\*ATTACH ANALYTICAL AND MAP\*

<<Date>>

<<Name>>

<<Town ME ZIPCODE>>

RE: Soil Test Results for <<ADDRESS, TOWN, STATE>>

Dear <<name>>,

Thank you for granting DEP and their representative <<CONSULTANT NAME>> permission to sample soils from the septage land application site located in <<TOWN>>. The test results for per- or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and a map of the soil sample locations are attached.

# Overview

PFAS are a group of man-made chemicals that were used for a long time in many households and industrial products because they have properties that repel oil and water, reduce friction, and resist temperature changes. Sludge (generated from wastewater treatment) and septage (septage pumped from tanks) were applied to land to add nutrients to agricultural soils in Maine. PFAS have been found in these waste streams and are persistent in the environment, which means that they do not break down easily. Scientists are still learning how these chemicals behave in the environment and the possible health effects from exposure.

The purpose of DEP’s investigation is to identify sites statewide that are impacted by PFAS, identify drinking water supplies that are impacted above Maine’s Interim Drinking Water Standard for PFAS, and provide impacted individuals with water that is below the standard, in accordance with [Public Law 2021 Chapter 478, An Act To Investigate Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substance Contamination of Land and Groundwater,](https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/display_ps.asp?LD=1600&snum=130) effective October 18, 2021.

# Soil Sample Collection

Soil samples were collected on <<DATE>>. A total of <<#>> field areas were sampled. Ten soil core sub-samples were collected from the top six to twelve inches of soil across each sample area. The soil was mixed in a stainless-steel bowl and a composite sample from that mixture was placed in a sample jar for lab analysis. Samples were appropriately packed, preserved, and delivered to the laboratory.

**Limitation of Available Guidelines**

Currently, there are no legally enforceable standards for PFAS in soil in Maine or on a national level. This makes it challenging to evaluate what it means when PFAS is detected in soil. Health professionals and scientists are still working to understand how PFAS affect health and how PFAS behaves in the environment. Although not entirely applicable, Maine does have Remedial Action Guidelines (RAGs) for contaminated sites that can be used to assess and manage risk at environmental remediation sites. These RAGs or screening levels are subject to change as new information is evaluated and should only be used for general comparison purposes. Comparison of PFAS data to these screening levels may help determine if additional action is recommended, such as collecting additional samples of soil, water, or crops, and help to determine if remediation of a site is warranted based on the current or future use of the property.

# Sample Results <<CONSULTANT SHOULD COMPLETE TABLE>>

Soil samples were analyzed for a total of 28 different PFAS (please see your copy of the laboratory report). However, the table below shows PFAS that currently have RAG residential screening levels that may be used for comparison:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SAMPLE RESULTS (parts per billion “ppb” or nanograms per gram “ng/g”)** | | | | | | | | | |
| **SAMPLE ID** | **SAMPLE DATE** | **PFOA** | **PFOS** | **PFBS** | **PFBA** | **PFHxS** | **PFHxA** | **PFNA** | **FIELD NAME** |
| L0000000-00 | 0-0-2002 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Remedial Action Guidelines for Residential Properties** | | **260** | **170** | **26,000** | **110,000** | **1,700** | **43,000** | **260** |  |

\* “U” qualifier indicates compound not detected at the listed laboratory reporting limit.

\*\* DEP data validation may add qualifiers not included in the laboratory report.

\*\*\* Shaded results exceed Maine’s Remedial Action Guidelines for the Residential Exposure Scenario.

While we have completed an initial review of your results, the DEP has not yet run the data through their quality assurance process. DEP will contact you if their review impacts your results.

# Results Discussion <<USE ONE OR MORE COMBINATION OF SAMPLE LANGUAGE BELOW>>

**[SAMPLE LANGUAGE]** Your results do not currently exceed the Remedial Action Guidelines for residential use and do not represent a direct contact risk (i.e., incidental ingestion/inhalation/skin contact from working or playing outside). However, please note that these guidelines are likely to be updated in the future based on new toxicity information and may be lowered. Maine has also established RAGs to evaluate potential risk to park and recreational users and commercial and construction workers. These additional screening levels can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/topics/pfas/index.html> under the “Data and Guidance” tab.

**[SAMPLE LANGUAGE]** Although the concentration of PFAS detected in soil do not exceed the RAGs, the levels of PFAS detected may be a concern for land being used for agricultural purposes. DEP will share sample results with Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). After reviewing the data, DACF will contact you and may recommend modifications to agricultural practices, and may also recommend feed/farm product testing, as well as additional soil testing to gain insight into any potential PFAS impacts.

**[SAMPLE LANGUAGE]**: Your results exceed the Remedial Action Guidelines for residential use. These levels can potentially pose a direct contact risk (i.e., incidental ingestion/inhalation/skin contact from working or playing outside) for users of the property. DEP and/or the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will contact you to discuss the concentrations detected in the soil. For DEP-licensed septage spreading sites that are permitted for agronomic use, or sites no longer licensed by DEP that are now being used for agricultural purposes, DEP will share sample results with Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). After reviewing the data, DACF will contact you and may recommend modifications to agricultural practices, and may also recommend feed/farm product testing, as well as additional soil testing to gain insight into any potential PFAS impacts.

# For Further Information

If you have immediate agricultural-related questions, please contact the Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources at [pfas.dacf@maine.gov](file:///C:\Users\Tracy.Kelly\Downloads\pfas.dacf@maine.gov), or 207-287-4514.

If you have health-based questions about exposure to PFAS, please ask to speak with a toxicologist at the Department of Health and Human Services, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, at

866-292-3424 (toll-free) in Maine, or 207-287-4311.

If you have general questions about the DEP investigation, please contact Stephen Morin at [Stephen.Morin@maine.gov](mailto:Stephen.Morin@maine.gov), 207-252-1841.

Sincerely,

<<The Consultant>>