

Pellston Municipal Water Community Update

October 27, 2025

Opening: Jim Gillett, President
Village of Pellston

MPART

MICHIGAN PFAS ACTION RESPONSE TEAM

Agenda

- Introductions
- Agenda:
 - PFAS Overview – Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)
 - Health – Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)
 - Investigation Area – EGLE, LimnoTech - Emmet County
 - Funding – EGLE
 - Feasibility Study and Municipal Water System – OHM Advisors - Village of Pellston
- Q&A

MPART Overview

Lisa Kruse

Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

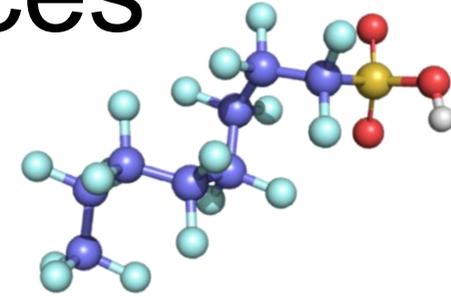
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Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)



What are they?

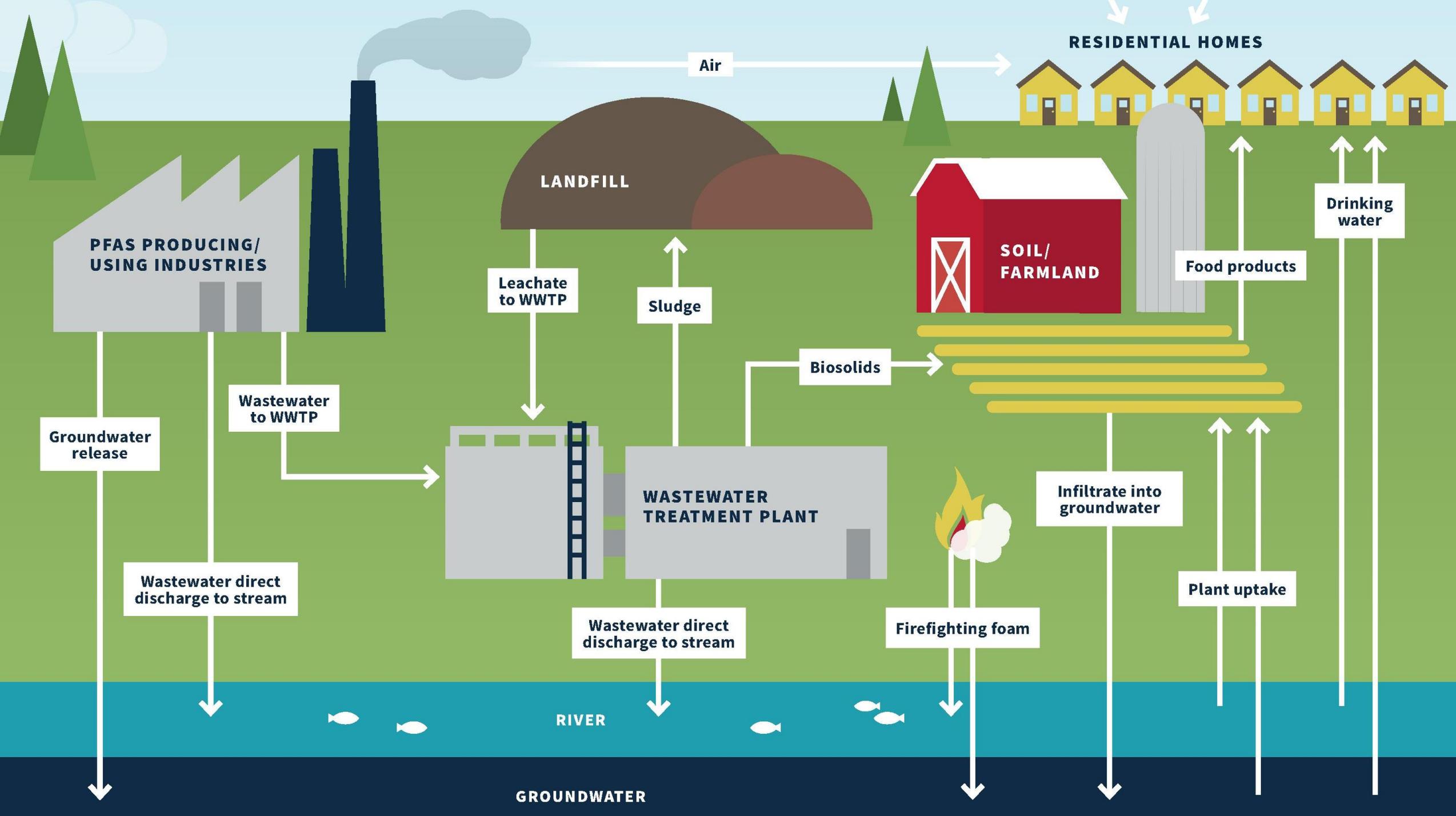
- Strong Carbon-Fluorine Bonds
- Surfactants
- Highly Stable
- Repel Water, Oil, Fat, and Grease
- Began Developing in 1940s
- Thousands of Compounds Today

