



## For Immediate Release:

Extensive Chemical Analyses of Private Drinking Water Wells Surrounding the Casella-Proposed Forest Lake Landfill Site Show 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:** Over the course of the summer and early fall of 2023, 25 privately-owned drinking water wells in the North Country towns of Dalton, Whitefield, Littleton, and Bethlehem were tested for the presence of each of 18 different PFAS contaminants. Results from the accredited testing laboratory have revealed that 450 of the 450 different tests of the wells, surrounding the vicinity of the Casella-proposed “Granite State Landfill” development, have no detectable levels for 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)<sup>1</sup>:

- 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). 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.

Finding a wide area completely free of PFAS is **unusual and noteworthy**, as the U.S. Geological Survey has recently tested nearly 1,000 locations across the country and concluded that nearly half of all drinking water supplies in the nation contain at least one PFAS compound.<sup>2</sup>

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. The Vermont-based

corporation is proposing a new landfill in the Town of Dalton NH, sited in hyper-porous sand approximately 2500 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.<sup>3</sup>

Similar water testing was recently conducted at Alder Brook, bordering the proposed landfill site towards the southwest. Wetlands surrounding the proposed landfill site drain into the Alder Brook watershed, which then discharges into the Ammonoosuc River, upstream of the Town of Littleton. Those lab results revealed no detectable levels for each of the 18 different PFAS compounds.

Forest Lake itself was tested in 2020, in order to establish baselines for lake water quality under the potential threat of contamination from the proposed landfill project. Testing confirmed that Forest Lake itself is a pristine lake. It had no detectable levels for 6 PFAS chemicals, nor any detectable levels 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.

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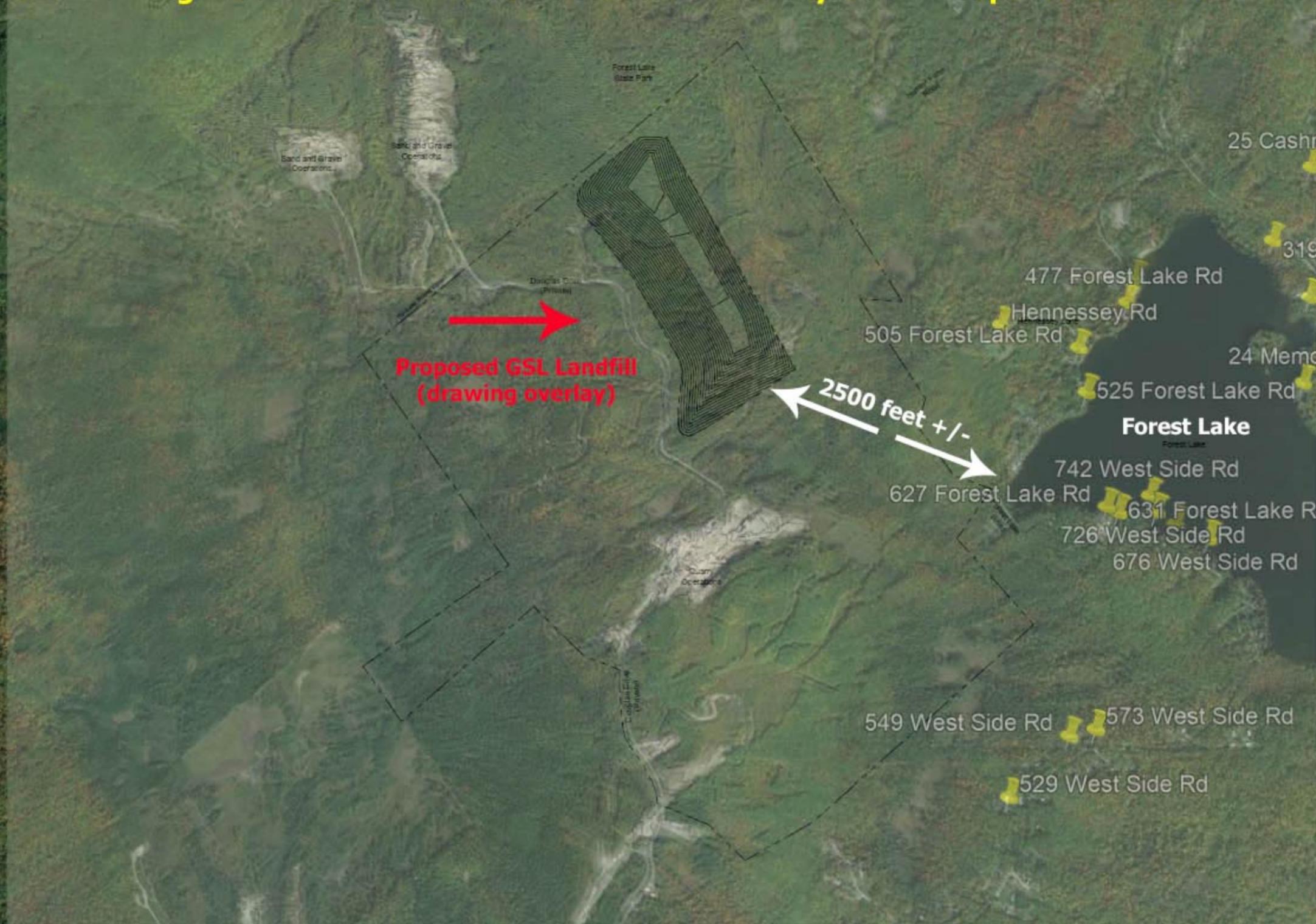
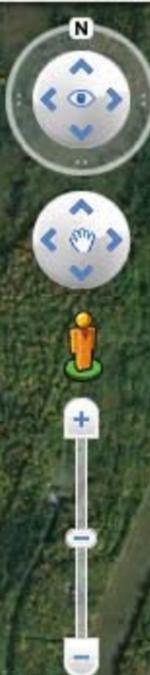
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<sup>1</sup> EPA Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (March 14, 2023)

<sup>2</sup> [Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\) in United States tapwater: Comparison of underserved private-well and public-supply exposures and associated health implications](#)

<sup>3</sup> 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)

# Private Drinking Water Wells Tested For PFAS In The Vicinity Of The Proposed GSL Landfill Development



**Proposed GSL Landfill  
(drawing overlay)**

**2500 feet +/-**

**Forest Lake**

1322 Manns Hill Rd

Alder Brook

**ZERO Detections For PFAS Contamination**  
Wells Tested For 18 PFAS Compounds, ZERO Detections