



Department of Health | Department of Environmental Conservation
Environmental Facilities Corporation

PRIVATE WELL PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS) TESTING AND MITIGATION REBATE PILOT PROGRAM PROGRAM OUTLINE MARCH 2026

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1. Background

Updates to The Clean Water Infrastructure Act (CWIA) of 2017 established the Private Well Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance (PFAS) Testing and Mitigation Rebate Pilot Program (Program) to improve water quality by providing financial assistance to owners with eligible private water supply wells or transient, non-community public water supply wells (i.e., small business owners), including those in small and disadvantaged communities, to assess and mitigate PFAS contaminants in their drinking water supplies where no specific industrial source of the contamination nor responsible party has been or can be identified. Initially, \$15 million has been allocated to implement the Program being launched by the New York State (NYS) Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC).

2. Definitions

- a.** “Alternate water supply” or “AWS” means a supply of potable water obtained in bottles, through treatment, or by connection to an existing public water system at a capacity sufficient to satisfy water use functions impaired by contamination.
- b.** “Applicant” means the owner or tenant of property within a participating county that utilizes an eligible well.
- c.** “Fund” means the Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances or “PFAS” testing and mitigation rebate pilot program for eligible wells fund.
- d.** “Impacted well” means an eligible well in which concentrations of PFAS in the source water exceed maximum contaminant levels for PFAS.
- e.** “Eligible well” means a well in a participating county within New York State serving:
 - 1.** A residential property with one or multiple units that is served by a private well and whose onsite water system does not meet the definition of a public water system. A public water system is generally defined as a system with at least 5 service connections or that regularly serves an average of 25 individuals daily for at least 60 days out of the year;
 - 2.** A commercial property that is served by a private well and whose onsite water system does not meet the definition of a public water system; or
 - 3.** A property with an onsite transient non-community public water system. A transient non-community public water system is a water system that serves the public over six months per year (e.g., convenience stores, restaurants and other establishments open to the public).
- f.** “Maximum contaminant levels” or “MCL” means the limits set on the level of contaminants allowable in public drinking water systems, established by the New York State Department of Health under 10 NYCRR Part 5.
- g.** “Operation and maintenance” or “O&M” means the functions, duties, and labor associated with daily operations and normal repairs, replacement of parts and structural components, and other activities needed to preserve an asset so that it continues to serve its intended function. The term includes treatment media replacement and disposal.

h. “Participating county” means a county that voluntarily notifies DOH that it seeks authority to administer a program pursuant to this section within its municipal boundaries and agrees to abide by the program's goals, guidelines, eligibility requirements and reimbursement procedures and provide information to property owners regarding program parameters including eligibility criteria.

i. “Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances” or “PFAS” means a class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom.

j. “PFAS testing and mitigation rebate pilot program for eligible wells” or “program” means a program to provide financial assistance to property owners within participating counties to test and mitigate water supply wells contaminated by PFAS contaminants determined to exceed established MCLs.

k. “Point-of-entry treatment (POET) system” means a water filtration system that is installed on the main waterline of a house or building and filters the water distributed throughout the house or building and is designed to treat PFAS contaminants in drinking water to below established MCLs.

l. “Point of use treatment (POUT) system” means smaller filters that are attached at or near the faucet or point where water is dispensed for use and is a water treatment device to reduce or remove contaminants in drinking water and is “National Sanitation Foundation” or “NSF” certified for PFAS removal.

m. “Priority area” means area(s) identified within a participating county that indicate vulnerability to PFAS contaminants. Factors evaluated include, but are not limited to, the presence of a sole source aquifer, known water quality impairment, population density, soils, hydrogeology, climate, and whether such priority area is located within a disadvantaged community pursuant to section 75-0101.

n. “Public water system” means a community, noncommunity or non-transient noncommunity water system which provides water to the public for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if such system has at least five service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year. Such term includes:

1. collection, treatment, storage and distribution facilities under control of the supplier of water of such system and used with such system; and
2. collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under such control which are used with such system.

o. “Service connection” means the pertinent pipes, valves, and fittings that connect a distribution system to a consumer’s facility.

p. A transient non-community public water system is a water system that serves the public over six months per year (e.g., convenience stores, restaurants and other establishments open to the public). These water systems do not regularly serve at least 25 of the same people over six months per year and include but are not limited to water systems that serve parks, convenience stores, restaurants and other establishments open to the public.

