

Residential Well Assessment Activities

January 2025

The EPA will be in your neighborhood to seek permission to sample residential wells for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, commonly referred to as PFAS. The EPA is investigating the extent of PFAS contamination associated with the Galey & Lord Plant Superfund Site in Society Hill, South Carolina, and would like to sample residential wells in the vicinity of northern Darlington County, southeastern Chesterfield County and southwestern Marlboro County.

Sampling Process

Sampling will be done outdoors and does not require you to be home, however, you may need to unlock a gate (or similar) to provide access. Generally, samplers will purge the well (at or as close to the well head as possible) for several minutes and document water chemistry readings until they have stabilized. The samplers will then fill several containers with water that will be sent to a laboratory for analysis. The sample collection will take approximately 45 minutes to complete.

The EPA encourages property owners and tenants to sign and submit the Access Authorization forms. Residents and tenants can return the enclosed Access Authorization or fill it out on our website. You may use the QR code on this mailer to direct you to the Access Authorization form online. Once we receive your completed Access Authorization form, an EPA representative will call you to obtain well information and schedule your well sampling.

Background

The Galey & Lord Plant Superfund Site is a former textile mill and finishing facility that operated from 1966 to 2016 and covers approximately 234 acres. The facility, including the wastewater treatment systems, was abandoned in 2016. Wastewater treatment tanks and lagoons were not cleaned up or properly closed, and unlined ponds and basins are at capacity. The site operations have resulted in per- & poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including per-fluoro-octanoic acid (PFOA) and per-fluoro-octane-sulfonic acid (PFOS) contamination. Additionally, during facility operations, sludge was routinely removed from the wastewater treatment tanks and basins and spread on agricultural lands in a three-county area near the Site.

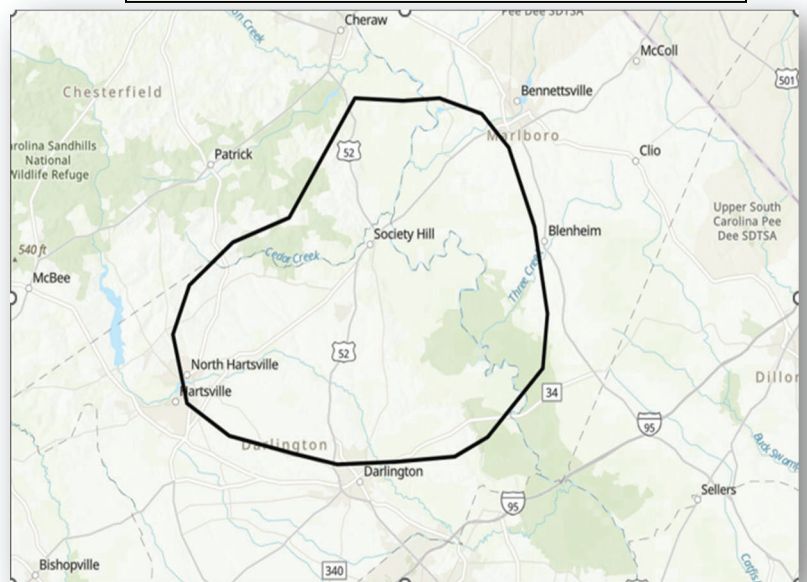
Beginning in 2019, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services (DES), formerly known as Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), collected groundwater samples from residential wells near agricultures fields where land farming of Galey & Lord sludge occurred. Of the approximately 120 residential wells sampled, laboratory analytical results revealed that about half of the wells had detectable concentrations of PFAS substances.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Is my property eligible to be sampled?

A: The EPA is identifying residential wells in the vicinity of northern Darlington County, southeastern Chesterfield County,

Figure of the Study Area



and southwestern Marlboro County. Residential wells in this area are eligible for sampling. To verify your property is in the targeted area, reach out to the EPA contacts listed below.

Q: Do I have to be the property owner to give the EPA permission to sample my well?

A: No, either the property owner or the current tenant can grant the EPA permission to access the property and collect a water sample.

Q: What if PFAS substances are present in my well?

A: The EPA will send the property owner and tenant, if applicable, the results of the sampling 6-8 weeks after the sample was taken. Results will be compared to Regional Removal Management Levels for PFAS. If there is an exceedance, you may have the option to connect to the municipal water line if it is available in your area. If municipal water is not available, the EPA may install a whole house water filtration system or other temporary measure, as needed.

Q: Will this cost me any money?

A: No, there is no cost to residents/property owners for sample collection and no data will be shared with anyone other than the property owner and tenant. There is similarly no cost to property owners if there is a need to install a filter or municipal connection; however, residents will be responsible for monthly water usage bills if connected to municipal water.

Q: What can I do about potential past exposure and/or to limit current exposure while I wait for my sampling results?

A: Scan the QR code for [Meaningful and Achievable Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Risk](#)



Q: How do I give the EPA permission to sample my well?

A: To give the EPA permission to take samples from your well, please choose one of the options listed below. Once completed, we will contact you to schedule your well sampling.

- Scan the QR code below to access the online Access Authorization form.
- Send a picture of the completed signed form via text message to (678) 634-0080.
- Email the form to GLPlant@epa.gov
- Mail the form via USPS mail to:

ATTN: Donnica Wiley, EPA
61 Forsyth Street, SW, Mail code 9T25
Atlanta, GA 30303



If you have any questions, please contact:

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