

PFAS in Wisconsin

January–
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Overview / Executive Summary

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to take a public health-centered approach to address PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) throughout Wisconsin.

Gov. Tony Evers signed two key pieces of PFAS legislation into law in April 2026, after which the DNR immediately began working to implement. This included developing the logistics of the new programs, hiring staff, updating Wastewater permit requirements and gathering input from a variety of perspectives about how the newly created programs could best support people and communities throughout Wisconsin.

Ongoing work by the DNR included sampling for PFAS in drinking water; providing temporary, emergency water to private well owners with PFAS levels in their wells above health recommendations; and working with public water systems towards implementation of and compliance with new federal standards.

The DNR also continues to collaborate with other states on learning opportunities to expand the understanding of PFAS and its impacts. Collaboration among levels of government is a dynamic process. Subscribe to the [PFAS Contamination in Wisconsin](#) GovDelivery list to receive updates about the DNR's work to address PFAS in Wisconsin and the [PFAS Laws Implementation](#) GovDelivery list for updates about the new programs created by the PFAS laws.

PFAS Laws Implementation

PFAS Legislation Signed Into Law

On April 6, 2026, Gov. Evers signed [Act 201](#), which creates several new grant programs to help Wisconsin's communities address PFAS contamination, especially in drinking water, and [Act 200](#), which allocated funding to the DNR for these new grant programs (collectively referred to as the PFAS laws).

Some of the new funding opportunities include sampling drinking water at schools and daycares that use their own well and sampling high-capacity irrigation wells, biosolids, sludge, wastewater and landfill leachate for PFAS. Together, these bills are a critical step toward ensuring that Wisconsinites have access to safer water and reducing exposure to PFAS through the environment.

To develop these programs quickly, the DNR's staff created teams to work on different aspects of implementation, including hiring new staff, program development, communications and outreach.

Hiring

The DNR is authorized to fill ten positions within the Environmental Management, External Services and Fish, Wildlife and Parks divisions to support and administer programs authorized by the PFAS laws. In April, the DNR started recruiting for these positions through Wisc.jobs and new staff started for several positions in late June. The remaining positions will be filled in July or August. To allow these new staff to quickly acclimate to the DNR and begin administering their respective programs, existing staff developed training processes and materials.

Public Involvement

To ensure these new programs effectively support a large variety of people, communities and businesses throughout Wisconsin, the DNR used a variety of methods to gather recommendations for developing and implementing these new programs.

New GovDelivery Topic List

In April, the DNR created a new [GovDelivery topic](#) for PFAS Law Implementation. GovDelivery allows the DNR to share information about specific topics of interest with those who have chosen to receive email or text updates about that topic. The individual is able to manage their preferences and can unsubscribe at any point. By creating a GovDelivery topic specific for implementation of the PFAS laws, the DNR can share information about public input opportunities, grant application periods, or other applicable information with those who are highly interested in these programs without the recipient needing to actively track the DNR's activities.

PFAS Law Implementation Webpage

On May 14, the DNR launched a new webpage with information specific to [PFAS Law Implementation](#). This page is a “one-stop shop” that summarizes the DNR's implementation activities. Included on this page are opportunities for the public to provide input on implementation, an expected timeline, implementation goals and a summary of prior actions.

PFAS Listening Session for Tribal Nations

The DNR hosted a PFAS Listening Session for Tribal Nations on May 4 and invited Tribal representatives from all of the federally-recognized Tribal Nations located within the State of Wisconsin. The DNR's staff presented a short overview of Acts 200 and 201 and requested feedback about how these programs could best support Tribal communities. Tribal representatives shared their perspective about programs that have worked well in addition to processes that created barriers to participation.

PFAS Listening Sessions

In June, the DNR hosted a series of PFAS listening sessions to gather input about community priorities for use of the PFAS Trust Fund. These sessions focused on the needs of communities, conservation groups, analytical laboratories and environmental contractors. Additionally, the DNR hosted a listening session open to the general public. Over 400 people attended these listening sessions and the DNR received feedback including that:

- the grant application process needs to be simple.
- people need more information about how to protect themselves from exposure.
- people want to better understand where PFAS are found in the environment across the state, particularly in groundwater.
- people want to easily access data about where PFAS are found.
- coordination is needed between different governmental agencies and levels of government.
- people want assistance with funding private well sampling.

Staff are considering the suggestions shared by community members during the listening sessions as work to implement these programs continues.