Why the concern?

- Widespread through the ecosystem
- Don't Break Down Easily - Hard to Get Rid of
- Bioaccumulate – Build Up in Our Bodies
- Some PFAS May Affect Health
- Some emerging science/information
- Need for additional Federal Standards

PFAS Uses





Michigan's Drinking Water and Groundwater Cleanup Standards

Compound	Standards
PFNA	6 ppt
PFOA	8 ppt
PFOS	16 ppt
PFHxS	51 ppt
GenX (HFPO-DA)	370 ppt
PFBS	420 ppt
PFHxA	400,000 ppt

Michigan Surface Water Quality Values

Compound	Water Quality Value
PFOA	170 ppt
<i>If Drinking Water Source</i>	<i>66 ppt</i>
PFOS	12 ppt
<i>If Drinking Water Source</i>	<i>11 ppt</i>
PFBS	670,000 ppt
<i>If Drinking Water Source</i>	<i>8,300 ppt</i>
PFHxS	210 ppt
<i>If Drinking Water Source</i>	<i>59 ppt</i>
PFNA	30 ppt
<i>If Drinking Water Source</i>	<i>19 ppt</i>

*Michigan's Rule 57 Water Quality Values
apply to NPDES discharges*

PFAS and Health

Lisa Fischer, Toxicologist

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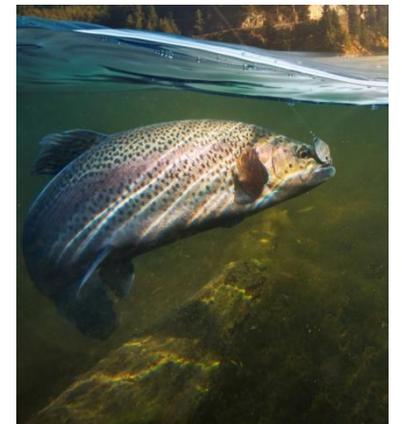
The Role of MDHHS/ Local Health Department (LHD)

