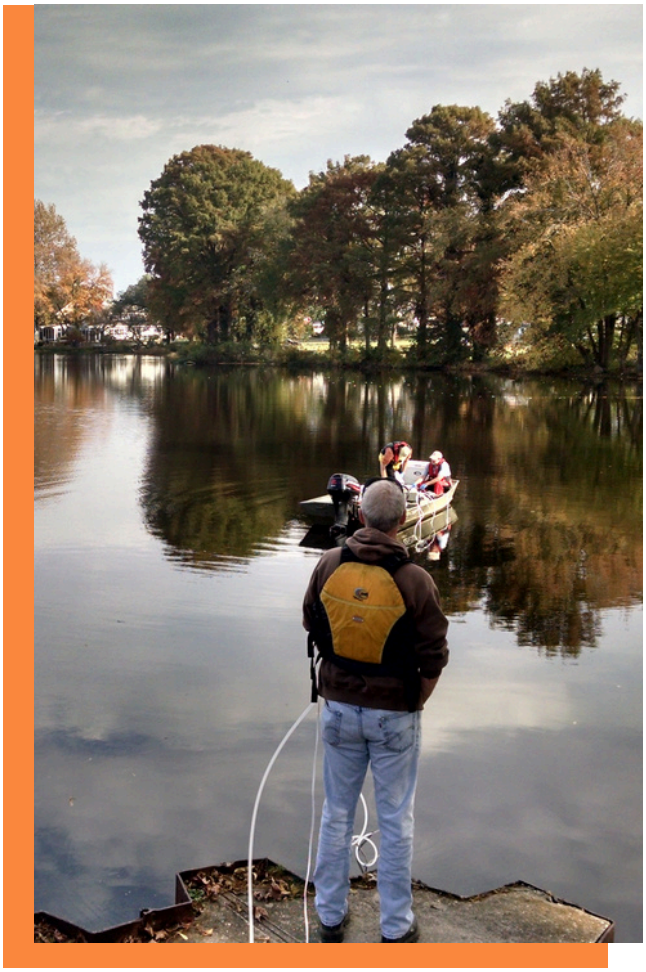


PHOTO: Delaware DNREC

Funding and Resources

Addressing the sources of PFAS contamination will require sustained funding and implementation capacity to support assessment of PFAS levels, source identification and the selection and execution of treatment, remediation and disposal actions. Other states have advanced PFAS response efforts by establishing continuous and sustainable funding mechanisms, including holding PFAS polluters and manufacturers financially accountable for the impacts of their products. Drawing on these approaches, we will integrate funding strategies into implementation planning and ensure transparency by regularly updating the *2026 PFAS Implementation Plan* webpage with clear, accessible information on expenditures, timelines and funded activities.

Implementation of PFAS actions will be coordinated statewide to align resource allocation with program priorities and project readiness, using a combination of funding sources, including:

- State Revolving Fund (SRF)
- Federal funding
- HSCA
- State regulations and statutes
- Legal action
- State funding
- Private foundations and philanthropy

Conclusion

PHOTO: Delaware DNREC

Managing PFAS contamination will continue to pose a challenge as new science, research and technology develop. We understand that protecting public health and the environment requires long-term effort, strong coordination and the ability to adapt as new information becomes available.

By improving monitoring, reducing pollution at its source, sharing clear information and investing resources where they are needed most, we're taking meaningful steps to reduce exposure to PFAS. This implementation plan reaffirms our focus on protecting people's health, restoring the environment and ensuring a safer future for all Delawareans.

Appendix: Action Table

To ensure we carry out the objectives outlined in this plan in an organized and time-sensitive fashion, we provide this accountability tracker to assign specific responsible state entities, timelines and rationale to each action. The timeline indicates the period of time in which we will begin work to complete these actions.

Protecting Public Health

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Adopt and implement state PFAS maximum contaminant levels	DHSS-DPH	12 months	Establish enforceable safety thresholds for public water systems
Continue to offer testing and technical assistance for Delawareans with private wells	DHSS-DPH	Ongoing	Reduce exposure from private wells, which lack regulatory oversight
Use accredited labs for PFAS analysis	DHSS-DPH, DNREC	Ongoing	Ensure reliable, accurate test results
Develop SOPs for communications from drinking water systems during emergency responses	DHSS-DPH	12 months	Ensure consistent, timely public notification

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Monitor and assess surface water sources used for drinking water to identify and manage PFAS risks	DNREC	Ongoing	Enable proactive risk management
Adopt a regulatory definition of PFAS appropriate for air permitting	DNREC	12-18 months	Establish consistent terminology for PFAS in air
Develop a methodology to conduct health and safety screening modeling for air permitting	DNREC	12-18 months	Assess potential public health impacts from air
Ensure the use of reliable testing methods to measure compliance with permits	DNREC	12-18 months	Verify PFAS air emissions
Develop strong air dispersion modeling techniques to estimate concentrations of PFAS from air emission sources	DNREC	18-36 months	Predict community exposure levels

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Adopt product bans or require labeling on food or products containing PFAS	Legislature	12 months	Reduce and inform consumer exposure
Add PFAS to guidelines for safely consuming fish, shellfish, and wildlife	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	18-36 months	Inform subsistence and recreational harvesters
Develop a strategy for managing agricultural inputs containing PFAS, such as biosolids or wastewater spray irrigation	DDA, DNREC	12-18 months	Prevent crop and soil contamination to reduce exposure pathways
Develop a strategy for monitoring agricultural ecosystems	DDA, DNREC	18-36 months	Track contamination pathways in food systems

