

Hazardous Sites Cleanup Under the Act of October 18, 1988

Notice of Prompt-Interim Response and Public Hearing

**North Centre Township PFAS Investigation: Multiple Municipalities, Columbia County**

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), under the authority of the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) (35 P.S. §§6020.101-6020.1305), has initiated a Prompt-Interim Response at the North Centre Township PFAS Investigation Site. This response has been initiated pursuant to Sections 501(a) and 505(b) of HSCA (35 P.S. §§6020.501(a) and 6020-505(b)). The site originated at: North Centre Township, Columbia County, PA in 2024, and has since expanded to include sites or impacts in Beaver Township, Town of Bloomsburg, Briar Creek Township, Catawissa Township, Fishing Creek Township, Locust Township, Main Township, Mount Pleasant Township, North Centre Township, Orange Township, Scott Township and South Centre Township, all within Columbia County.

An initial public comment period provided pursuant to Section 506(b) of HSCA was opened in 2025, and a public hearing was held on March 24, 2025. Because of the significant expansion in the area of investigation, DEP has elected to open the Administrative Record for comment again. This will include a written public comment period and a public hearing on May 11, 2026.

**History:** The North Centre Township Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) per and poly fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Investigation (Investigation) was initiated in 2024 in response to a detection of PFAS above federal drinking water standards in the public drinking water supply well at the Brookside Village Mobile Home Park (Brookside) in North Centre Township. DEP began a sampling program to determine whether private supply wells within the investigation area were impacted by PFAS. Sampling of private residential supply wells in the initial investigation area indicated impacts at varying levels to the groundwater. Utilizing records from Bloomsburg Municipal Authority (Authority) from the 1980-1990s, DEP identified properties where municipal sewage sludge was land applied for agricultural use within North Centre Township, and other municipalities Columbia County. With the ultimate goal of defining the extent of groundwater contamination and identifying residential drinking water supply wells impacted with PFAS, the investigation expanded to include sampling of private wells near other properties where documents indicated land application of municipal sludge the Authority had occurred during the 1980-1990s.

To date, the investigation has included sampling in twelve separate municipalities, with PFAS levels found above drinking water MCLs in seven municipalities. Results of soil sampling on two of the farm properties located in North Centre Township showed the

presence of PFAS in shallow soils, which confirmed that a source of PFAS is located on these properties. The soil sampling effort supported the continuing sampling of private residential supply wells near farms where sludge from the Authority was reportedly land applied. DEP's work plan includes additional and ongoing residential well sampling as well as sampling of soil at additional farm properties. Because PFAS compounds have been associated with negative impacts on human health and present a danger to public health and the environment, DEP initiated a Prompt-Interim Response in 2024.

Due to the additional municipalities where impacts have been identified, DEP initiated this Prompt-Interim Response to continue mitigation efforts. Interim mitigation response alternatives evaluated by DEP include 1) no action, 2) informing the property owners of the contamination and providing information on in-home treatment options, 3) providing bottled water as an alternative drinking water source, and 4) providing in-home treatment systems. Options 2,3, and 4 fulfill DEP's regulatory obligations. The proposed prompt interim response continues to be a combination of 3 and 4, with the provision of bottled drinking water or certified filtration pitcher as an immediate mitigation followed by installation of an in-home treatment system. This combination is the interim response that is most protective of human health that is currently both available and implementable and is the same prompt interim response as was selected in the previous analysis of alternatives after the previous public comment period. Additional alternatives may be considered when evaluating a final remedy.

This notice is being provided pursuant to Section 506(b) of HSCA. The Administrative Record which contains the information that forms the basis and documents the selection of this response action is available electronically for public review and comment by visiting [www.dep.pa.gov/northcentre](http://www.dep.pa.gov/northcentre) or by clicking on the "North Centre Township HSCA" tile at <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/dep-regions/northcentral-regional-office>.

**Public Comment:** The Administrative Record will be open for comment from April 11, 2026, until July 10, 2026. Any person may submit written comments into the record during this time only by sending them electronically to [RA-EPNCECCOMMENTS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPNCECCOMMENTS@pa.gov), by mail to Cheryl Sinclair at DEP, 208 W. 3rd St., Suite 101, Williamsport, PA 17701, or by delivering them to this office in person.

**Hearing:** In addition, any person may present oral comments of up to three minutes for inclusion in the Administrative Record at a public hearing on May 11, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Columbia High School Auditorium, 4777 Old Berwick Rd, Bloomsburg, PA 17815. The public hearing will be preceded by an open house and short informational presentation beginning at 5:00 p.m. Any person wishing to present comments during the formal public hearing must register via e-mail at [RA-EPNCECCOMMENTS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPNCECCOMMENTS@pa.gov), or by

phone at 570-327-3418. Onsite registration to speak at the hearing may also be accepted if time allows. Registration is not required for those simply wishing to attend.

Persons with a disability who wish to attend the hearing and require accommodation should contact DEP through [RA-EPNCECCOMMENTS@pa.gov](mailto:RA-EPNCECCOMMENTS@pa.gov), or reach out to the Pennsylvania Hamilton Relay Service at (800) 654-5984 (TDD) to discuss how the Department can meet their needs.