



**NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER
& GROUNDWATER TRUST FUND**

*“to provide for the protection,
preservation, and enhancement of
the drinking water and
groundwater resources of the state”*

**Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory
Commission Meeting
August 14, 2023**



NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER & GROUNDWATER TRUST FUND

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Commission Meeting
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AGENDA ITEM

OPENING REMARKS

Welcome

Vote to accept meeting minutes

May 15 Advisory Commission

May 15 Construction Project Assistance Subcommittee

Representative Bill Boyd, Chair

Public comment on agenda items only

Public

PROGRAM UPDATES

Construction Project Assistance Program

Status of construction projects- **informational only**

Cheryl Bondi, DWGTF Administrator

Town of Hooksett Special Project Assistance Application– **potential vote**

*Randy Suozzo, NHDES Project Manager
Underwood Engineers and Town of Hooksett*

2023 Annual Round solicitation for applications and funding priorities- **vote**

*Cheryl Bondi, DWGTF Administrator
Marco Philippon, Subcommittee Chair*

Source Water Protection Program

Status of land protection projects- **informational only**

Summary of 2023 eligibility applications - **informational only**

Laura Weit-Marcum, Source Water Protection Program Coordinator

Seacoast Private Well Initiative

Sampling progress and preliminary results- **informational only and time permitting**

Amy Hudnor, NHDES Private Well and Risk Communication Coordinator

CONCLUDE

Public
Comment on
today's
agenda items



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CONCLUDE

Status of Drinking Water Construction Projects

Currently 58 active projects

- 10 projects that need to be completed
- 44 Projects are in design or construction phase
- 3 Projects recently completed closing stage
 - Merrimack Village District
 - Rye Water District- Gallows Rehabilitation
 - Abenaki Water - Tioga Storage Replacement
- 2 Projects from 2022 have been completed



Special Project Assistance Application Town of Hooksett

Request

TF Loan- \$0

TF Grant- \$384,170

Total TF Request: \$384,170

Leveraged Funds- \$2,284,726

\$2,125,070 Private Developer for water infrastructure, Port One Industries)

\$49,000 Hooksett Village Water Precinct

\$110,656 Town of Hooksett

Total Project Cost: \$2,668,896

DWGTF Contribution: 17%

Complete water loop in parallel with TIF district infrastructure improvements and extensions. Project will support substantial economic growth with a resilient and reliable system. Completed by June 2024.

Eligibility

(must meet at least one):

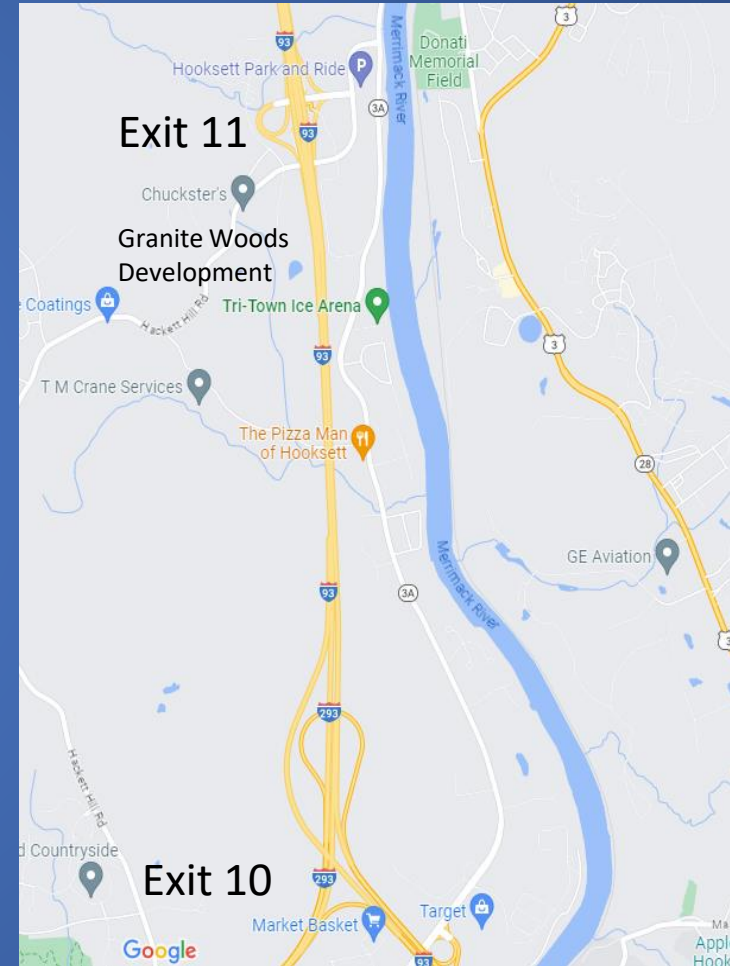
- ✓ Is there drinking water contamination? **No**
- ✓ Is the project time critical? **Yes**, *project is currently under construction. Current bid prices expire soon and expect to increase significantly if work is rebid.*
- ✓ Is there financial hardship? **Yes**, *The Town has tried to get State and Federal funding for the last three years without success, exhausted the 2.5M approved by voters, and has no additional bonding authority. Port One Companies has contributed a total of 8.0M for both water and sewer; more than required per the MOA.*
- ✓ Does the project support economic growth? **Yes**, *this project will bring water and sewer infrastructure to an area that did not have a public utilities to support the development of vacant lots in the Town's TIF district.*