3. Program Description

a. Only participating counties are eligible to receive funds as part of this Program.

b. This Program shall be administered by DOH, in consultation with the DEC and EFC and participating counties to provide a platform for property owners to apply for testing and apply for and receive a mitigation rebate, up to one hundred percent of the eligible costs incurred for eligible projects not to exceed limits defined in Section 6 (Private Well PFAS Mitigation) below.

- c.** DOH, in consultation with the DEC and participating counties, shall:
- 1.** identify the list of participating counties;
 - 2.** identify priority areas for targeted outreach, taking into account an area's vulnerability to PFAS contaminants and whether such priority areas are located within a disadvantaged community pursuant to section 75-0101 or other factors determined to be relevant; and
 - 3.** publish the list of participating counties.
- d.** DOH, in consultation with the DEC, may delegate to a participating county the identification of priority areas.
- e.** DOH, in consultation with the DEC, shall create application forms, procedures, and related guidance documents to be posted on a state website and shared with counties to post on their websites, if requested, in a manner that is accessible to the public.
- f.** DOH, in consultation with DEC, shall notify property owners who may be eligible to participate in the program in accordance with procedures and guidelines developed under Section 7 (Mitigation Rebate Eligibility) below. Determinations of rebate eligibility will be made by participating counties based on the published program criteria.
- g.** Applicants who are tenants in participating counties shall submit a signed and notarized Property Owner Acknowledgement Form to the county to be eligible to participate in the program. The agreement must be in the form provided by DOH.
- h.** An applicant seeking a mitigation rebate may apply to a participating county on an application via the form provided by DOH.
- i.** Participating counties shall be responsible for reviewing applications and approving, modifying, or denying the mitigation rebate requests as appropriate and issuing reimbursement payments to applicants from financial assistance payments made to the county from the fund.
- j.** EFC shall provide state financial assistance payments from the fund to participating counties to administer the Program and support mitigation activities undertaken by eligible applicants within their jurisdiction.
- k.** No more than once per calendar month, EFC may make payments to a participating county upon the receipt by EFC of a certification from the participating county of the total eligible costs incurred by eligible property owners within its jurisdiction for mitigation activities undertaken pursuant to the program.
- l.** Participation in this program and the receipt of payments shall not prevent participating counties from providing additional reimbursement to applicants.
- m.** Funding for this Pilot Program is limited, and applications will be reviewed in the order that they are received.

