Response to Questions

RFP: Community Liaison - Testing and Safe Water Assistance for Private Wells Impacted by PFAS

Oct. 21, 2026

Q1: The RFP states that DNR will pay facility rental costs directly, if needed. Does the DNR expect that consultants identify locations in the proposal and include costs accordingly, OR, should these costs be excluded from Consultants cost proposal/budget?

Proposed costs for facility rental do not need to be included in the budget. If the Consultant has recommended location(s), please identify these in the proposal and include the estimated cost for facility rental within the body of the proposal. Any costs for facility rental can be excluded from the Consultant's cost proposal/budget.

Q2: For purposes of the assumed 1,000 PFAS samples, should Consultants assume that the 1,000 samples include required field QA/QC samples, or should field QA/QC samples required by the approved SAP be budgeted in addition to the 1,000 samples?

Assume that the 1,000 samples include any required QA/QC samples.

Q3: For any properties that might require emergency bottled water, should the consultant include vendor costs for the provision of bottled water OR, will the DNR cover those costs through existing contracts?

The DNR will pay directly for temporary emergency bottled water through existing contracts; the Consultant does not need to include this cost in the budget.

Q4: Please clarify the anticipated level of Consultant oversight during new well and/or treatment-system installations?

The Consultant can assume its role will be primarily before mobilization and after demobilization of DNR's other vendors who will be installing new wells and/or treatment systems on a property. The Consultant's role will be to document current conditions, decisions made between the property owner and the installation vendors, and property conditions after installations are complete. The Consultant will not be required to be present to oversee installations or wells or treatment system but may be asked to stop by certain properties from time to time to address questions, check on progress and/or help resolve issues.

Q5: The RFP identifies that the deeper bedrock wells potentially contain radium, strontium and high sulfur levels. Are any other contaminants (i.e., arsenic) a concern and should also be considered in the post-installation testing? Could the DNR provide the expected analyte list and analytical methods to be included in the proposal?

See Table on Page 7.

Q6: Can the DNR explain the circumstance of installing treatment to address hardness or other aesthetic parameters? Is this limited to treatment of deeper bedrock wells?

We anticipate that treatment to address hardness (e.g., water softeners) will be included in the water treatment systems provided by the DNR for new deep bedrock wells, but also as needed to effectively treat contaminants identified other eligible private wells. The DNR does not anticipate paying for treatment of hardness or aesthetic parameters alone in a private well.

Q7: The duration and timing of office hours are not identified. Please clarify the expectation of how many hours to allocate for each day. Please also clarify if office hours are anticipated to be during normal business hours or if they need to include evening hours to facilitate access.

The Consultant should recommend and include their recommended duration and timing of office hours (hosted twice per month) in their basis of cost. Selecting hours that accommodate different schedules for local residents is recommended.

Q8: Document if the vendor has installed the new well and/or treatment according to the contract specifications and requirements and report any deficiencies or problems to the DNR. Is the consultant expected to be present during the installation of the new well and/or treatment?

No. See response to Q4.

Q9: Can you please clarify the history of past sampling and intentions with future sampling in the ESIA? The RFP indicates that 415 wells were sampled in 2020/21, and that DNR has requested access agreements and is surveying residents in the ESIA as of September 2026. Were those agreements sent mostly to previously sampled or previously unsampled residences?

The sampling previously completed by the DNR in 2020/21 was done to evaluate if PFAS were present in private wells in the ESIA. The future sampling planned under this contract is intended to document current PFAS concentrations in private wells in, and around, the ESIA to determine which properties are eligible to receive a new well and/or treatment. The agreements sent out by the DNR in September 2026 were mailed to all residents who were previously sampled and to owners of other parcels in the ESIA, which were not sampled previously for various reasons.

Q10: Can you please clarify the statement in Section 3.3 about how the consultant shall establish eligibility criteria at the start of the project, if DNR anticipates everyone within the ESIA are already considered eligible for testing, and that further eligibility for testing is contingent on funding? What kind of eligibility criteria is DNR looking to establish at the beginning of the project, that hasn't already been established?