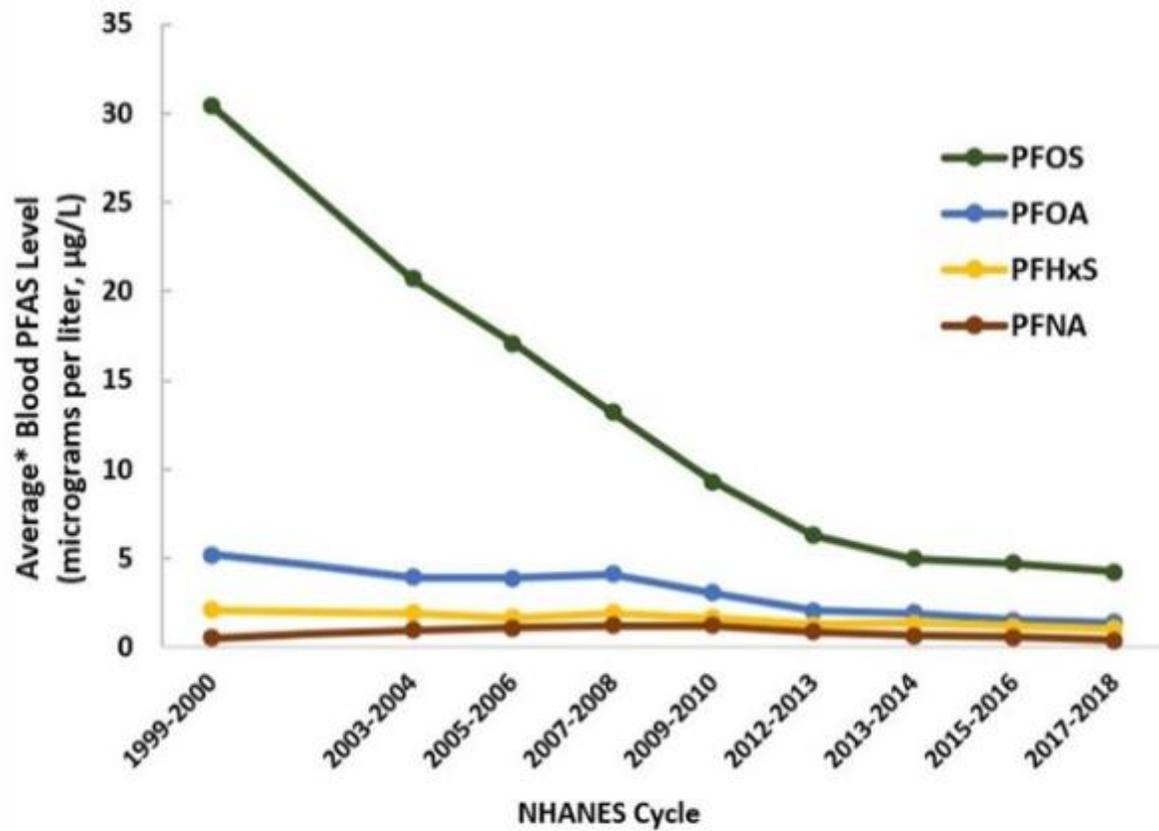


- Understand the health concerns facing your community
- Develop a plan to investigate and address health risks
 - EGLE leads the site investigation
 - MDHHS and the Local Health Department lead the public health planning and response
- Evaluate PFAS exposures to residents in the community
 - Recommend public health actions as needed

Exposure to PFAS Chemicals

- Drinking contaminated water
- Eating fish caught from water contaminated by PFAS
 - “Eat Safe Fish” Guidelines
- Incidental swallowing of contaminated soil or dust
- Eating food packaged in materials containing PFAS
- Using some consumer products
- PFAS absorption through skin is typically not a concern





Blood levels
of the
most common PFAS in
people in the
United States
2000-2018

Associated Human Health Outcomes PFOA and/or PFOS

- Reduced fertility
- High blood pressure or pre-eclampsia in pregnant women
- Small decreases in infant birth weight
- Higher cholesterol
 - Especially total cholesterol and LDL cholesterol

Associated Human Health Outcomes PFOA and/or PFOS



- Thyroid disease
- Liver damage
- Decreased immune system response to vaccines
- Developing certain types of cancer
 - In particular, kidney and testicular cancers*

* PFOA only

Eating Fish from Michigan's Lakes & Rivers

Michigan.gov/eatsafefish



Maple River

(including West and East Branches)

Type of Fish	Chemicals of Concern	Size of Fish (length in inches)	MI Servings per Month*
Brook Trout	PFOS	Any	2

Jessica Bleha

Senior Hydrogeologist



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PFAS Investigation at Pellston Regional Airport Summary



JUNE 4, 2025

LimnoTech 

PFAS Investigation Recap

- Past use of AFFF (for training) has resulted in PFAS in groundwater
- PFAS in groundwater flowing towards Village of Pellston
- Some PFAS in shallow groundwater also seeping to West Branch Maple River



PELLSTON REGIONAL AIRPORT
PELLSTON, MICHIGAN

**Estimated Groundwater
PFAS Impacts**

Estimated area where at least one PFAS in groundwater has concentrations above Part 201 criteria (yet to be verified)

What is Happening Now

- The County just released an RFP for contractor to perform soil remediation and prevent future groundwater contamination – work will be performed spring/summer 2026.
- The County also applied to EGLE for a grant to perform more investigation and remediation.