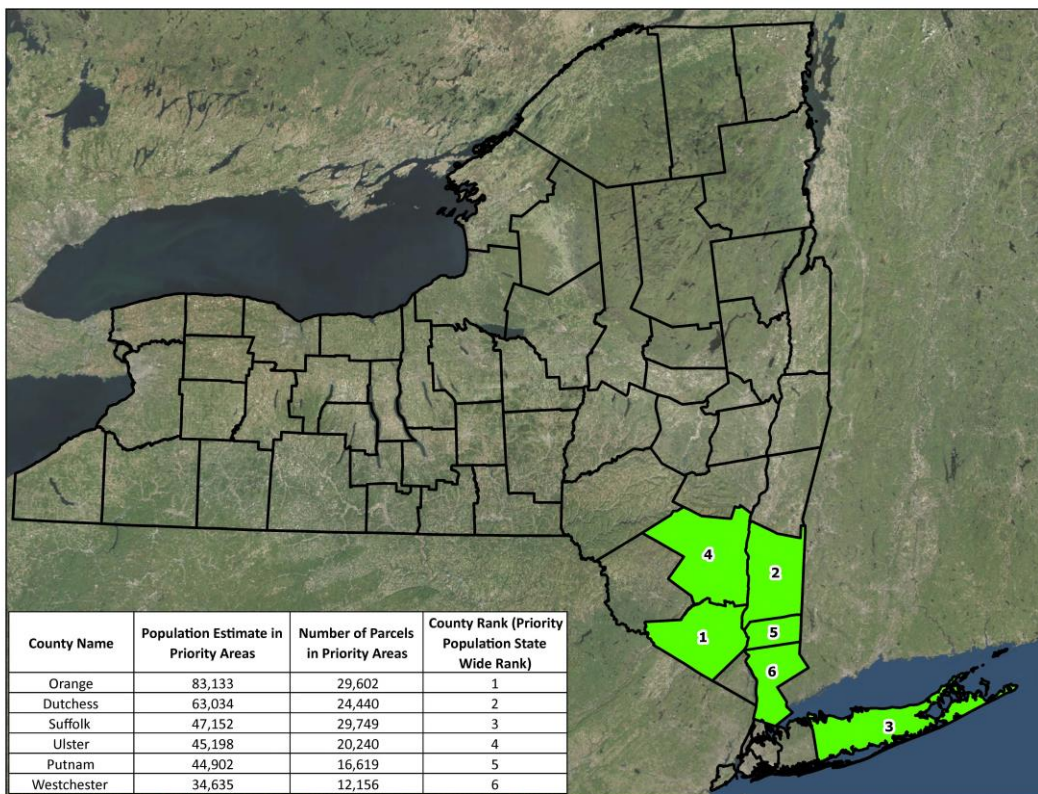
4. Participating Counties

Counties invited to participate were identified by DOH and DEC. The participating counties were selected based on the size of the population with private drinking water supply wells that could potentially be at higher risk of PFAS contamination. Selection considered the number of properties with private drinking water supply wells outside of a sewer district that meet at least one of these criteria:

- Population density greater than 300 people per square mile
- Designation as an Environmental Justice Area
- Designation as a sole source aquifer service area

The Pilot Program includes six counties eligible for participation:

- Dutchess
- Orange
- Putnam
- Suffolk
- Ulster
- Westchester



Top Ranked Counties Invited to Participate in the Pilot Program.

5. Private Well PFAS Testing

To be considered an “eligible well” for testing of your water supply; the following criteria must be met:

- a) The property and its drinking water supply well must be located within a New York State participating county. Participating counties include: Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Suffolk, Ulster, and Westchester. More information can be found at: health.ny.gov/PrivateWellPFAS.
- b) The applicant requesting testing must be the owner of the property, or a tenant of the property who submits a notarized Property Owner Acknowledgment Form with the application. This form can be found on our website at health.ny.gov/PrivateWellPFAS.
- c) The property cannot have an operational whole-house (point of entry) water treatment system that removes PFAS contamination. A point of entry treatment (POET) system is installed on the main waterline of a house or building. It filters the water distributed throughout the house or building and is designed to treat PFAS contaminants in drinking water to below New York State drinking water regulations.
- d) The property cannot have been offered or provided alternate water supply, temporary or permanent, by NYSDEC, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or a responsible third party as part of a remedial program.

The property must be one of the following:

- a) A residential property with one or multiple units that is served by a private well and whose onsite water system does not meet the definition of a public water system. A public water system is generally defined as a system with at least 5 service connections or that regularly serves an average of 25 individuals daily for at least 60 days out of the year;
- b) A commercial property that is served by a private well and whose onsite water system does not meet the definition of a public water system;
- c) A property with an onsite transient non-community public water system. A transient non-community public water system is a water system that serves the public over six months per year (e.g., convenience stores, restaurants and other establishments open to the public).

During implementation of the Program, NYS will perform private well testing for PFAS for eligible wells, and provide analytical services associated with laboratory testing in accordance with approved analytical testing methods at no cost to an eligible property owner. All samples shall be analyzed by a laboratory currently certified by the Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) within the Wadsworth Center at the DOH for testing potable water using EPA Method 537.1 version 2.

NYS will subsequently provide applicants with a copy of their analytical results along with a mitigation eligibility determination. Impacted wells eligible for a mitigation rebate must have a PFAS concentration detected at or above the MCLs currently established by NYSDOH.

Compound	New York MCLs in ng/L (nanograms per liter, also expressed as parts per trillion or ppt)
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	10.0
Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	10.0

The property owner shall be responsible for installation and post-mitigation clearance sampling of a POET or POUT system. The cost of installation and post-mitigation clearance sampling is an eligible expense and can be included in the rebate request. It is important to demonstrate the effectiveness of the treatment system(s) in treating PFAS.

Applicants must be able to provide a report of analytical laboratory testing in accordance with applicable Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) analytical methods that demonstrates that the treated water from the private drinking water well mitigated with a POET or POUT system has PFAS concentrations below the current NYSDOH MCLs.

Sampling data obtained by the Department is subject to disclosure under the New York State Freedom of Information Law (Article 6 of the Public Officers Law). Please note that any identifying information related to sampling from the premises, including names, addresses, and personal emails/phone numbers, will not be disclosed by NYS.

