

**SITE REMEDIATION & WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM  
IMPLEMENTATION OF MARCH 13, 2019  
INTERIM SPECIFIC GROUND WATER QUALITY STANDARDS  
(ver. May 23, 2019)**

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) established new interim specific ground water quality standards for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) on March 13, 2019. The interim specific ground water quality standard for each of these contaminants is 0.01 micrograms per liter (ug/L) or 10 parts per trillion (ppt). Additional information regarding these interim specific ground water quality standards is available through the Division of Water Monitoring and Standards website (<https://nj.gov/dep/wms/bears/gwqs.htm>). The interim specific ground water quality standards became effective upon posting to the “Table of Interim Specific Ground Water Quality Criteria (ISGWQC), Interim PQLs (IPQLs), and Interim Specific Ground Water Quality Standards (ISGWQS) for Constituents in Class II-A Ground Water” located on this website.

Similar to any other contaminant of concern, the person responsible for conducting the remediation is required to evaluate whether there is the potential that PFOA and/or PFOS may have been manufactured, used, handled, stored, disposed or discharged at the site or area of concern. The NJDEP recommends that the information available in the ITRC PFAS technical documents found at <https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/> be utilized as part of the evaluation. If the scope of the remediation is for the entire site, then an entire site preliminary assessment is required to be conducted pursuant to the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation at N.J.A.C. 7:26E-3.1. If the scope of the remediation is for one or more specific areas of concern, then the licensed site remediation professional (LSRP) shall use his or her professional judgement to determine what evaluation is necessary.

If the evaluation/preliminary assessment indicates that PFOA and/or PFOS is/are not contaminant(s) of concern, then no additional investigation is required for these contaminants and the results of the evaluation/preliminary assessment shall be included in the next remedial phase report.

If the evaluation/preliminary assessment indicates that PFOA and/or PFOS is/are contaminant(s) of concern, then the person responsible for conducting the remediation is required to conduct a site investigation for ground water pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26E-3.3.

If neither PFOA nor PFOS is detected in ground water at concentrations exceeding their respective interim specific ground water quality standards, then no additional investigation is required for these contaminants and the results of the site investigation can be included in the next remedial phase report.

If either or both PFOA or PFOS are detected in ground water at concentrations exceeding their respective interim specific ground water quality standard, then a remedial investigation and, if necessary, a remedial action of ground water shall be conducted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:26E-4 and 5, respectively. The person responsible for conducting the remediation shall report the discharge to the NJDEP hotline at 1-877 WARNDEP or 1-877-927-6337. The person responsible for conducting the remediation is responsible for evaluating existing remediation timeframes and determining whether to merge the remediation of the PFOA and/or PFOS with the existing case or to create a new case. The person responsible for conducting remediation needs to be aware that if a new case is created, then separate remediation documents and forms must be submitted for each case and separate fees will be applied to each case.

The above requirements apply to all site remediation sites, including those sites subject to the May 7, 2014 statutory timeframe to complete the remedial investigation and for which the regulatory timeframe to complete the remedial action was May 7, 2019.

If the person responsible for conducting the remediation of a site subject to the May 7, 2019 remedial action timeframe did not complete the above PFOA/PFOS evaluation including, as needed, the preliminary assessment, site investigation, and remedial investigation, by May 7, 2019, and the person responsible for conducting the remediation did not timely apply for an extension to the remedial action report regulatory timeframe pursuant to the Administrative Requirements for the Remediation of Contaminated Sites (ARRCS) at N.J.A.C. 7:26C-3.2, then the case is considered out of the compliance.

For all other cases, the evaluation for PFOA and PFOS shall be completed and reported as part of the next remedial phase submittal.

For sites that received an unrestricted use final remediation document prior to the publication of the Interim Specific Groundwater Quality Standards for PFOA and PFOA on March 13, 2019, no further evaluation is required at this time.

For sites that received a limited restricted use or restricted use final remediation document prior to March 13, 2019 at which PFOA or PFOS is a contaminant of concern, the evaluation described above must be performed prior to and reported in the next biennial protectiveness certification.

The Department intends to modify the key document forms and online service to reflect the above referenced evaluation of PFOA and PFOS.