The boundary of the ESIA was drawn based in part on geographic markers. The Consultant is asked to evaluate if other technical factors (e.g., results from the private well testing and distance from the FTC) should be considered and then recommend a decision tree or general criteria for which private wells outside of the ESIA will be eligible for testing. The results from testing of many private wells in this area are anticipated to fall into the category where PFAS are detected in the water sample but the concentrations are less than the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) drinking water health advisory levels. The Consultant is asked to lay out a decision tree or general criteria for if, and when, additional sampling of a private well is recommended to determine eligibility for a new well and/or treatment.

Q11: For eligible parcels, does DNR have preference for outdoor spigot sample collection (when available; would require less coordination effort with owner), or indoor drinking water tap (if no treatment system is present).

The DNR does not have a preference. The location that the sample is collected can vary based on site-specific conditions and owner preferences, so long as it is a representative sample of the water from the private well.

Q12: Would it be possible to have the DNR billed directly for lab services, or preferable that the consultant be billed and then reimbursed for lab costs?

The DNR is requesting that the Consultant subcontract for the lab services, which will require that the Consultant pay and request reimbursement for the lab costs.

Q13: In the qualifications section, the RFP indicates the Consultant will be expected to provide property owners with their testing results and risk evaluation. Is this referring to health risk, or hydrogeologic risk of future contamination if no action is taken?

This is anticipated to be primarily a health risk as compared to the DHS drinking water health advisory levels. Other factors such as location and depth of well may be included in the evaluation and communication.

Q14: Is there an anticipated budget or not-to-exceed amount for this consultant contract, separate from the settlement funds reserved for new wells, treatment systems and long-term care?

The Consultant contract is paid from the settlement funds. The budget will be set based on the evaluation of the proposals and selection of a contractor from the proposals received.

Q15: Will annual escalation of labor and unit rates be allowed over the 3-year term, or should rates be held for the full contract period?

The DNR asks that rates be held for the 3-year term.

Q16: How many hours should be assumed for each office-hour session?

See response to Q7.

Q17: How many one-on-one in-home visits should proposers assume over the contract?

One-on-one in-home visits are not anticipated to be needed as outreach for most residents, but the specific number who will need this is unknown. The Consultant can include a reasonable assumption in their proposal, which will serve as their basis of cost.

Q18: What response time does DNR expect for hotline calls and emails (for example, one business day)?

The Consultant can include the response time they plan to implement on the project in the Proposal.

Q19: Are there language-access needs in the community (translation of materials or interpreters at meetings) that proposers should budget for?

The Consultant does not need to budget for translation services.

Q20: For public meetings, will DNR provide the virtual meeting platform and AV at the venue, or should proposers budget for these? Will DNR and DHS prepare any of the meeting materials?

The Consultant can assume that the DNR will provide the virtual meeting platform and that AV equipment will be available for use at the meeting facility. The DNR and DHS will prepare the materials for the kickoff meeting and the Consultant will assist with preparing content for subsequent public meetings.

Q21: At project start, will DNR provide the 2020–2021 ESIA private well results (including laboratory reports), well construction reports, parcel and owner contact data, and the current bottled water participant list?

Yes.

Q22: How many access agreements have been returned from the September 2026 mailing?

Approximately 250 agreements have been returned to date. The DNR anticipates receiving additional agreements before the start of the contract.

Q23: Does DNR have any further information on the low-level FOSA detections (for example, laboratory, sampling method or blank results associated with those detections) that can be shared with the selected consultant?

The DNR will discuss possible causes with the selected consultant. A definitive reason or set of reasons has not been determined.

Q24: Does DNR have existing sampling procedures, field forms or notification templates from prior ESIA sampling that it would like the consultant to adopt?

The selected Consultant will use their own sampling procedures and field forms. The DNR will work the selected Consultant to develop approved notification templates at the start of the project.

Q25: Do the 1,000 assumed samples include field QC samples (field blanks, equipment blanks, duplicates), or should QC samples be priced in addition to the 1,000?

See response to Q2.

Q26: For homes with existing treatment or softening, should one pre-treatment sample be collected, or are post-treatment samples also expected?

Samples should be collected pre-treatment. The DNR may request that the Consultant collect a post-treatment sample for certain homes with an existing treatment system based on the initial testing results. This will be done on a case-by-case basis.

Q27: How many households not already receiving bottled water should proposers assume will need help with temporary emergency water agreements?

The number of households is uncertain but is likely to be less than 30.