6. Private Well PFAS Mitigation

Costs associated with one of the following remedies for mitigating and treating or addressing PFAS in an impacted well located within a participating county shall include:

a. Installation of a POET system and associated eligible costs (up to \$5,000);

1. POET system components eligible for reimbursement include up to two Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) tanks/vessels, up to three Sample Port Taps, one Flow Restrictor, one Sediment Pre-Filter, one Flow Meter, one UV Disinfection Unit, one GFCI Outlet, electrician labor to install GFCI for UV unit, up to four Shutoff Ball Valves, copper or PEX piping, associated fittings, labor to install a POET system, and the cost of post-treatment PFAS laboratory testing (EPA Method 537.1 Version 2). Professional engineering services are eligible for reimbursement if needed for design purposes on a Transient Non-Community Public Water Supply improvement application to county health departments. Overall configuration and actual components used may vary based upon site specific variables such as available space and existing plumbing.

b. Installation of one or more POUT system(s) and associated eligible costs (up to \$1,000);

1. POUT system components eligible for reimbursement per system include Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) canisters or other treatment technologies, up to three sample ports, one sediment pre-filter, up to (2) isolation (shutoff ball) valves, copper or PEX piping, associated fittings, labor to install one or more POUT system(s), and the cost of post-treatment PFAS laboratory testing (EPA Method 537.1 Version 2). Overall configuration and actual components used may vary based upon site specific variables such as available space and existing plumbing.

c. A service connection to an existing public water system and associated eligible costs (up to \$10,000);

d. Future monitoring and maintenance costs up to \$1,500 associated with **existing** POET or POUT systems currently under monitoring and maintenance by DEC and associated with mitigating and treating or addressing PFAS in a well. To qualify for a rebate, ownership of the POET or POUT system(s) must first have been transferred by DEC to the property owner for future monitoring and maintenance, and where a determination has been made by DEC that PFAS contamination to the private or public water system well is not related to a designated DEC program remedial site or a contaminant spill addressable

under DEC statutory authority as defined in subdivision two of section 27-1301 of the environmental conservation law.

e. An applicant residing within a participating county may request a rebate be distributed directly to a treatment installer or contractor by submitting an Assignment of Payment Form with their rebate application.

7. Mitigation Rebate Eligibility Criteria

Eligible applicants located within a participating county include:

a. Owners of properties serviced by an eligible well or wells who have not been offered or are not being provided alternate water supply, temporary or permanent, by DEC or a responsible third party as part of a remediation program or a contaminant spill under subdivision two of section 27-1301 of the environmental conservation law.

To be considered eligible for a rebate for PFAS mitigation; the following criteria must be met:

- a) The applicant requesting a rebate **must** be the owner of the property. Tenants are not eligible to apply for a rebate.
- b) The applicant must have been confirmed by New York State as eligible for a mitigation rebate in writing. Eligibility is based on well testing results that detected PFAS concentrations at or above the MCLs established by the New York State Department of Health. Test results must be collected through either:
 - a. The Private Well PFAS Testing and Mitigation Rebate Pilot Program; or
 - b. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services on or after January 1, 2025 (for Suffolk County residents only).

Eligible costs associated with a service connection to a public water supply:

To connect to an available water main, a qualified utility contractor must be retained to ensure all county-specific permitting, regulations, and procedures are followed. Eligible costs and associated connection fees will be reviewed and approved in communication with the local water authority providing service. Professional engineering services are eligible for reimbursement if needed for design purposes.

In addition to service connection costs and connection fees, a pressure relief valve (PRV) and a water heater expansion tank are eligible for reimbursement, as needed.

The maximum rebate for a service connection is \$10,000 per property.