Special Project Assistance Application

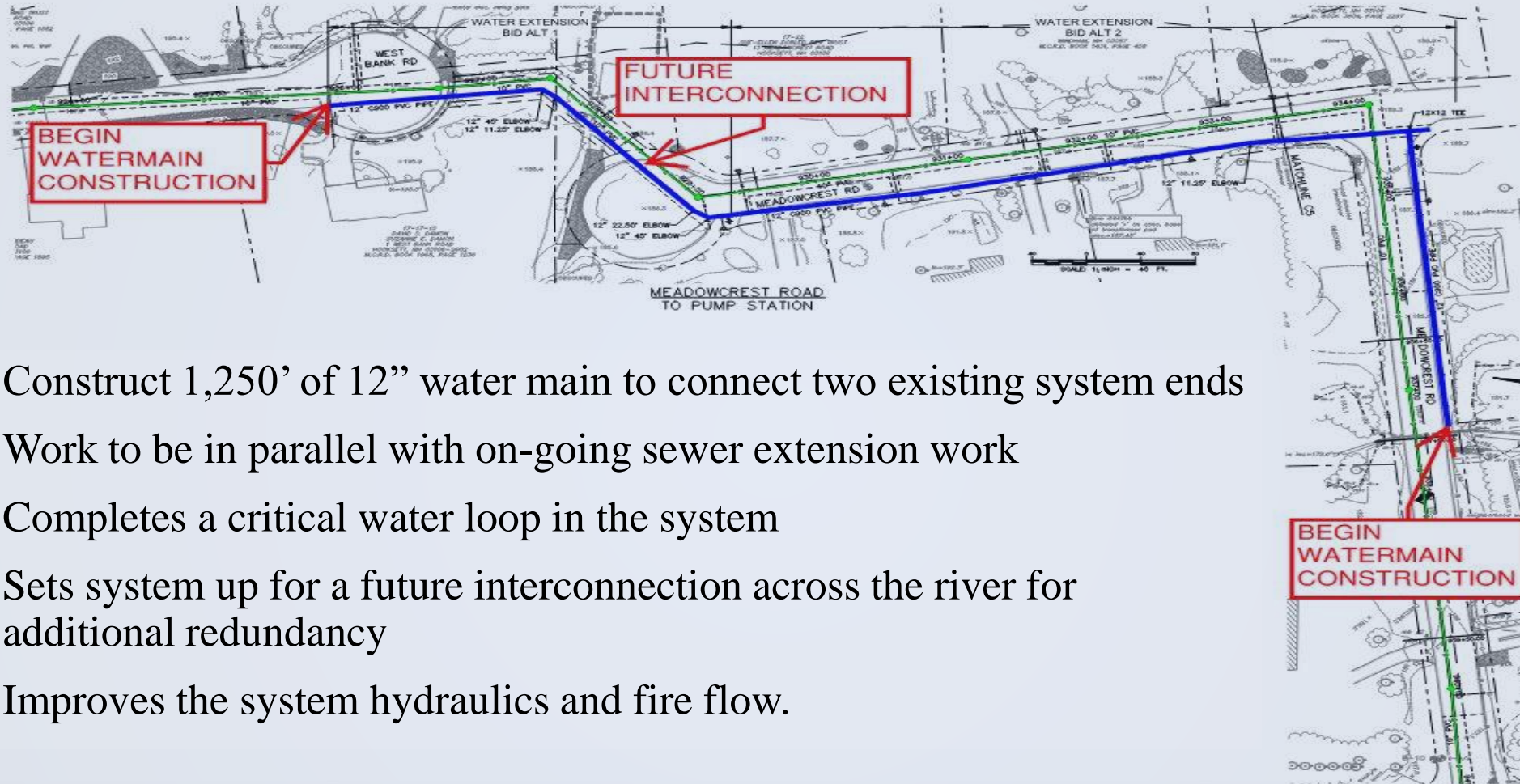
Town of Hooksett

Project History

- **2017** – Town of Hooksett established Route 3A Tax Incremental Finance district
- **2018** – Voters approved Warrant Article for \$2.5M for engineering report and design phase to expand water and sewer infrastructure to TIF
- **2021** – Port One Companies commits \$7M for water and sewer at Exit 11 to support commercial development including 12 TIF parcels
- **2022** – Park Construction awarded contract and construction commenced
- **2023**- Due to high inflation costs, Port One Companies absorbed additional costs to \$8M



Project Scope



- Construct 1,250' of 12" water main to connect two existing system ends
- Work to be in parallel with on-going sewer extension work
- Completes a critical water loop in the system
- Sets system up for a future interconnection across the river for additional redundancy
- Improves the system hydraulics and fire flow.

Project Need

- Town of Hooksett has been looking for opportunities to develop their TIF District for several years
 - District lacks sewer and water infrastructure
 - Construction cost of the infrastructure was significant
- Port One Companies, a private developer, provided the initial \$7 M
 - Committed an additional \$1M above the original agreed upon Memorandum of Agreement
- Construction inflation have raised the price above initial estimates
 - Budget shortfall is \$384,170 to complete a loop in the water system that runs parallel to the proposed sewer work
- Hooksett does not have authority to bond this additional work
- All other funding applications have been unsuccessful
- **Requesting \$384,170 grant from the Trust Fund**



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2023 Construction Project Annual Round