Written Feedback

The DNR created a [survey tool](#) for written suggestions and ideas for staff to consider during program development. On April 6, the DNR sent a [GovDelivery message](#) to 27,259 recipients with information about this tool. Staff promoted the use of this tool at several public meetings throughout April and May, including the PFAS External Advisory Group meeting, Waste and Materials Management and Drinking Water and Groundwater study groups and the Groundwater Coordinating Council meeting. A follow-up [GovDelivery message](#) sent on May 8 promoted the tool to 5,514 recipients. On June 5, the DNR sent a [press release](#) with the link to the survey and information about an additional public input opportunity to 52,645 recipients including media outlets. Staff also promoted this survey during the listening sessions.

Wastewater General Permit Updates

In May, the Bureau of Water Quality public noticed an intent to issue a Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) general permit to comply with 2025 Act 201. The DNR accepted public comments from May 1 – June 15 and held a virtual public hearing on June 9. No public comments were made during the public hearing, and two sets of comments were received in writing. The DNR [issued the general permit](#) on June 28, 2026, with an effective date of July 1, 2026. Letters of coverage were sent to facilities soon afterwards.

Updates to the Interim Strategy for Land Application of Biosolids Containing PFAS

In May, the Bureau of Water Quality also released an updated [Interim Strategy for Land Application of Biosolids Containing PFAS](#) for public comment. The DNR accepted public comments from May 1 – 31 and received 17 sets of comments. The updated version of the document was published on the DNR's website on July 1, 2026.

State Updates and Rulemaking

NR 140 Rulemaking To Establish Standards For PFAS In Groundwater

The DNR continued rulemaking to [update NR 140 Groundwater Standards](#) to incorporate recommendations from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services for six types of PFAS. The Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater (DG) started soliciting comments on the proposed rule on June 29 and will accept comments until July 29, 2026.

NR 809 Rulemaking To Update State Standards For PFAS In Drinking Water

During the first half of 2026, the DNR continued through the [rulemaking process](#) to align Wisconsin's current standards for PFAS in drinking water with the EPA's drinking water standards. After holding a public hearing and accepting public comments on the economic impact analysis of this draft rule's implementation during the second half of 2025, DG staff reviewed all public comments and incorporated this feedback into the final rule. The [Natural Resources Board](#) approved the final draft rule in January 2026 and Gov. Evers approved the final rule on March 2, 2026. The administrative rule became effective on July 1, 2026.

Funding Updates

Public Input Opportunities

In April, the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance (CFA) released a draft version of the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program's (SDWLP) [state fiscal year 2027 intended use plan \(IUP\)](#). The IUP included a proposal to increase the maximum amount of principal forgiveness that any one municipality could receive for the year from \$3.5 million to \$7 million. The DNR accepted public comments about the IUP until June 8. CFA received two comments and will have the IUP finalized in the second half of 2026. SDWLP applications for state fiscal year 2027 were accepted until June 30.

Similarly, CFA published a draft version of the Clean Water Fund Program's (CWFP) [state fiscal year 2027 IUP](#) in early June. It proposes to increase the municipal principal forgiveness cap from \$3.5 million to \$8 million. The CWFP IUP is available for public comment through July 19, after which the comments will be reviewed and the plan will be finalized. CWFP applications for state fiscal year 2027 are due on September 30.

Funding from these programs is available to municipalities as subsidized loans for public drinking water system and infrastructure projects (i.e., SDWLP) or for publicly owned wastewater treatment and collection system infrastructure projects (i.e., CWFP). Each year, the DNR prepares these IUPs to identify how funding from these revolving funds may be used and to share how the intended funding aligns with federal requirements for these funds. More information about these loans, including responses to the public comments and project priority lists, is available on the [DNR's website](#).

Well Compensation Grant Program

Demand continued to be high for grant funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) [Well Compensation](#) and [Well Abandonment](#) grant programs. Demand for financial assistance through these programs has been high since Gov. Evers used federal funding in 2022 to [temporarily expand](#) eligibility criteria. Eligible private well owners can use these grant funds to drill new wells, install treatment equipment or to fill and seal an unused well to address PFAS and other contaminants.

Between January and June 2026, the DNR awarded \$248,050.47 in new ARPA Well Compensation and Well Abandonment grants. All award funding in 2026 was issued to grantees pulled from the waitlist as the program officially stopped accepting new applications at the end of August 2025.

Federal Funding for Emerging Contaminants

Federal funding that supports the [Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities \(EC-SDC\) grant program](#), [Safe Drinking Water Loan Program for Emerging Contaminants](#), and [Clean Water Fund Loan Program for Emerging Contaminants](#) is from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), frequently called the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

EC-SDC Grant Program

This grant program provides funds for other-than-municipal community (OTM) and nonprofit non-transient, non-community (NN) water systems to address PFAS or manganese contamination with no matching funds requirements. Projects funded by these grants typically include drilling new wells, connecting to existing public water systems or installing treatment.