Inviting Public Participation

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Provide at least one public listening session per county after publication of the PFAS implementation plan	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	Immediately	Gather community feedback
Hold community meetings for PFAS information or updates about PFAS	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	Immediately	Maintain transparency and trust

Assessing and Identifying Sources and Impacts

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Develop statewide monitoring protocols	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	Immediately	Ensure consistent, comparable data and data presentation
Standardize identification protocols for sources and impacts across departments and agencies	DNREC, DHSS-DPH, DDA	12 months	Enable coordinated response and identification of responsible parties

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Ensure all affected state agencies are working on the same data-sharing platforms and with the most up-to-date information	DNREC, DHSS-DPH, DDA	12-18 months	Facilitate information access
Maintain consistent methodology for data verification	DNREC, DHSS-DPH, DDA	Ongoing	Ensure data quality and reliability
Continue to coordinate with other states, NGOs, nonprofits and federal agencies to stay up to date on innovative practices and analytical technologies for assessing PFAS	DNREC, DHSS-DPH, DDA	Ongoing	Learn from best practices
Continue sampling efforts to identify lands, water, air and foods contaminated with PFAS	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	Ongoing	Inform and prioritize remediation efforts

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Conduct source apportionment studies to continue identifying and quantifying PFAS exposure pathways from various sources and media to guide interventions and remediation	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	Immediately	Track different PFAS types and learn how PFAS spread and change through the environment
Conduct human health studies to assess impacts of exposure to PFAS, with a focus on vulnerable communities who disproportionately suffer environmental harms associated with PFAS	DHSS-DPH	Immediately	Identify and reduce PFAS impact to humans

Eliminating Sources and Minimizing Exposure

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Utilize legislative and regulatory actions to reduce PFAS exposure pathways from air, consumer products, land application sources, water and soil	DNREC, DHSS-DPH, DDA, DOJ, Legislature	Ongoing	Implement protective measures to reduce exposure and protect public health
Continue researching, developing and utilizing sustainable technologies for destruction and disposal	DNREC	Ongoing	Pursue permanent PFAS elimination
Incorporate destruction and disposal of PFAS waste using the latest and/or most widely accepted technologies into decision making	DNREC	Ongoing	Continually reduce environmental presence

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Create disposal guidelines that emphasize permanent destruction over relocation and ensure PFAS waste management does not disproportionately impact other communities or states	DNREC	Immediately	Avoid transferring contamination and create sustainable solutions

Developing and Deploying an Effective Communications Strategy

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Develop an internal communication plan for PFAS	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	12 months	Coordinate agency efforts to streamline response
Train internal employees on best practices in risk communication	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	12 months	Improve public engagement quality

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Develop a statewide hub for PFAS information that is easily accessible across agencies	DNREC, DHSS/DPH	12 months	Centralize information access
Identify agency-specific points of contact to facilitate collaboration	DNREC, DHSS-DPH, DDA	6 months	Streamline long-term inter-agency collaboration
Keep legislators informed about PFAS efforts in their communities	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	Immediately	Enable informed legislator support for constituents
Work with legislators to craft legislation to protect public health and the environment from PFAS	DNREC, DHSS-DPH, Legislature	12 months	Establish legal framework for enforcement
Continue to report expenditures related to PFAS remediation efforts	DNREC	Ongoing	Ensure fiscal transparency and accountability

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Establish a webpage for the implementation plan, including video presentations, a resource mailbox for public comment and progress updates on the plan	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	Immediately	Provide a repository of accessible information
Ensure public PFAS testing results are easily accessible and understandable to the general public	DNREC, DHSS-DPH	12 months	Empower informed decision making
Post notification of any requirements of PFAS legislation on a website	As specified by legislation	Ongoing	Ensure regulatory transparency
Continue providing annual CME workshops for health practitioners	DHSS-DPH	Ongoing	Educate healthcare providers
Share the latest information about PFAS' impacts to human health, livestock and wildlife through various accessible forms of communication and outreach events	DNREC, DHSS-DPH, DDA	Ongoing	Keep public informed in ways that are accessible to them

Engaging with Emergency Services

Action	Responsible State Entities	Timeline to Start Action	Rationale
Continue to follow up-to-date DEMA protocols for dealing with hazardous materials	Statewide	Ongoing	Ensure coordinated and safe responses
Minimize use of PFAS-containing foam in livestock population management	DDA	12-18 months	Reduce environmental exposure in agricultural environments
Reduce use of PFAS in firefighting gear and foam (AFFF)	Statewide	18-36 months	Protect emergency response professionals from PFAS exposure
Track and analyze responses during unavoidable use of PFAS in emergency incidents	Statewide	Immediately	Record and prevent cross-contamination

Related Reports, Plans and Links

- Clinician's Guide to PFAS: Exposure, Effects, and Action Against the Forever Chemical
- Delaware's 2024 PFAS Implementation Plan
- Delaware PFAS Awareness and Outreach Webinar
- DNREC's PFAS webpage
- Senate Bill 72
- Survey: Delaware Residents' Awareness of and Attitudes Toward PFAS

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