Funding Priorities

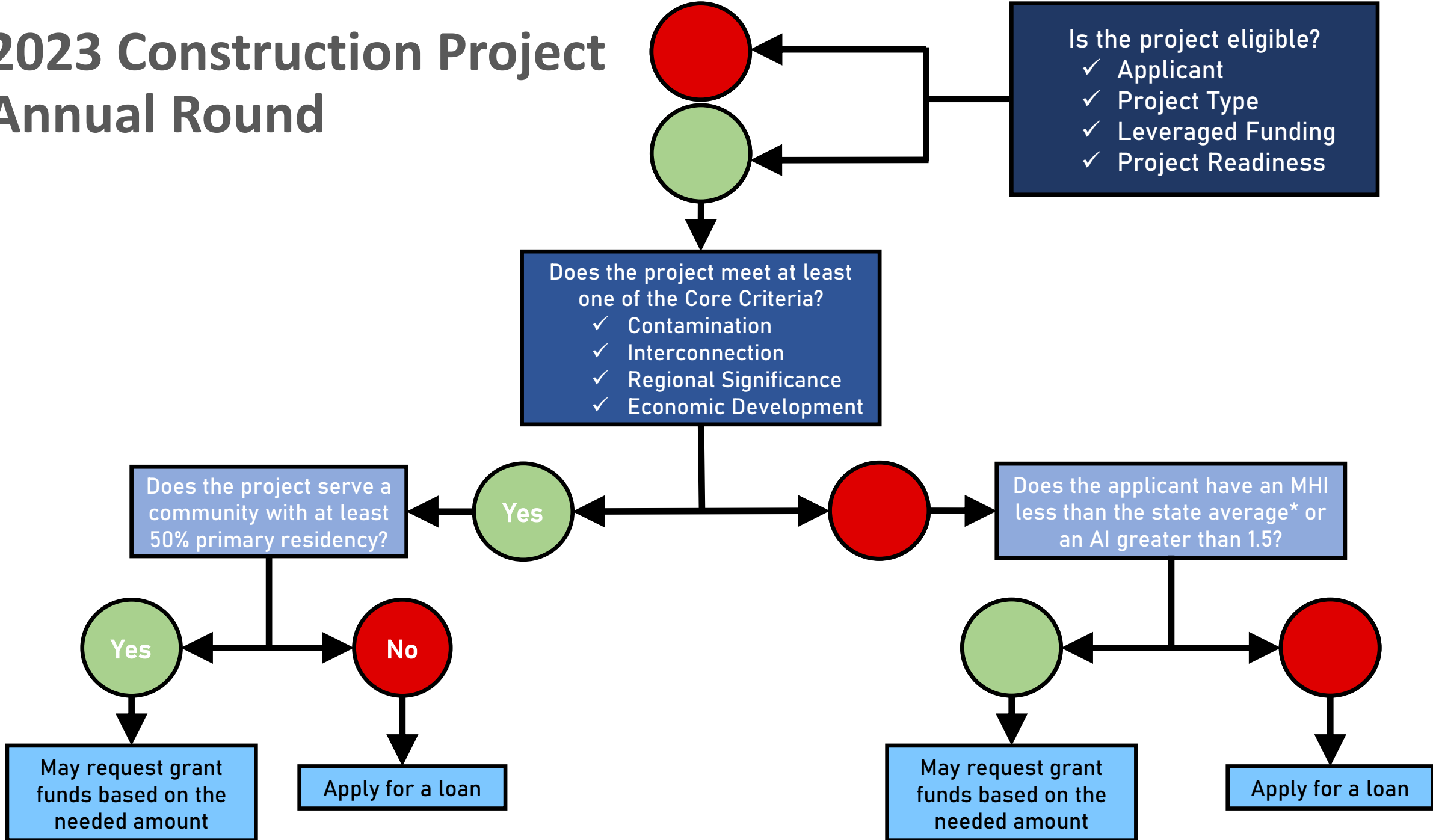
- Emphasize Leveraged Funding and Project Readiness as an eligibility requirement
- Highlight Core Criteria
- Clarify what projects are eligible for *some* grant



Eligibility

- **Eligible Applicants-** a State agency, board, or commission or any political subdivision of the State; person or legal entity, such as a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, association or non-profit organization, that owns a community water system or water distribution system; or a non-profit organization that owns a non-transient, non-community water system.
- **Eligible Projects-** any project involving the design, assembly, building, acquisition, alteration, remodeling, improvement, or extension of components of an existing or new water system; rehabilitation of drinking water reservoir dams; construction, expansion, or rehabilitation of monitoring well systems at well fields.
- **Leveraged Funding-** A goal of the Commission is to sustain the longevity of the Trust Fund by leveraging outside funds to the greatest extent possible. This may be investment from the applicants' own funds, private developer contribution, and/or loans or grants from other grant and loan programs. The applicant must demonstrate they have exhausted all applicable outside funding outlined in section 8 of the Funding Application *before* applying to the Trust Fund.
- **Project Readiness-** Applicants must show proof that they are able to execute the project and have developed a workplan to complete the project in a timely manner by providing: 1) "Authority to Submit", 2) a complete Project Plan in section 6 of the Funding Application that includes preliminary engineering plans, and 3) letters of support from stakeholders.
- **Grant Requests-** To be eligible for a grant, the project must meet the following conditions:
 1. Address one of the core criteria listed below;
 2. Provides matching funds (while there is no minimum match requirement, the Commission ranks projects higher that have secured and/or exhausted all other funding sources);
 3. Provide evidence that the project cannot be completed without grant assistance;
 4. Project is ready to receive funding and has long-term viability;
 5. PWS serves a community where at least 50% of the residential units served by the water system are occupied by residents who reside in their fixed and permanent homes;
 6. For projects that *solely* address infrastructure upgrades to be considered for a grant, the applicant must demonstrate financial hardship (defined as less than the state MHI of \$83,449 using the 2017 - 2021 American Community Survey data) and/or stakeholder investment in the system (water rates/MHI is greater than 1.5). Infrastructure upgrade projects that do not address one of the core criteria and are not a financial hardship case, will not receive high priority for a grant and should request a loan.