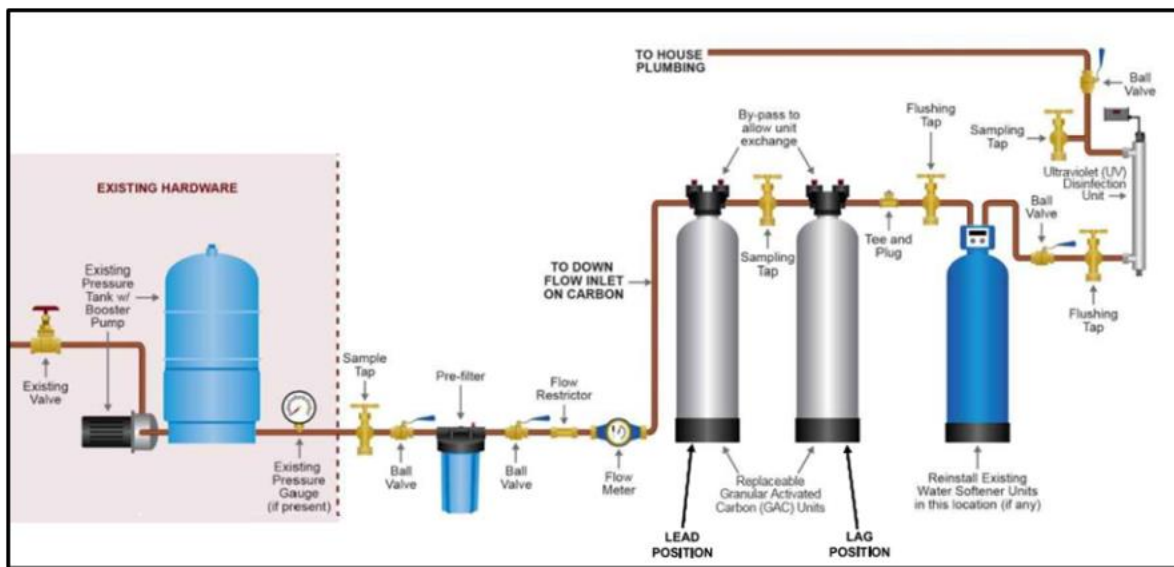
Eligible, system specific costs for a Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system are described below:

- Up to two (2) tanks/vessels of varying dimensions (e.g., 14x42", 12x52", or 10x54") with by-pass capabilities to allow for tank exchange. Approved media include:
 - Granular Activated Carbon (GAC); or
 - Ion exchange resin
- System must have pre- and post-media tank sampling ports
Up to three (3) sampling ports are eligible
- One (1) flow restrictor before GAC media to slow flow to 5 gallons per minute or lower
- One (1) sediment pre-filter

- One (1) flow meter
- One (1) ultraviolet (UV) disinfection unit
- One (1) Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet
- Electrician labor to install GFCI for UV unit
- Up to (4) shutoff ball valves
- Copper or PEX piping
- Fittings
- Labor costs for installation of a treatment system
- Professional engineering services are eligible for reimbursement if needed for design purposes on a Transient Non-Community Public Water Supply improvement application to county health departments. *Note: only applicable to Transient Non-Community Public Water Supplies.*
- Costs of laboratory analysis for post-installation PFAS sampling (EPA Method 537.1 Version 2 or EPA Method 533)

The maximum rebate for a POET system is \$5,000 per property. Below is a schematic of a typical POET system for reference.

Typical Point-of-Entry Treatment (POET) System



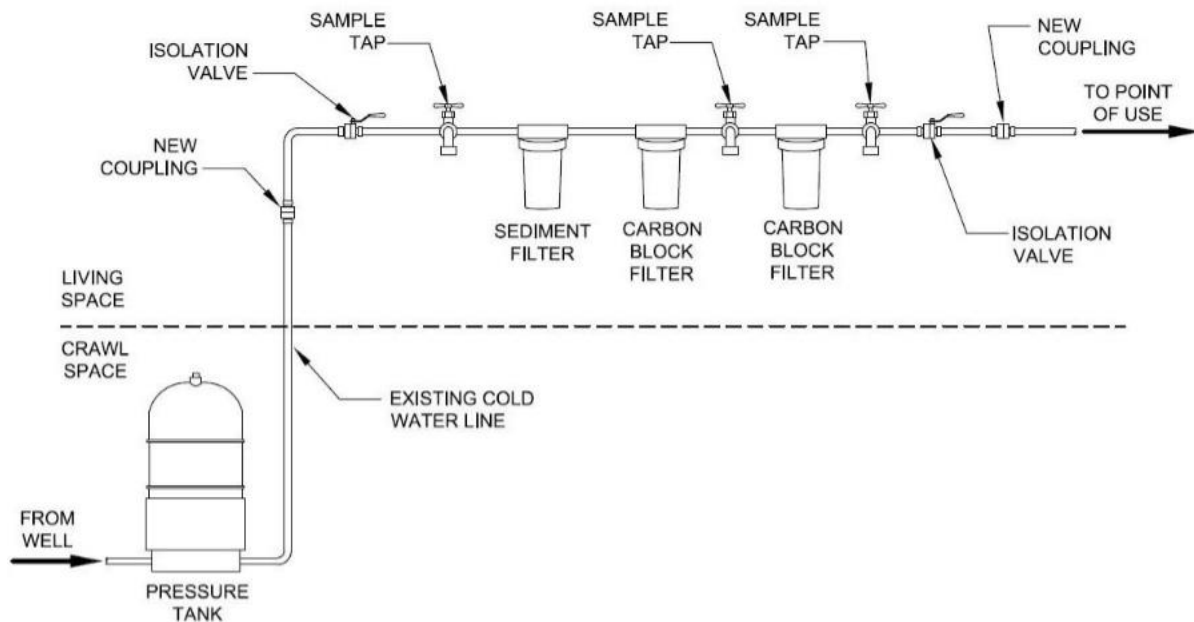
In specific circumstances, Point of Use Treatment (POUT) systems are eligible for a rebate. Up to \$1,000 will be reimbursed to cover the installation of POUT systems. Typically, a rebate for a POUT system would only apply where a POET system to treat the entire home or business cannot be installed due to space limitations. Transient non-community systems are not eligible to apply for a POUT system.

