



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



MELANIE LOYZIM
COMMISSIONER

April 14, 2025

Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Senator Denise Tepler, Chair
Representative Victoria Doudera, Chair
Cross Building, Room 216
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 1111, An Act to Provide Water Service Infrastructure to Fairfield Residents Affected by Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Members of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

LD 1111 proposes a one-time appropriation in the amount of \$10,000,000 to the Kennebec Water District to expand water service infrastructure in Fairfield in response to perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, contamination in private wells. This letter is to provide general background information on the Department of Environmental Protection’s (Department) investigation in Fairfield, as part of implementation of Public Law 2021, Chapter 478, *An Act To Investigate PFAS Substance Contamination of Land and Groundwater*, related to costs for drinking water treatment.

As of April 10, 2025, the Department is currently paying for the monitoring and maintenance of approximately 210 filter systems for private drinking water wells in Fairfield. The table below outlines the frequency at which water samples are taken based on PFAS influent concentrations along with the number of systems in each category.

Number of Filter Systems and Frequency of Samples		
Wells < 300 ppt	Wells 300 ppt - 1,000 ppt	Wells > 1,000 ppt
Annual	Biannual	Bimonthly
143 systems	31 systems	36 systems

The Department is spending approximately \$600,000 per year for monitoring (e.g., sampling and analysis) through a contract with an environmental consultant to conduct this work.

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LD 1111, An Act to Provide Water Service Infrastructure to Fairfield Residents Affected by Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

DEP/Susanne Miller

April 14, 2025

In addition to monitoring of filtration systems, the Department also pays for the ongoing maintenance of these systems. Typical maintenance costs for all systems, as performed by an environmental consultant, are approximately \$42,000 per year itemized on an annual basis as follows:

- Filter media changeouts: \$30,000
- Maintenance when issues arise: \$5,000
- Sediment filter and salt supplies: \$7,000

The total contracted costs of about **\$642,000 per year** for both the monitoring and maintenance of the Fairfield filtration systems includes more than just the cost of the laboratory analysis and filter changeouts. It also includes:

- Scheduling sampling events
- Developing sampling and analysis plans and health and safety plans
- Securing access agreements
- Coordination with laboratories
- Collecting samples
- Making service calls and checking systems
- Shipping samples
- Reviewing and managing data
- Issuing reports to homeowners and the Department
- Conducting maintenance of systems

The Department's January 2025 report on the Status of Maine's PFAS Soil and Groundwater Investigation at Sludge and Septage Land Application Sites estimates that the Department will exhaust available funding for maintenance of private drinking water treatment systems for PFAS within a few years.

Most of these coordination tasks will not be required for individual homeowners who would monitor and maintain their own systems. There would be some cost savings associated with an individual homeowner collecting their own samples and/or maintaining their systems once trained to do so. That being said, the State generally obtains more favorable rates per individual household based on the volume of work than a single homeowner might obtain on its own.

The Department estimates that individual homeowner costs for monitoring and maintenance of systems could be as follows:

Anticipated Monitoring and Maintenance Costs for Homeowners		
Wells < 300 ppt	Wells between 300 ppt and 1,000 ppt	Wells > 1000 ppt
Monitoring: \$500	Monitoring: \$1,000	Monitoring: \$3,000
Maintenance: \$1,500 - \$4,000*		

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* There is a wide range of costs being charged for maintenance activities. This is due, in part, to the range of system-specific maintenance activities required as well as the range of costs individual companies are charging.

Overall, homeowners in Fairfield with state-installed filtration systems should expect to pay between \$2,000 to \$7,000 per year for monitoring and maintenance once state funds are expended.

Sincerely,



Susanne Miller

Director, Bureau of Remediation & Waste Management
Maine Department of Environmental Protection