In the first half of 2026, the DNR awarded \$240,000 to one mobile home park to replace a PFAS

contaminated well serving 225 residents. Cycle C of the EC-SDC grant program opened on February 1, 2026. The DNR is reviewing applications received under Grant Cycle C on a first-come, first-serve basis. Five applications are currently under review for a total of \$730,000.

Safe Drinking Water Loan Program – Emerging Contaminants

The DNR awarded a total of \$5,697,407 from the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program's Emerging Contaminants funding to two municipalities, the City of Green Lake and the Village of Hales Corners. Of the total awarded, half of it was from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in the form of principal forgiveness, which does not need to be repaid by the municipality and the other half was awarded as a low-interest loan. Additionally, the DNR is working with four other municipalities with State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2026 applications requesting more than \$30 million in funding for projects to address PFAS contamination. The SDWLP Emerging Contaminant funding is expected to be available to municipalities through at least SFY 2027.

Clean Water Fund Loan Program – Emerging Contaminants

In the Clean Water Fund Program, the DNR is working to provide funding to one municipality with a SFY 2026 application requesting approximately \$750,000 for a project to address PFAS contamination. The CWFPL Emerging Contaminant funding is expected to be available to municipalities through at least SFY 2027.

Sampling

Statewide Surface Water Sampling

During April 2026, the Bureau of Water Quality (WY) collected surface water samples from fourteen locations in Eau Claire County. These locations include tributaries of the Chippewa River around the town of Drammen and the Buffalo River.

In Dane County, sampling to monitor PFAS concentrations in Lake Monona and Starkweather Creek is ongoing. During 2026, water samples will be collected three times from these waterbodies. Since 2019, the DNR has regularly collected water samples from Lake Monona and Starkweather Creek. Sample results are added to the DNR's [PFAS Interactive Data Viewer](#) as they become available.

Site Specific Updates

Support to Impacted Communities

The DNR provides significant financial support to communities impacted by PFAS. Between January and June, the DNR provided temporary emergency water to 1,800 residences in PFAS-impacted communities. For the months of January through May, the cost for PFAS temporary emergency water was \$276,372. Invoices for June were not available as of publication of this report and are expected to be approximately \$62,000. Of the residences receiving temporary, emergency water, 1,632 are in the town of Campbell.

In addition to financial support, the DNR provides technical assistance to staff at public water

systems, community officials in PFAS-impacted communities, businesses and private well drillers. The DNR's expertise helps these entities to best assist their constituents and customers as they work to reduce human exposure to PFAS through drinking water. For example, the DNR can help assess a situation's unique circumstances, such as the location's hydrology and water chemistry, and develop steps to minimize exposure that consider those circumstances.

PFAS Contamination in Marinette and Peshtigo

The DNR continued to review JCI/Tyco's actions to mitigate risks from PFAS contamination in the [Marinette and Peshtigo area](#) and reported updates to the community.

JCI/Tyco monitored groundwater and surface water following its approved long-term monitoring plan. JCI/Tyco continued to operate a groundwater extraction and treatment system (GETS) and surface water treatment for two ditches draining surface water into Green Bay. Tyco recently expanded the GETS system by adding new groundwater extraction wells. The initial goal of the GETS is to limit the migration of PFAS contamination in the groundwater and decrease the concentrations in surface water. The long-term goal of the GETS system is to halt further migration of PFAS in groundwater to achieve stable or decreasing concentrations of PFAS in groundwater and to meet PFAS surface water quality standards.

JCI/Tyco also continues to install deep private drinking water wells to replace private well point of entry treatment systems in an area of the groundwater contaminant plume designated the Potable Wells Sampling Area (PSWA). As of April 2026, JCI/Tyco had installed 141 deep wells and has agreements to complete seven more.

Settlement with JCI/Tyco for PFAS Contamination

In June, the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and Tyco reached a [settlement](#) over charges brought by the State against JCI/Tyco alleging violations of the Spills Law by failing to report, investigate and remediate PFAS contamination from Tyco's Fire Technology Center (FTC). One of the requirements under the terms of the settlement was that Tyco invest \$10 million into the Wisconsin PFAS Trust Fund.

Legislative action is required to release the money to the DNR. The DNR is working to understand the priorities of the residents impacted by the FTC contamination for using this money. On June 22, the Bureaus of Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) and Drinking and Groundwater (DG) held a drop-in session for community members to talk with the DNR staff and share their ideas for using the settlement funds. Additionally, RR and DG held a more formal listening session on June 22 that included a presentation with project updates and time for community members to share their thoughts and ideas. RR and DG staff held a follow-up listening session on July 13 to report back to the community on this work and seek input.

