

AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WASTE MANAGEMENT AND PREVENTION DIVISION
Guidance on PFAS Groundwater Exceedances at Permitted Sites
April 3, 2020

In order to provide guidance on how a permittee can comply with the requirements of the Solid Waste Management and Groundwater Protection Rule, this memo summarizes potential responses the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) may require as a result of detecting per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) above the groundwater enforcement standard (GWES) in on-site groundwater samples at land application sites:

- 1) Temporarily cease land application at site associated with groundwater exceedance at onsite monitoring well(s) and/or compliance point(s).
- 2) Locate and sample all drinking water supply wells within 0.25 miles of land application site and submit samples for analysis using most current approved analytical method for drinking water.
- 3) Collect confirmatory sample(s) of groundwater from monitoring wells where previous exceedance was measured and submit for analysis using most current available analytical method. Sampling shall be performed in accordance with the Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy (GWPR&S).
 - a. If confirmatory sample indicates PFAS concentrations in groundwater samples collected at the property line or at compliance points are above GWES, within 30 days of receipt of laboratory data documenting that an exceedance of a standard at a point of compliance, unless the Secretary agrees to an alternate schedule:
 - i. Conduct an investigation at the direction of the Secretary in accordance with the GWPR&S or the Investigation and Remediation of Contaminated Properties Rule, as applicable.
 - ii. Prior to resuming land application, the permittee must implement an approved corrective action plan that demonstrates that concentrations of PFAS in groundwater are not exceeding GWES at compliance points, including any on site or off site drinking water supply or an on site agricultural well (used for livestock or watering crops). This can be accomplished by submitting a plan to DEC for review and approval. This plan must outline the future testing/monitoring and data evaluation approach of historical and current test results that will be used to show that the proposed land application activities will not result in an exceedance of the GWES for PFAS.
 - iii. The permittee must submit a plan to the Agency for approval that includes a schedule for continued monitoring of groundwater at points of exceedance, reporting of results to the Agency with current and historic test results, tabulated by sampling location through time.
 - b. If confirmatory sample results indicate that PFAS concentrations in groundwater samples are below the GWES at compliance points but that there are on site concentrations greater than the GWES and there are exceedances at the compliance point greater than the Preventive Action Level (2 ppt):
 - i. Site remains eligible for land application for that season.
 - ii. Revise the permittee's sampling plan to conduct groundwater monitoring for PFAS quarterly.