EGLE

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ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY

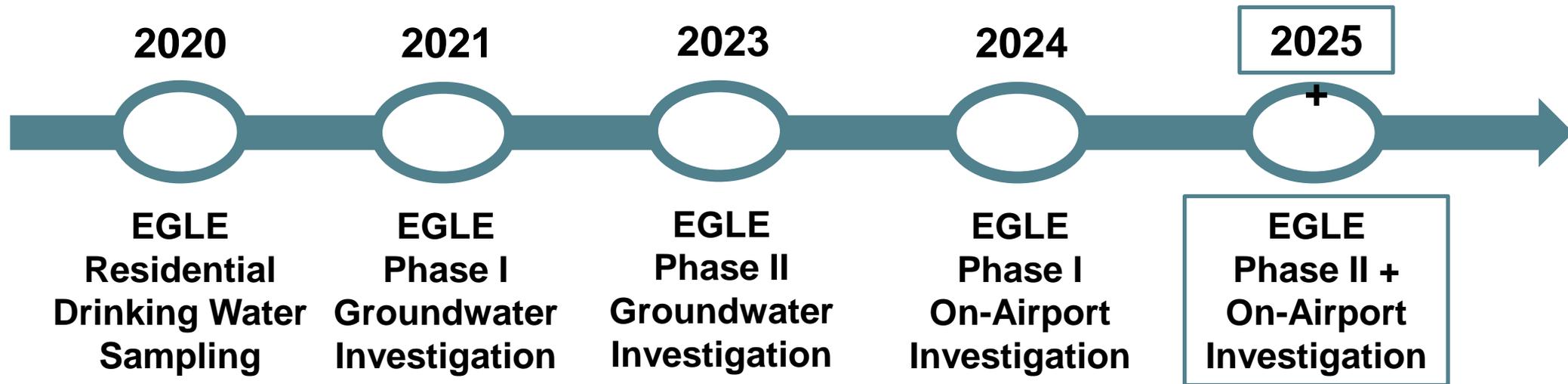
Remediation and Redevelopment Division

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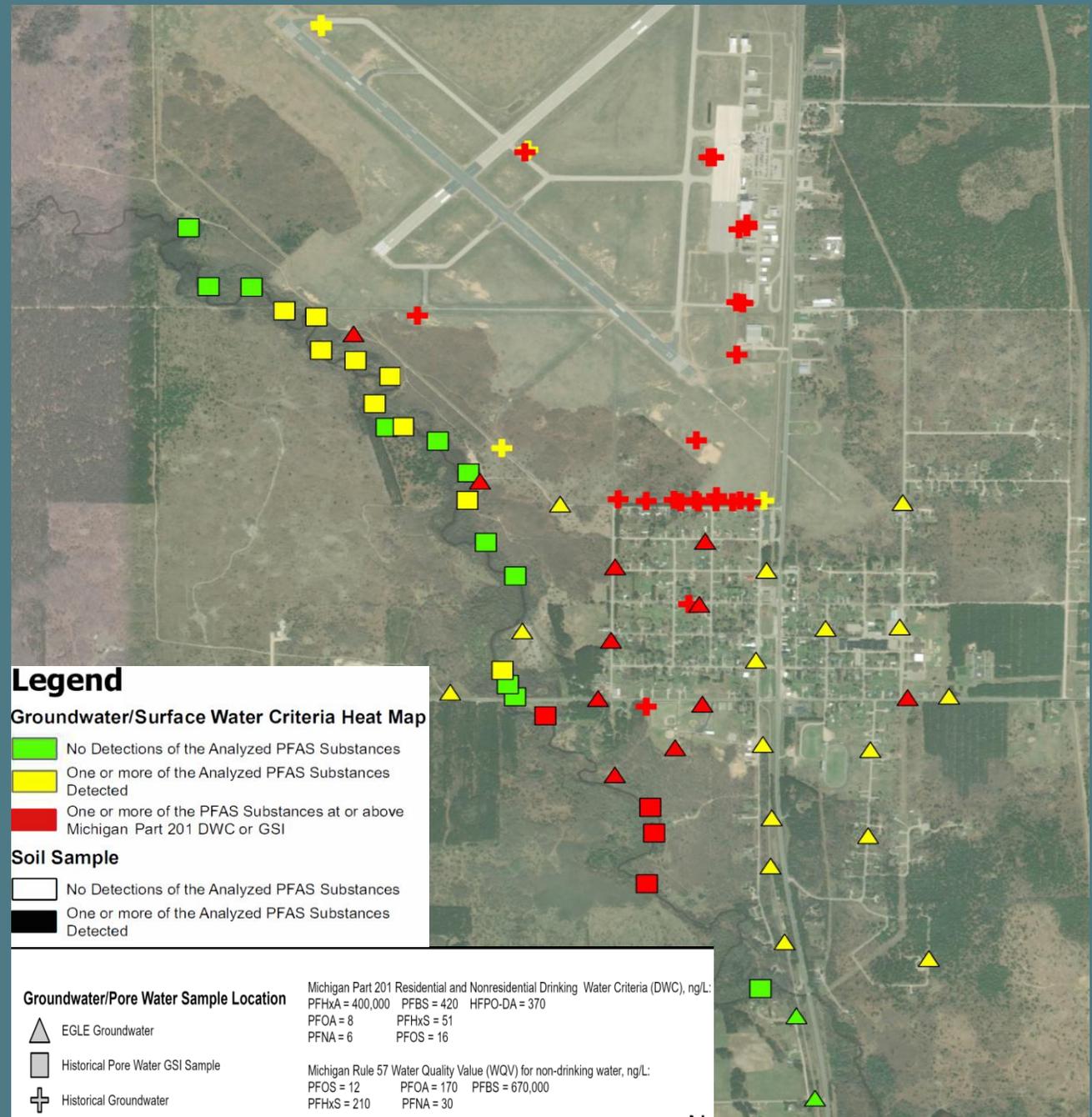
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EGLE Timeline of Activities