Eligible, system specific costs for a Point of Use Treatment (POUT) system are described below:

- GAC units at a property are eligible, provided the post-treatment sampling analysis confirmed mitigation of PFAS contaminants below established Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs)
- System must have pre- and post-treatment sampling ports
- Up to three (3) sampling ports are eligible
- One (1) sediment pre-filter
- Up to (2) isolation (shutoff ball) valves
- Copper or PEX piping
- Fittings
- Labor costs for installation of treatment system
- Costs of laboratory analysis for post-installation PFAS sampling (EPA Method 537.1 Version 2 or EPA Method 533)

The maximum rebate for a POUT system is \$1,000 per property. Below is a schematic of a typical POUT system for reference.

Typical Point-of-Use Treatment (POUT) System



Below are ineligible costs that are not covered by the POET or POUT system rebate:

- Bottled water
- Water softener/ neutralizer
- Pressure tanks
- Booster pumps
- POET or POUT operation and maintenance costs following installation
- Any expenses that are not appropriately documented
- Government permit fees, including but not limited to: fees assessed for building permits, zoning permits, construction compliance certifications, and floodplain disturbance permits
- Interest and late fees
- Fines and penalties
- Sales tax payment
- Non-essential site beautification
- Non-essential interior plumbing changes
- Administrative work or mitigation system installation oversight conducted by a professional engineer
- Sampling and analytical costs associated with non-PFAS treatment

b. Owners of an eligible well who have an existing POUT or POET system(s) DEC previously installed and maintained, which has been transferred to the property owner following determination by the state that the presence of PFAS contamination in their private or public water supply well is not related to a designated DEC program remedial site or a contaminant spill addressable under DEC statutory authority as defined in subdivision two of section 27-1301 of the environmental conservation law or a drinking water contamination site as defined in subdivision three of section 27-1201 of the environmental conservation law. These well owners are eligible for a rebate up to \$1,500 for future maintenance costs associated with their POET or POUT systems.

Appendix 1. Summary of Project Implementation at the County Scale

The pilot program provides an initial \$1.5 million to each county to fund PFAS mitigation rebates. Due to high testing application rates encountered in some counties, we pause accepting additional testing applications so that we can ensure sufficient funds are always available for anyone who is eligible for a rebate. As the initial round of test results are returned, unused funds are released to support additional drinking water testing and subsequent PFAS mitigation rebates.

Program funding is closely managed to ensure that all participants who have their private well tested for PFAS through this program can receive a mitigation rebate if needed. Pausing applications to allow time for sampling and data analysis is an essential part of the implementation plan given the limited funding currently allocated to carry out the pilot program.

At this stage of the program, a pause will occur when more than 600 testing applications are received in a participating county. The program uses this time to assess testing results and determine the number of additional tests and rebates that can be accommodated. When test results at a location are less than the current public drinking water standard established by NYS for PFOS and PFOA, the applicant is not eligible for a rebate. Those funds will be used to support additional testing and rebates for future applicants. As a result, the number of tests and rebates that can be accommodated in a county is adjusted and testing reopened.

Eligible mitigation rebate applicants have 6 months from the date of their testing results letter to apply for a mitigation rebate. If a mitigation rebate application is not received by NYS within 6 months, their funding is released to accommodate additional testing and rebates. Once total program funding is used, both the testing and mitigation rebate applications close.

