

HENRICO COUNTY - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES PFAS PRIVATE WELL SAMPLING PROGRAM

NEAA26 PUBLIC SERVICE



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AWARDS

Initial Monitoring and Action Plan

- **October 2021** – Notification by Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality about presence of PFAS in local drinking water source.
- **December 2021** – Henrico County notified residents in the affected area of the plan to monitor private wells at no cost to the residents.
- **Years Following** – An established program has been created that allows any Henrico County resident to request private well sampling for PFAS.



Impact of Monitoring

- Nearly **400** samples from **335** different residential properties have been collected since the program's implementation.
- Henrico County has installed **36** whole home filtration systems and delivered over **400** cases of water to residents whose wells have had detections of PFAS.
- Future plans to extend the water distribution system to all areas within the County.



HENRICO WATER
Department of Public Utilities



The County of Henrico, located in central Virginia, is home to approximately 334,000 residents. Henrico's Department of Public Utilities provides water and sewer services to much of the County, however in the more rural east end of the County there are still many residents with privately-owned drinking water well systems.

In October 2021, Henrico County was notified by the Virginia Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Quality that a neighboring locality had detected an elevated presence of PFAS in their drinking water source, the Chickahominy River. Their source water intake on the Chickahominy River is located downstream of Henrico County, with a large area of the river's watershed located within Henrico, including the White Oak Creek Swamp in Henrico's East End.

Upon receipt of this notification, the Henrico County Department of Public Utilities immediately sprang into action to validate these results. Initially, staff trained in the complex process of PFAS sample collection set out to validate these surface water sampling efforts by collecting approximately 20 samples throughout the Chickahominy River watershed and the White Oak Creek Swamp. These efforts confirmed the data provided by our neighboring locality and helped to direct the next phase of this project.

Throughout a series of community outreach efforts, including community meetings, press releases, etc., Henrico notified residents that live within the affected area that have private wells and developed a plan to test these private wells at no cost to the residents. As word spread through the community, this sampling effort quickly grew to over 200 samples in the first month of testing. Fast forward to 2025, Henrico County has now collected almost 400 PFAS samples from 335 different residential properties, all at no cost to the residents.

In addition to providing free testing for residents' wells, the County has also developed a program to address any wells with an exceedance of the regulatory thresholds for the PFAS compounds. When any exceedances are identified, a whole-house well filtration system is installed at no cost to the residents. In addition to the cost of system installation, the County is absorbing any maintenance costs associated with these filtration systems. To date, Henrico has had a total of 28 whole-house filtration systems installed, with four more scheduled to be installed in the near future.

These efforts have helped ensure that all of Henrico's residents have equitable access to safe, clean drinking water regardless of physical location or income level.