Groundwater Investigation 2020-2024 (EGLE & Airport)

- Combined groundwater and pore water samples from EGLE and Pellston Regional Airport
- Compared to Part 201 Michigan PFAS Drinking Water Criteria and Part 201 Groundwater Surface Water Criteria



Feasibility Study for Drinking Water Solution

Alisha Busuttil, Project Manager

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Project Alternatives

The following alternatives were evaluated in addition to “No Action” and “Optimization of Existing System” and “Point of Entry (POE) Filters*”:

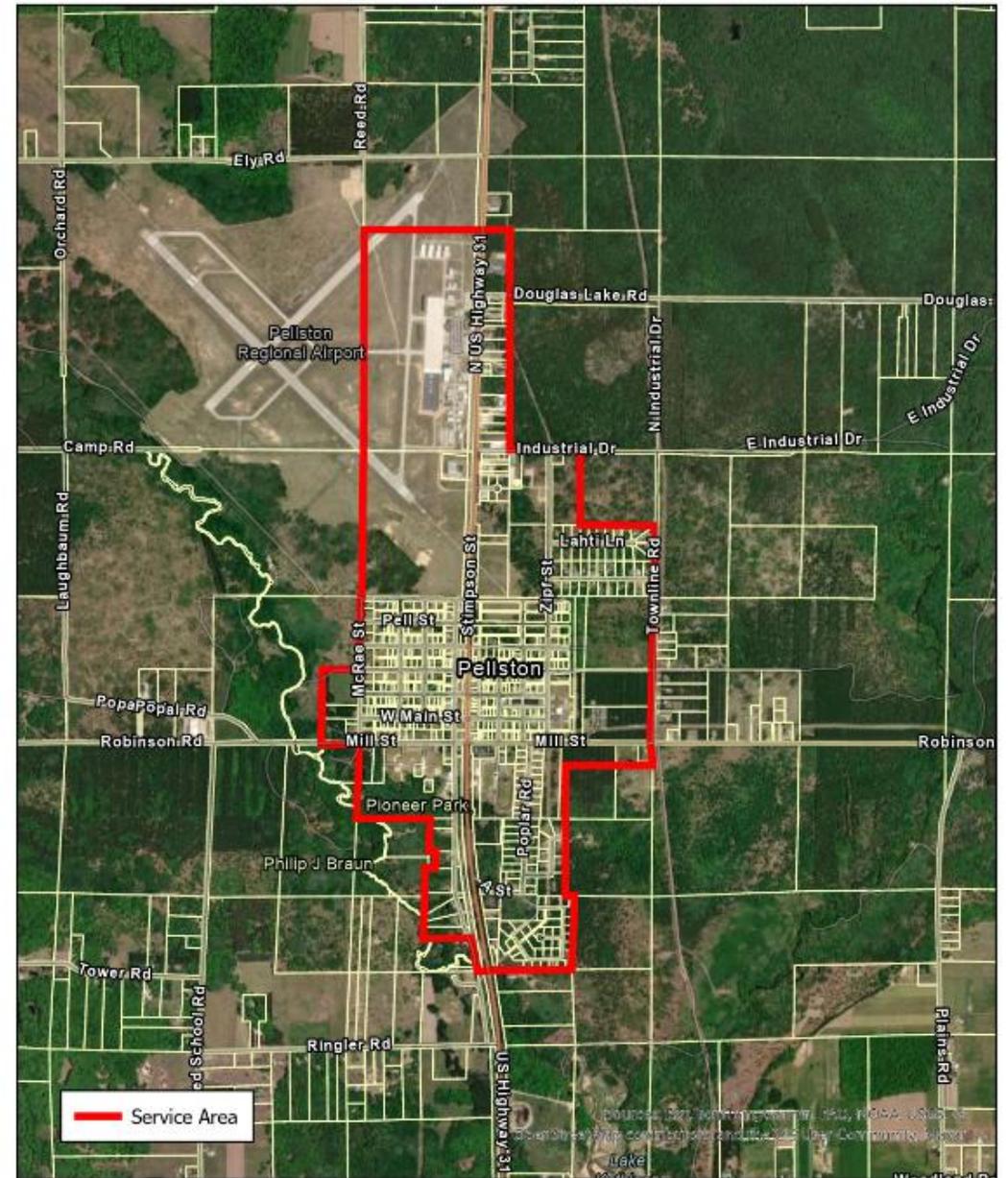
Category	Alternative 1: Connection to Wholesale Supply	Alternative 2: Village Well Supply
Well Abandonment	Private Well Abandonment	Private Well Abandonment
Source	Harbor Springs	Village Well
Treatment	N/A	Treatment at Well Stie
Transmission	Harbor Springs to Village	Local Well Site
Distribution	Village Distribution System	Village Distribution System
Storage	N/A	Elevated Storage Tank

