



Dear Loren Hines,

Thank you for your participation in the 2023 PFAS private well testing project, a partnership between MSU researchers and the US Geological Survey (USGS). We must extend a huge thank you to our colleagues at USGS (see their attached test results letter) for providing the opportunity to test Montana private wells with cutting edge analytical technology, with no cost passed along to well owners.

In 2024 we sent an email to all participants letting you know that upon initial testing with the best available 2023 lab methods, USGS found no detection of PFAS in any of the 59 well samples for Madison, Jefferson, and Gallatin counties. However, this initial analysis did not have detection capabilities able to find PFAS present at the very low levels that can be of concern for drinking water. As a result, USGS took the initiative to rerun all 59 samples in 2024 under a brand new and lower detection method. In this follow up analysis, USGS tested for 54 PFAS chemicals and found one or more PFAS chemicals in 31 of the 59 samples. The largest number of different PFAS chemicals found in a single sample was 7 and the smallest number was zero (28 samples had no PFAS chemicals detected).

The attached letter from the USGS summarizes which specific PFAS chemicals were detected in your sample (if any). If PFAS was detected, there is a table on page three of the USGS report listing the concentration in your sample, health thresholds, and whether your concentration was above or below the thresholds. If no PFAS chemicals were detected in your sample, that is stated in bold in the middle of the first page and there is no 3<sup>rd</sup> page to your report with a results table.

We have created a page on the Well Educated website with information about some of the most common questions, which you can visit here: <https://waterquality.montana.edu/well-ed/pfas/index.html>

Sincerely,

The MSU PFAS Private Well Research Team

Adam Sigler, MSU Extension Water Quality Specialist

Mari Eggers, MSU Environmental Health Program Director

Tess Sobolewski, MSU Chemistry PhD Candidate



# United States Department of the Interior

## U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

South Atlantic Water Science Center  
720 Gracern Road, Suite 129  
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

January 24, 2025

Contact name: HIMES  
Owner code: MJ-P28

Dear Homeowner,

Thank you for allowing the United States Geological Survey (USGS<sup>1</sup>) to sample the water from your sink. The purpose of this study is to gather information about drinking water across the country. We are sending this letter to give you the results of your water sample collected on 11/01/2023.

These samples were collected for research. They are not meant to be used for regulatory purposes. We indicate below if any of your results are higher than the Environmental Protection Agency regulatory standards (EPA MCL<sup>2</sup>), but that is for your information only. On page 2, you will find a list of websites with links to related information.

***The water-quality results collected from the water in your kitchen indicate there were no exceedances of any EPA MCL for public supply.***

The table below is a list of the types of compounds measured in water from your home. In the website links on page 2, you can find a list of all the compounds we looked for (Schreiner and others, 2025<sup>3</sup>). On page 3 is a table listing the compounds found in your water sample.

Type of compound	Common use	Number of compounds analyzed
Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)	Industrial uses, household items	54

If you have any questions or concerns raised by these results, please contact Paul Bradley, USGS EMA EHP, ([pbradley@usgs.gov](mailto:pbradley@usgs.gov)) or Kelly Smalling, USGS EMA EHP, ([ksmall@usgs.gov](mailto:ksmall@usgs.gov)).

Thank you,

Paul M. Bradley, Ph.D. Research Hydrologist, USGS South Atlantic Water Science Center  
Kelly L. Smalling, Research Hydrologist, USGS New Jersey Water Science Center

**Included weblinks:**

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Geological Survey:

[USGS.gov | Science for a changing world](https://www.usgs.gov/science)

<sup>2</sup>U.S. EPA Groundwater and Drinking water information:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>

<sup>3</sup>Schreiner, M.L., Romanok, K.M., Bradley, P.M., Smalling, K.L., Gray, J.L., and Kanagy, L.K., 2025, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) results in tapwater samples, in selected areas within the United States, beginning 2023: U.S. Geological Survey data release, <https://doi.org/10.5066/P1P275VV>.

U.S. EPA Water Health Series *Filtration Facts*:

[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/2005\\_11\\_17\\_faq\\_fs\\_healthseries\\_filtration.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-11/documents/2005_11_17_faq_fs_healthseries_filtration.pdf)

---

**Table 1. Detected PFAS in your water**

---

**USGS site identification number** 45231074418**USGS site identification name** MTTW23\_pf 18**Sample date** 11/01/2023

---

Name	Your result (ng/L)	MCL	Benchmark value (ng/L)	Benchmark
PFOS	0.229	4.00	zero	MCLG

---

[Any exceedance of an EPA MCL is highlighted in red; any exceedance of a benchmark guideline is highlighted in orange. MCL, National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) Maximum Contaminant Level (federally enforceable health standard for public supply drinking water); MCLG, maximum contaminant level goal (non-enforceable health guideline); PFAS, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances; --, parameter not regulated or benchmark not available; ng/L, nanograms per liter (parts per trillion). Listed public-supply drinking-water MCL are for reference only.]