2023 Construction Project Annual Round



2023 Construction Project Annual Round

Solicitation for applications

- **New!** Electronic nForm
- **New!** Website
- Outreach

n 1 Form Version 1.0

Applicant Information

Technical Support and Engineering Contact(s)

Project Information

Water System Information

Project Justification and Objectives

Project Plan

Project Timeline

Project Funding

Attachments

Review

Population Served by the Public Water System

Total # of Service Connections

Total # of Connections that Serve Primary Residences

Current Annual Water Rate (\$)

Projected Annual Water Rate (\$)

Median Household Income (\$) - MHI

Current Affordability Index (AI) - Auto Calculated
NaN

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- Technical Support and Engineering Contact(s)
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- Project Justification and Objectives
- Project Plan
- Project Timeline
- Project Funding**
- Attachments
- Review
- Signing

FUNDING SOURCE	APPLIED?	STATUS	GRANT (\$)	LOAN (\$)
PFAS Remediation Loan Fund	Select...	Select...		
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	Select...	Select...		
American Rescue Plan Act	Select...	Select...		
USDA-Rural Development	Select...	Select...		
Community Development Block Grant	Select...	Select...		
Developer/ Private Entity Contribution	Select...	Select...		
Applicant Funds	Select...	Select...		
Congressionally Directed Spending	Select...	Select...		
Other	Select...	Select...		
Other	Select...	Select...		
Other	Select...	Select...		

Apply Now

2023 Construction Project Annual Round

Solicitation for applications

- **New!** Electronic nForm
- **New!** Website
- Outreach



Home > Funding Programs > Construction Project Assistance Program

Construction Project Assistance Program

Funding to improve drinking water systems and protect public health in New Hampshire.

The construction loan and grant program provides funding to build and enhance drinking water infrastructure, improve water quality, increase the viability or longevity of an existing drinking water system, and enable the State to meet present and future drinking water needs.

Annual Funding Round

The Advisory Commission evaluates applications based on the merits of the project proposal and the goals and objectives of the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. Projects that satisfy multiple criteria listed below will be the most competitive for funding awards. The Advisory Commission strives to ensure the longevity of the Trust Fund by administering a balance of loans and grants. A project that provides outside funding to leverage the Trust Fund contribution, or takes on a proportional loan amount, will be evaluated more favorably than those projects seeking only grants without matching funds.

What makes a project competitive for funding?

- The project will result in the removal or reduction of contamination to groundwater or drinking water.
- Interconnection with a larger water system to eliminate the use of contaminated or insufficient wells.
- The applicant has leveraged outside funding sources to the greatest extent possible.
- Project readiness that is supported by a thorough complete application and project plan.

How to apply for a DWGTF grant or loan

Upon approval of the Advisory Commission, NHDES solicits for applications in the summer of each year. The process typically

1. Submit a funding application

Applicants must submit a funding application by the deadline posted on this webpage, typically set in late October (2023 d

[FUNDING APPLICATION >](#)

2. Advisory Commission Review

Resources

[RSA 485-F](#)

[Advisory Commission Rules for Construction Projects](#)

[Env-Dw 1300: Administrative Procedures for Grants and Loans](#)

[Public Water Systems](#)

Other Funding Programs

[PFAS Remediation Loans and Grants](#)

[Drinking Water State Revolving Fund](#)

[Clean Water State Revolving Fund](#)

[Water Sustainability Grant Program](#)

[Watershed Assistance Grants](#)

[Full List of Funding Sources in New Hampshire](#) 

[Source Water Protection Grants](#)

2023 Construction Project Annual Round

Proposed Timeline





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CONCLUDE

New Source Water Protection Coordinator

Meet: Laura Weit-Marcum

- Returning NHDES employee
- 14 years of previous state service
- Background in watershed planning, Clean Water SRF and ORCB Enforcement
- Most recent experience at the Piscataquog Land Conservancy



Status of Funded Projects

2018-2021 34 projects approved for grants

- ✓ 28 have been completed.
- ✓ 5 have received G&C approval and DES is working with grantee on project closing.
- ✓ SWP rule changes enable the Portsmouth project to move forward!

