



For Immediate Release:

Chemical Analyses of Private Drinking Water Wells Surrounding the Casella-Proposed Forest Lake Landfill Site Show Essentially No PFAS Contamination
-Property owners have now established water-quality baselines ahead of the potential introduction of “forever chemicals” into a currently-pristine environment.

Dalton, NH: Earlier this month, 12 privately-owned drinking water wells in the North Country towns of Dalton, Whitefield, Bethlehem, and Littleton were tested for the presence of each of 18 different PFAS contaminants. Results recently obtained from the lab have revealed that 213 of the 216 different tests of the wells surrounding the vicinity of the Casella-proposed “Granite State Landfill” development have no detectable levels of any of these so-called “forever chemicals,” including the 6 PFAS compounds listed under the March 14, 2023 EPA-proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR)¹:

- perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
- perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)
- perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)
- hexafluoropropylene oxidedimer acid (HFPO-DA, also known as GenX)
- perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)
- perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS).

The detection limit of the method used is 2 nanograms per liter, or 2 parts per trillion (ppt). In 3 of the 216 samples, trace amounts (between 2.2 and 4.4 ppt) of 1 PFAS compound were found. The federal EPA has proposed to limit several of these chemicals in drinking water to below 4 ppt, and current New Hampshire limits range from 12 to 18 ppt.

PFAS are known to damage the immune, circulatory, and endocrine systems, and some are suspected carcinogens. These lab results are an important development in the ongoing struggle between local property owners and Casella Waste Systems,

a Vermont-based corporation proposing a new landfill in Dalton NH, sited in hyper-porous sand approximately 2800 feet from the water's edge of Forest Lake and bordering Forest Lake State Park. A typical landfill can produce over one *billion* gallons of leachate (“garbage juice”) over its lifetime, containing on the order of 15,000 ppt of total PFAS.²

Similar water testing conducted in 2020, in order to establish baselines for lake water quality under the potential threat of contamination from the proposed landfill project, confirmed that Forest Lake itself is a pristine lake, with no detectable levels of 6 PFAS chemicals, nor any detectable levels of any of more than 180 different metals, solvents, and pesticides. *E. Coli* levels in Forest Lake are among the lowest in the entire state.

The water tests were conducted by Granite State Analytical Services, an independent analytical laboratory accredited by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Contacts:

Jon Swan, Founder
[Save Forest Lake](#)
SaveForestLake@yahoo.com
(603) 991-2078

Sarah Doucette
[North Country Alliance for Balanced Change](#)
sdoucette58@gmail.com
(603) 960-4268

Fred Anderson, President
[Forest Lake Association](#)
fra676@mapc.com
(917) 584- 3242

¹ EPA Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (March 14, 2023)

² Lang, JR, et al., *Environmental Science & Technology*, 2017, pp. 2197-2205; DOI: [10.1021/acs.est.6b05005](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.6b05005)