*POE filters are not eligible for the DWSRF program and are not a preferred long-term solution to contamination by EGLE.

Selected Alternative

MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM LONG TERM SOLUTION

- Selected alternative is the implementation of a public water system with Village well source.
- Provides clean, safe, drinking water without filtration that can be easily monitored for quality and safety.
- Without connecting to municipal water supply system or whole house filtration, you would need point of use filters.





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Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

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Water Infrastructure Funding and Financing Section

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Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

The DWSRF has offered the Village of Pellston a \$32,221,890 DWSRF loan with 100% principal forgiveness.

The funds are made available by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for projects addressing Emerging Contaminants

RRD Funding

- EGLE RRD Gaylord District have secured the remaining funding of \$11.8 million
- A total of \$44 million has been secured, allowing for the construction of a **debt free** municipal water system

DWSRF Financing Requirements

- 50 percent of the properties in the service area must agree to connect to the municipal system for the Village of Pellston to receive the funds

OR

- An ordinance requiring mandatory hookup be passed

Municipal Water Overview

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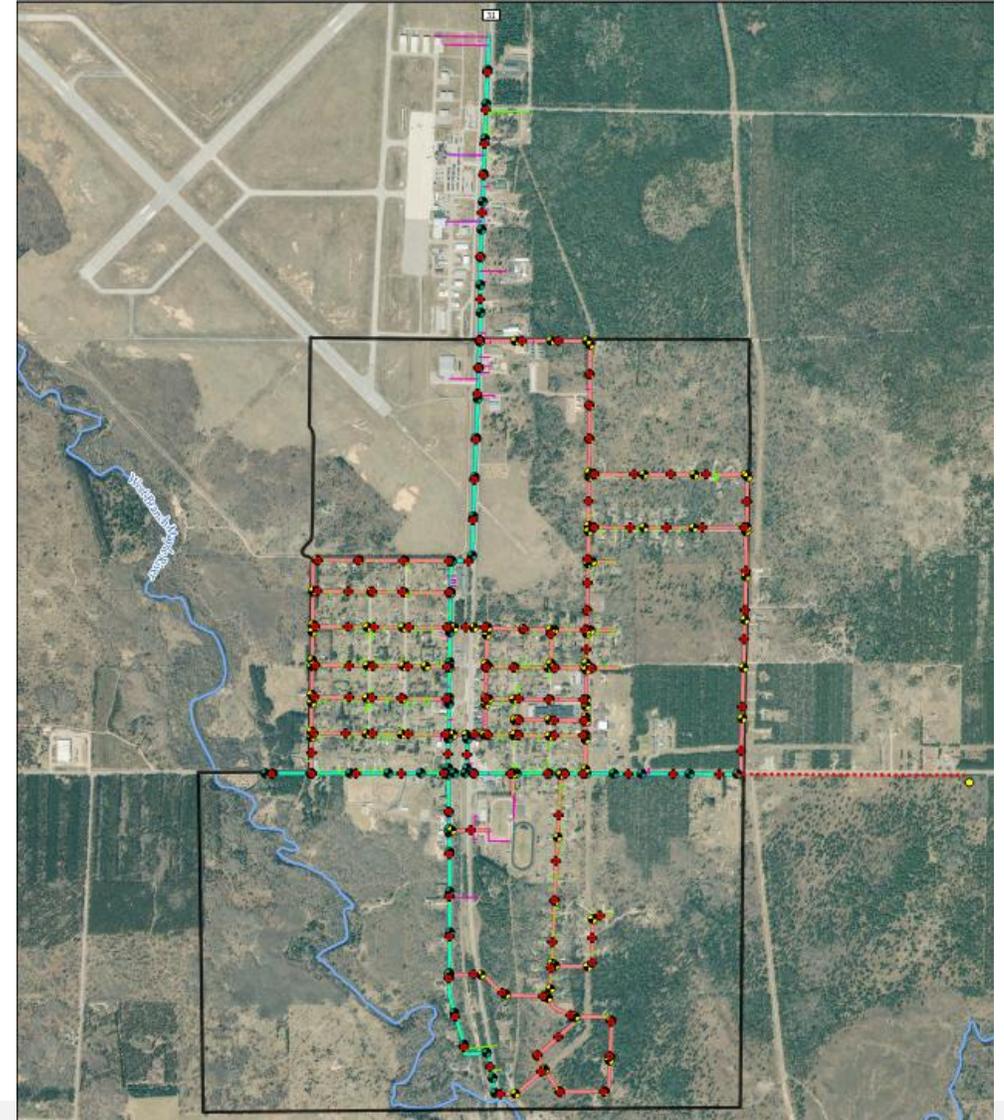
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Municipal Water Supply System

The system includes the following:

1. Private well abandonment
2. Well supply
3. Treatment at site of well supply
4. Transmission main from well site to distribution system
5. Water main (distribution system)
6. Water Service connection to interior plumbing
7. Elevated storage tank