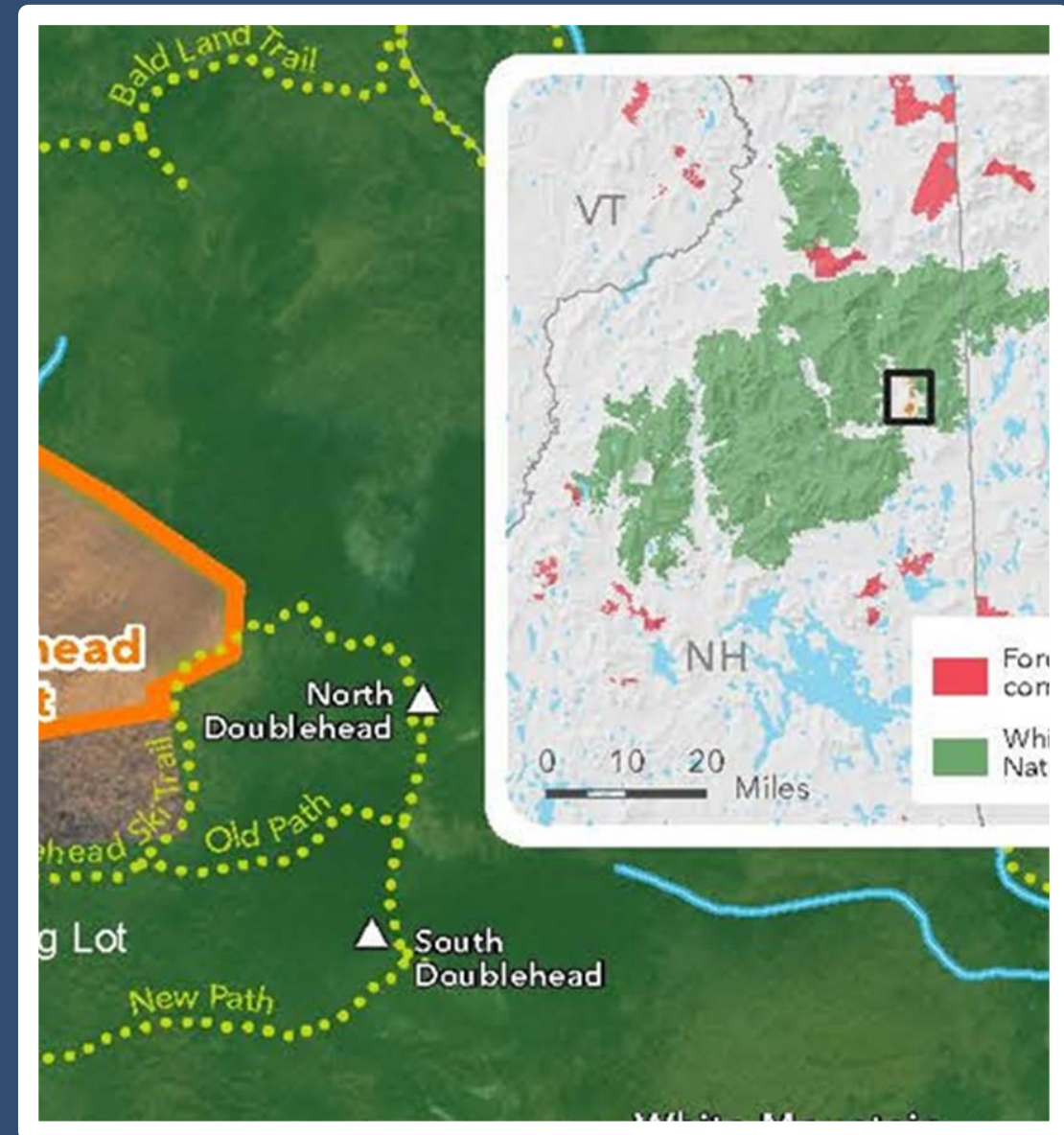
2022 6 projects approved for grants

- ✓ 2 have received G&C approval.
- ✓ 4 DES is working to obtain G&C approval.

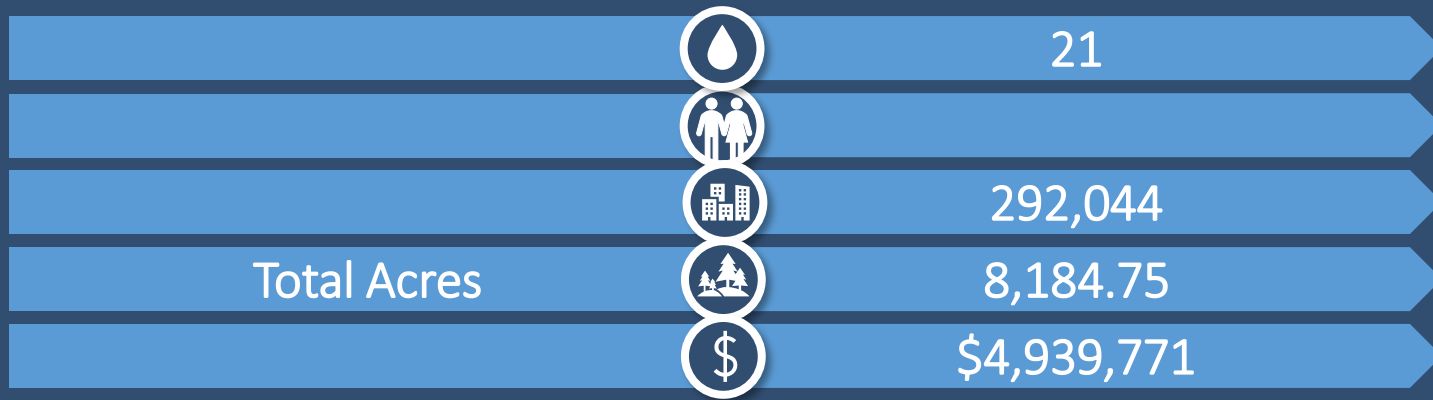


Project Highlight - Dundee Community Forest

- This was the largest unprotected block of land left in the Mt. Washington Valley.
- 1,250 acres is now protected in Jackson and Bartlett.
- Parcels connect to the White Mountain National Forest and Tin Mountain Conservation Center.
- Cooperative effort among Trust for Public Lands, Upper Saco Valley Land Trust and State of New Hampshire.

