



Benner Township PFAS HSCA Investigation

Updated 5/31/2022

What is the Status of the Investigation?

Since beginning our investigation in Benner Township and DEP's attendance at the Benner Township supervisors meeting in November 2021, DEP has provided regular updates to Benner Township officials, local legislators, and our public investigation web page [Benner Township HSCA Investigation \(pa.gov\)](#).

What Residential Samples Have Been Collected to Date?

Between December 2021 and May 2022, a total of 58 samples have been collected from private water supply wells in the expanded investigation area. DEP is awaiting the report from the Bureau of Laboratories on those samples collected in April and May of 2022. To date, eleven residences and three businesses have water supply wells that contain PFOA and PFOS in combination at a level at or above the 70 parts per trillion EPA Health Advisory Level (HAL). Homes that did not have pre-existing treatment that is effectively removing the contamination from the water supply were provided with bottled water as an immediate and temporary measure until Point-of-Entry-Treatment systems (POETs) can be installed as our interim response. The final remedy has yet to be determined and alternatives will be evaluated as our investigation advances.

What Can Residents Expect Next?

DEP has sent letters to the ten residents receiving bottled water offering to install POETs for whole-home treatment. Once we have a list of homes where treatment will be installed, our contractor will inspect those individual properties to determine any design modifications that may need to be made due to available space and plumbing needs. If any additional residences are identified that exceed the current standard of 70 parts per trillion, or if that standard should change to a lower concentration, arrangements for the provision of additional treatment systems will be made.

What other samples have been collected?

To date, 19 soil borings were installed in areas where source material was most likely to have been released to the environment. Both shallow and subsurface samples were collected from these borings. These include areas where known fire training occurred on the University Park Airport property, as well as in historic septic and drainage areas at several industries along High Tech Road. Current available data indicates that shallow soil samples contain higher levels of PFAS than deeper samples. PFAS compounds are present below the current soil standard in all but one shallow soil sample collected along High Tech Road.

What's next?

The next steps in DEP's response and investigation are as follows. We intend to move forward with installation of POETs in the homes where PFAS concentrations are currently above the standard. We are planning to conduct surface soil sampling in various detention pond and drainage areas on University Park Airport property. In addition, geophysical investigations will be conducted and surface and subsurface soil samples as well as groundwater monitoring wells will be installed in locations both to the north and south of the airport property. DEP anticipates these actions to occur during Summer 2022. Sampling of Spring Creek will also occur, although it has not been scheduled yet.

Prompt Interim Response – Public Comment Period:

Because DEP has initiated what is referred to as a “Prompt Interim Response” with the bottled water delivery and ultimately the installation of POETs, our response activities are open for a 90-day public comment period. A public hearing will be held to allow for oral comments, which should be focused on the actions under the Prompt Interim Response and not on other actions the DEP is conducting. All comments provided during the public comment period, including written comments and oral comments orally at the hearing, will be included in a Public Comment and Response document following the public comment period that will be made available on DEP’s project website as well as sent to any commentors who have provided contact information.

In conjunction with the public comment period notification, an Administrative Record containing documentation of DEP’s response decision and alternatives considered is available for public viewing at both DEP’s project website, and at the Benner Township Municipal Building.

Public Hearing:

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

6:30 pm

Benner Township Municipal Building

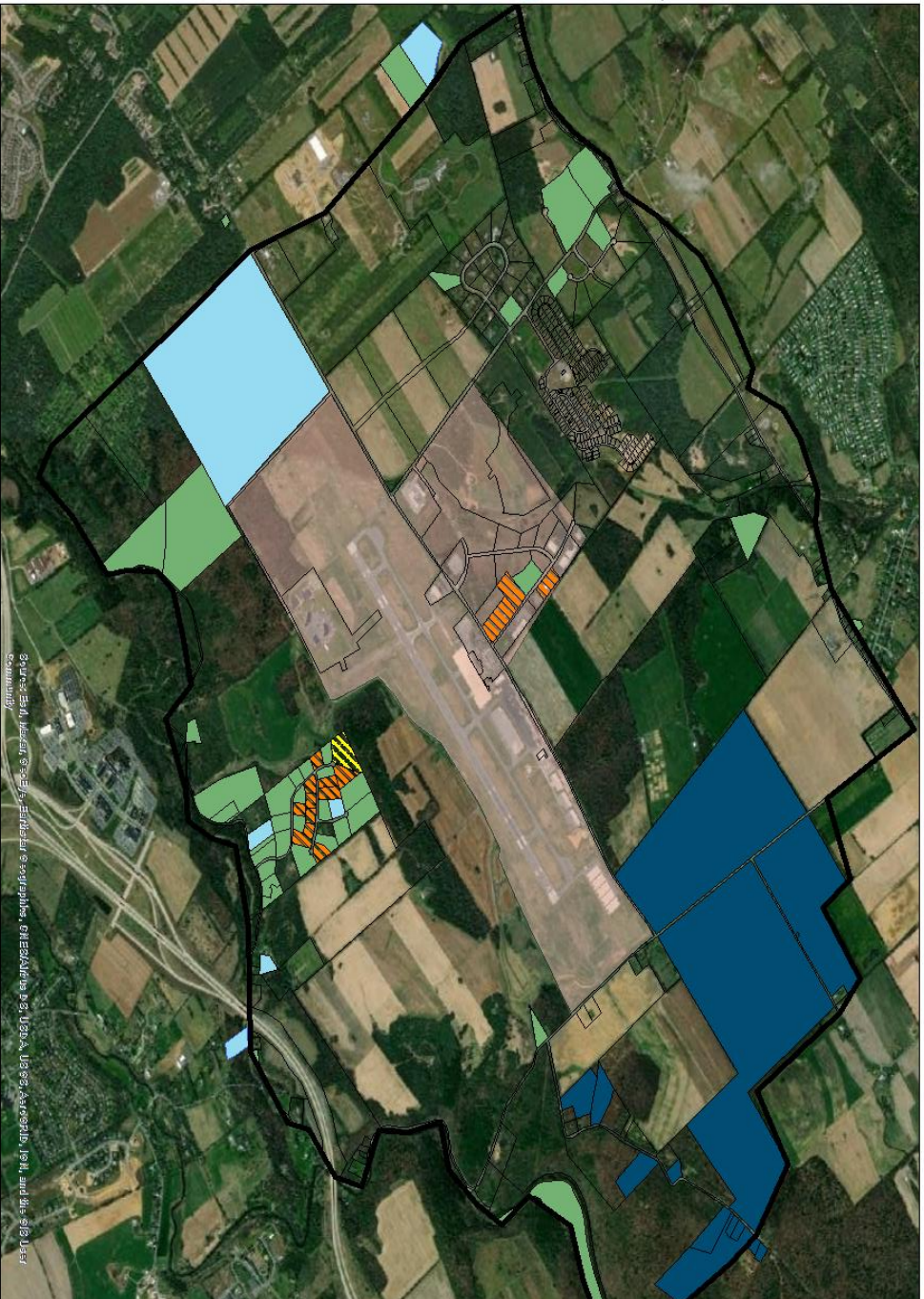
Public Comment Period: May 28, 2022 – August 26, 2022

Written responses to all comments will be compiled and made available to the public following the end of the public comment period.

Notification for the public comment period and hearing appeared in the May 14, 2022 PA Bulletin, the May 15, 2022 Centre Daily Times, and the DEP project website.

Benner Twp PFAS Investigation Area

Updated: May 31, 2022



Legend
 Investigation Area

Sample Results

- Awaiting sample results
- Above MSC/HAL
- Above MSC/HAL (pre-treatment)
- Below MSC/HAL
- Not sampled
- Third Party Sample - Below MSC/HAL
- Potential Source Investigation Area

PA's groundwater cleanup standard (MSC) is equal to the USEPA's established Lifetime Health Advisory Level (HAL) of 70 nanograms per liter (ng/L) for the combined concentration of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanes sulfonic acid (PFOS).

The Investigation Area is primarily bounded in the north by Buffalo Run Road, in the west by Bernal Road, in the south by Big Hollow Road, and in the east by Rock Road/Barns Lane.

The Potential Source Investigation Area is centered around the University Park Airport and various industry located to the north along High Tech Road.

Figure 1: Current Map of Project Area