A main priority identified by the community is to use this money to provide safe drinking water to residents with private wells that are impacted by PFAS from the FTC and that are not covered by actions required of Tyco in the settlement. The DNR will incorporate the community's input to submit a formal request (i.e., a statute 13.10 request) to the legislature's Joint Committee on Finance to move the settlement funding from the PFAS Trust Fund to a DNR appropriation that the DNR can access and spend. If the Joint Committee on Finance approves the 13.10 request, the DNR will be able to use the \$10 million to assist impacted communities. The DNR is committed to continuing to seek input from the community going forward and anticipates submitting a 13.10 request to the Joint Committee on Finance soon.

PFAS Contamination in the Town of Campbell

The DNR approved the permit for Well #2 in the town of Campbell. The Public Service Commission has approved the construction of the town of Campbell Well #1 and a full water system application is currently before the Commission for a future decision.

The PFAS research consortium will be collecting soil samples from sites located within the groundwater plumes associated with historical plane crashes. These samples will be sent to the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene for analysis.

More information about ongoing efforts to address PFAS in the town of Campbell is available on the [town of Campbell website](#).

PFAS Contamination in Dane County

The Dane County Regional Airport (DCRA) and Wisconsin Air National Guard (Air National Guard) continue to work to understand and address PFAS at the airport. The Air National Guard has completed their first phase of site investigation field work and is working on a community involvement plan. The first phase site investigation has been submitted to the DNR. The next stage of investigation is not anticipated to begin until approximately Fiscal Year (FY) 2030. DCRA has been conducting a pilot remedial action for groundwater at Darwin Road since June 2025. The DNR anticipates a report detailing the outcome of these efforts to be submitted for review in December 2026. More information about PFAS and the airport is available on [DCRA's website](#).

Town of Stella Updates

Additional Private Well Sampling For PFAS Offered In Oneida County

The expanded private well sampling project that started in July 2025 is ongoing. The DNR [offered private well PFAS sampling](#) to full-time and seasonal residents of Oneida County. This sampling offer was sent to a targeted number of private drinking water wells in the townships of Crescent, Newbold, Pelican, Sugar Camp and Pine Lake. Those who choose to participate in this sampling effort will receive their private well's sample results and any recommendations from the DNR. Well owners can submit questions to DNRDGOneidaCountyPFAS@wisconsin.gov or 888-626-0605.

The DNR has compiled the results of this sampling effort as of June 29, 2026, and made the summary available on the [PFAS Contamination in the Town of Stella and Oneida County website](#). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided the funding to allow for this additional private well sampling.

Temporary Emergency Water Provided By Responsible Party Ahlstrom

In January 2026, Ahlstrom began offering bottled water to every residence within a three-mile radius of the Stella Town Hall, regardless of whether a drinking water advisory has been issued for that well. The water is provided by Culligan Water, which is the same local vendor used by the DNR.

Residents eligible to participate in this bottled water program who were receiving bottled water from the bottled water program sponsored by the DNR could elect to transfer to the Ahlstrom bottled water program. Some eligible residents opted to continue to receive water from the state.

Bottled water service for participants in the Ahlstrom program will run through January 2027. Prior to the one-year anniversary of the program in January 2027, Ahlstrom will evaluate the program and determine next steps.

Federal Coordination and Superfund

The DNR continues to assist the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with its [Superfund](#) Site Assessment-related activities near town of Stella.

The DNR recently completed a Preliminary Assessment (PA), a site inspection (SI), and an Expanded Site Inspection (ESI) on behalf of the EPA. These actions were conducted to support the EPA's evaluation of whether the PFAS contamination in the town of Stella qualifies for listing as a Superfund site on the National Priorities List (NPL). The DNR takes these steps when a site may meet the criteria to be included on the NPL and the DNR may not have sufficient resources available to ensure that the contamination is adequately investigated and remediated. If the site becomes a Superfund site, EPA is likely to search for and may pursue potentially responsible parties as part of the Superfund process. The DNR also continues to share information and coordinate with EPA regarding PFAS contamination in the town of Stella.

The PA, SI, and ESI are early steps in the overall Superfund site listing process. Next steps include development of a Hazard Ranking System (HRS) score to determine if the site is eligible, based on the overall site risk, for listing on the National Priorities List (NPL). The final decision on whether the site qualifies for the NPL and will be added to the federal Superfund Remedial program will be made by the DNR and EPA. The entire process of listing a site takes several years.