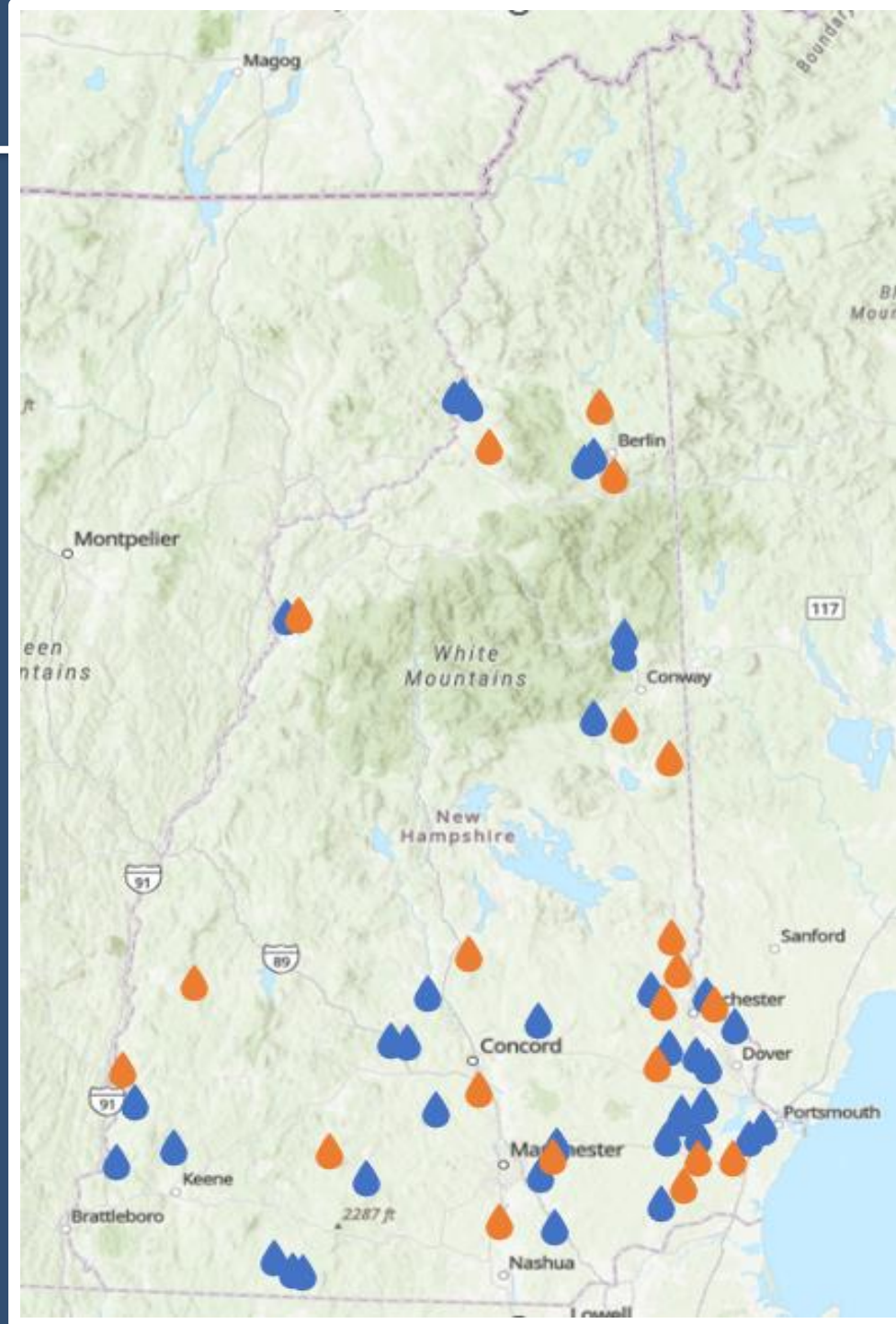


2023 Grant Round



SUMMARY

- Record breaking number of eligibility applications received!
- Applicant pool- 11 land trusts, 2 water districts and 2 municipalities.
- All projects fall within “high-priority water supply land” identified by NHDES.





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CONCLUDE

Seacoast Private Well Initiative Update

Amy Hudnor, Private Well Coordinator
NH Department of Environmental Services



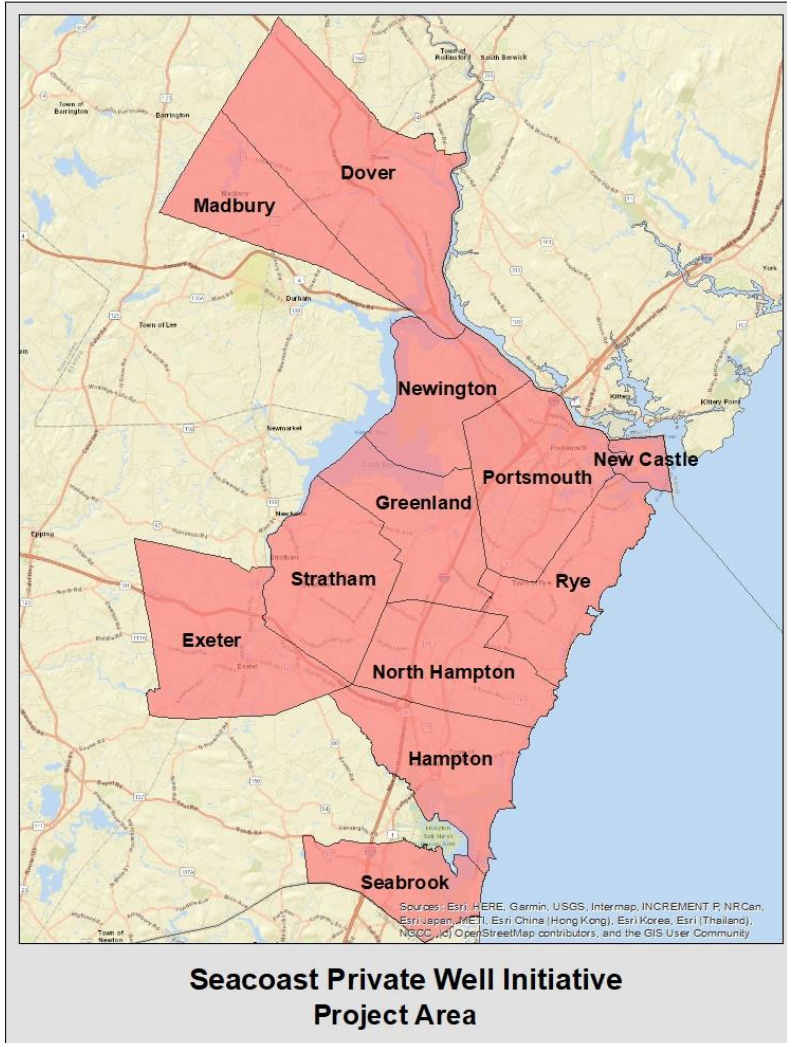
Seacoast Commission
on Drinking Water



NEW HAMPSHIRE DRINKING WATER
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Free workshop & well testing for private well users in 12 towns represented by the Seacoast Drinking Water Commission



Workshop: focus on common NH well contaminants, health impacts, and water treatment options. Hand out test kits.