8. Repaving of roads impacted



Municipal Water Supply System Benefits



- Preferred over whole house filtration
- Preferred over deeper wells
- Property value pros
- Reduced homeowner apprehension and/or responsibility
- Iron removal included
- Fire hydrants may lower insurance rates & improve response

Debt Free Infrastructure

- \$44 Million Secured for a No Debt system
- Funding all coming from the State of Michigan, EGLE
- Long term water security for current and future generations
- Remarkable opportunity – likely not repeated



User Costs

Percent of property owners' connecting to system	Estimated monthly bill for drinking water
100%	\$70
51%	\$98

- Lowest monthly water bill being a debt free system
- Must disconnect your private well if you hook up to system (covered by funding received if you choose to connect now)

Tentative Construction Schedule

Task	Submittal Date
Draft Design Documents Submittal to EGLE	3/01/2026
Environmental Assessments Published No Later Than	4/22/2026
Part I and Part II Application	5/13/2026
Final Documents Submittal to EGLE	5/01/2026
Finding of No Significant Impacts Clearance; Plans & Specs Approved	5/22/2026
Bid Ad Published No Later Than	5/22/2026
Part III of Application; Bid Data Submittal (With Tentative Contract Award)	7/7/2026
EGLE Order of Approval Issued	8/5/2026
Borrower's Pre-Closing with the MFA	8/17/2026
MFA Closing	8/27/2026
Notice to Proceed Issued	10/26/2026
Construction Duration	Estimate 3 years



We Need Your Support

- Initial informational mailers were sent to residents.
- 51% connection rate required.
- People are asked to respond via survey that will be mailed or that is available here (hard copy or QR code).
- There is the possibility that funding will be lost and reallocated if a 51% connection rate is not achieved.
- Additional informational sessions to be held:
 - November 3rd 10 AM & 6 PM
 - November 4th 6 PM



MICHIGAN PFAS ACTION RESPONSE TEAM (MPART)

www.Michigan.gov/PfasResponse



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