Q28: For cost purposes, how many properties should proposers assume will receive a new well, treatment only, or both? If DNR prefers not to set a number, could DNR provide a range?

Based on previous results from testing completed in 2020/21, we estimate that approximately 100 properties will be eligible to receive a new well and/or treatment. However, we do not know the breakdown of what option each eligible households will select. The Consultant may choose to use numbers within the estimated ranges for each option presented below or other use other number and assumptions as the basis of cost for the proposal. The actual selection for eligible properties may differ from these estimated ranges.

- 45 – 55% Deep Bedrock Well (with treatment for naturally-occurring contaminant)
- 30 – 40% New Well (no treatment)
- 15 – 25% Treatment for PFAS

Q29: Of those, how many new wells should be assumed to be completed in the deep bedrock aquifer (about 450 feet or deeper)?

See response to Q28.

Q30: For new deep bedrock wells, what analytes does DNR expect? Please confirm whether the list should include: radium-226 and radium-228 (or combined radium), gross alpha, strontium, hardness, sulfate, sulfide/hydrogen sulfide, iron and manganese, and any others (for example, arsenic, total dissolved solids or chloride).

See Table on Page 7.

Q31: How many natural-constituent sampling events should be assumed per new deep well (for example, one sample after installation, or a follow-up event)?

Assume one after installation.

Q32: Is the well-construction bacteriological sample required under NR 812 the responsibility of the well driller, or should the consultant budget for it?

This is the responsibility of the well driller.

Q33: Section 3.7 does not specify how many verification samples to assume. So that proposals are priced on the same basis, please provide the number of PFAS verification samples per property that proposers should assume for new wells and for treatment systems, or confirm that each proposer should state its own assumption.

Consultants should provide their own assumptions in the proposal to use as the basis of cost. Section 3.7 provides guidelines for general expectations that the DNR has for verification testing.

Q34: For treatment systems, should verification include only the treated (effluent) sample, or also influent and between-vessel samples?

Effluent only.

Q35: Are laboratory costs for verification sampling paid under the consultant's contract or under the installation vendor's contract?

These laboratory costs are paid for by the Consultant's contract (except for testing completed by the well driller as noted in response to Q32).

Q36: What level of field oversight does DNR expect during well installation, well abandonment and treatment installation: full-time presence, key-milestone visits, or review of vendor documentation? How many hours or site visits per property should be assumed?

See response to Q4.

Q37: How many vendor bid packages should proposers assume they will help prepare (Section 3.6)?

None. The DNR is preparing these bid packages independently.

Q38: After installation, is the consultant expected to track vendor maintenance (for example, filter changeouts), or only to remind owners of the maintenance schedule in the results letter?

The Consultant will not be responsible for tracking vendor maintenance. Reminders to follow a vendor's recommended maintenance should be included with applicable communications with property owners.

Q39: Does DNR have a preferred platform for the shared results database and property tracker (for example, a DNR SharePoint site, or a consultant-hosted site)? Are GIS files (shapefiles or geodatabase) expected as deliverables?

A consultant-hosted site is preferred, but the DNR can provide the file sharing platform if needed. The DNR may request that GIS files be shared as a deliverable for the project.

Q40: Should sampling results also be submitted in a specific DNR electronic data format, in addition to the Excel deliverable?

No other format is expected.

Q41: May proposers include optional or additional tasks (for example, extended office hours or additional sampling rounds) as separately priced items on the Cost Summary Sheet, without those items counting toward the base cost score?

Yes.

Response to Q5 and Q30

Table: Suggested Analyte List for New Deep Bedrock Wells

SUGGESTED METHOD	ANALYTE
E903.0	**Radium-226**
E904.0	**Radium-228**
SW6020	**Metals***
SW6020	**Arsenic**
SW6020	**Barium**
SW6020	**Calcium**
SW6020	**Iron**
SW6020	**Magnesium**
SW6020	**Manganese**
SW6020	**Potassium**
SW6020	**Sodium**
SM2340B	**Strontium**
SW6010D	**Hardness (as CaCO3)**
SW9056A	**Sulfur**
SW9056A	**Sulfate**
SW9056A	**Chloride**

* The listed metals are based on results from deeps bedrock wells in the area. Other metals can be included.