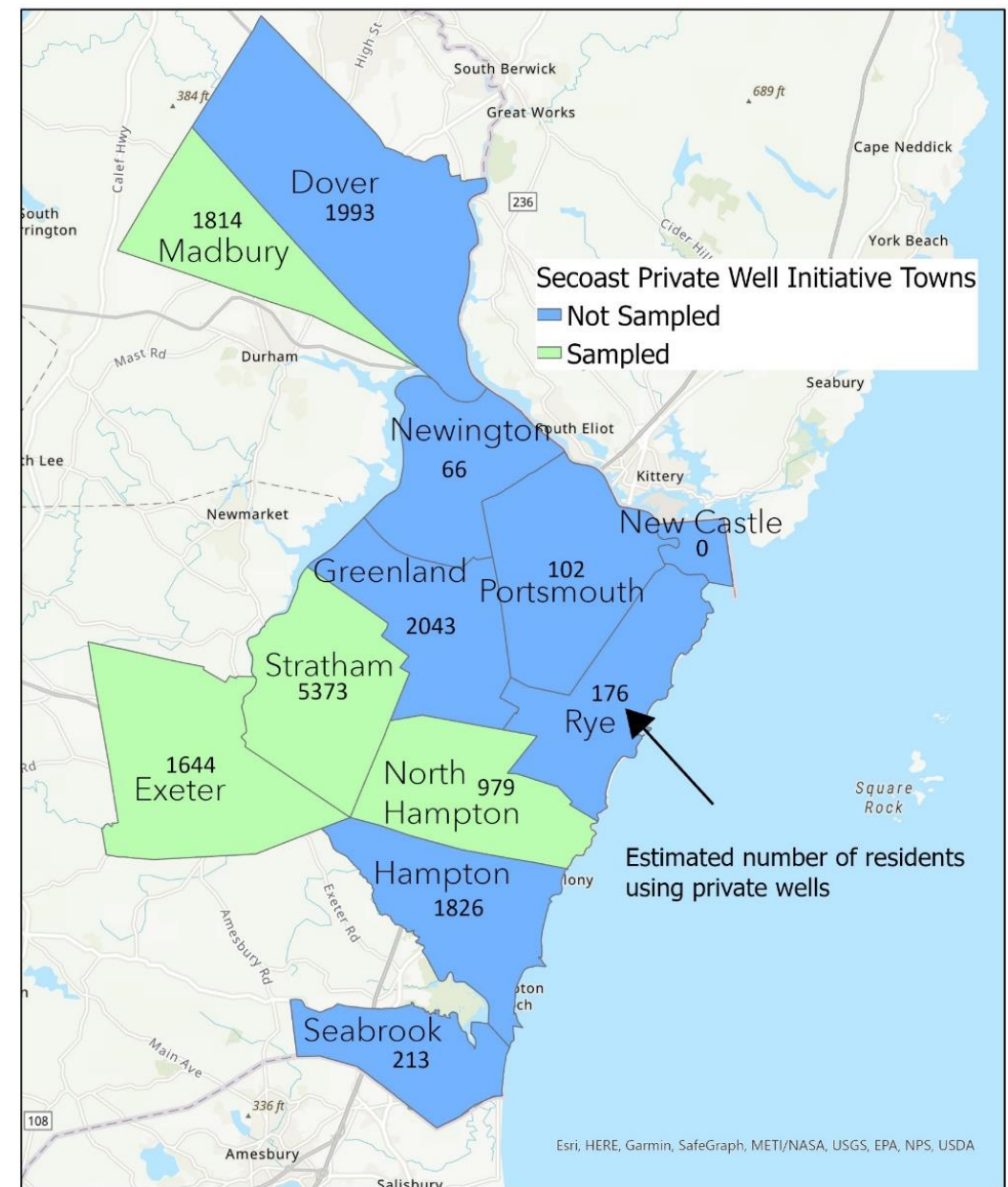
Free Water Test:

- Standard Analysis: arsenic, copper, manganese, lead and a few others
- Radon
- 4 PFAS that have NH health limits

Participants receive water results, a Be Well Informed report with treatment recommendations, our contact info if they need further help. Those with PFAS exceedances referred to PFAS Treatment Rebate.

467 households have fully participated by attending a workshop and submitting water samples

Town	Workshop Date	Participating Households
Madbury	September 2022	84
Exeter		65
North Hampton	January 2023	42
Stratham	February 2023	276



Workshop February 2023 Stratham



Our largest workshop:

Over 300 people attended
291 sample kits distributed
276 samples returned in 6
drop off dates

Arsenic—Prominent in the Seacoast region

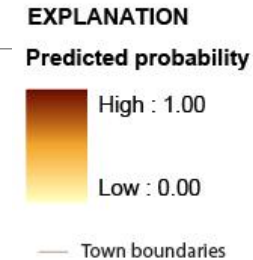
Naturally-occurring element common in bedrock

Health affects

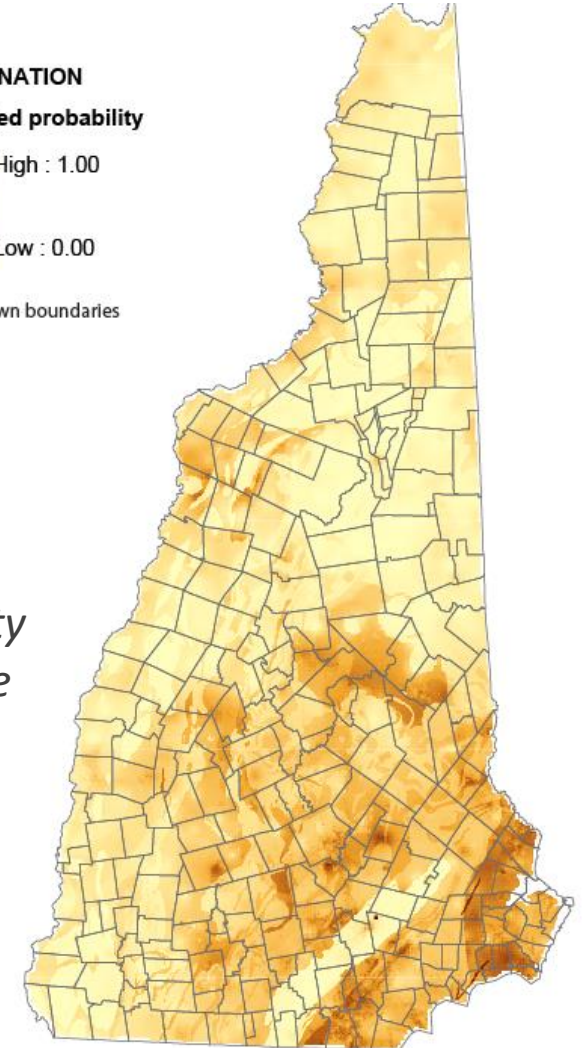
- ↑ risks for certain cancers (e.g., lung and bladder)
- ↑ risk for diabetes
- ↑ risk for cardiovascular disease
- ↓ immune system function

Vulnerable populations

- ↓ fetal growth and birth weight
- ↓ early immune system function
- ↑ lifetime risk for cancer
- ↑ lifetime risk of respiratory diseases
- ↓ IQ and brain development



USGS map showing probability of Arsenic in well water above NH Health Limit of 5 ppb



Arsenic—Prominent in the Seacoast region

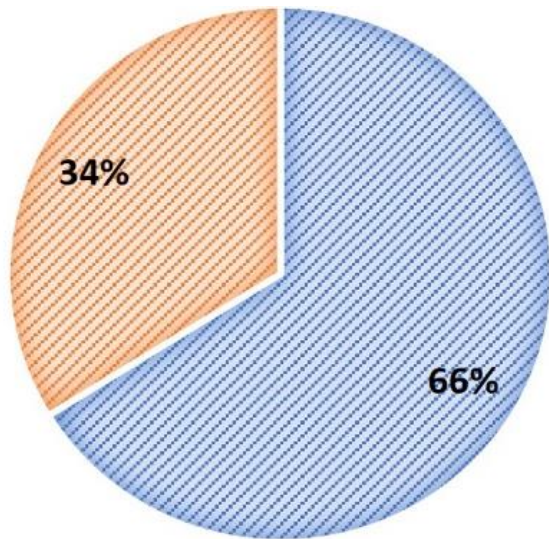
206 households informed of their arsenic exceedances

- % wells above Arsenic Health Limit
- % wells below Arsenic Health Limit

EXETER

Samples=65

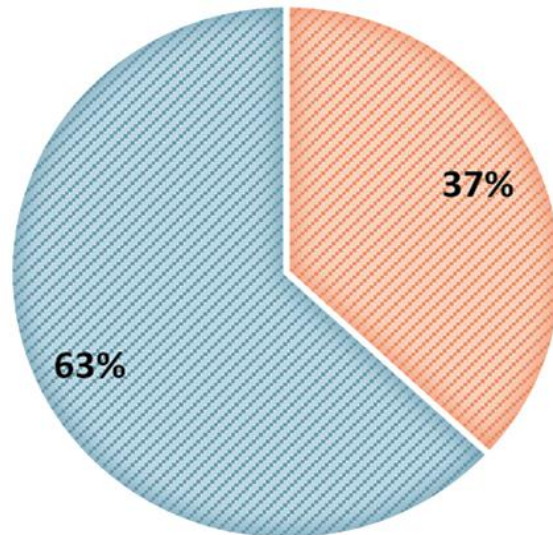
- Above= 22



MADBURY

Samples= 84

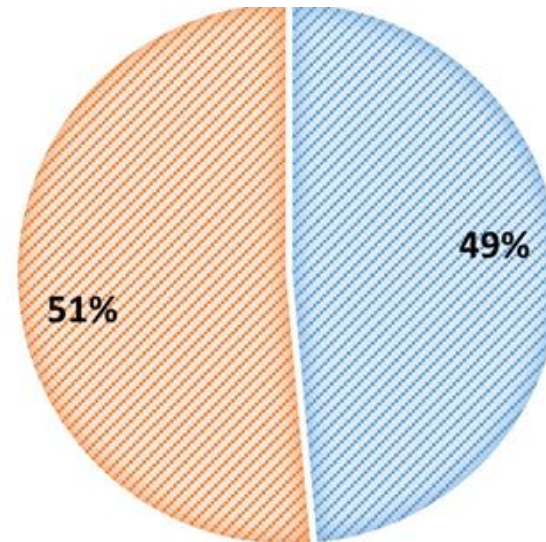
- Above = 31



STRATHAM

Samples= 276

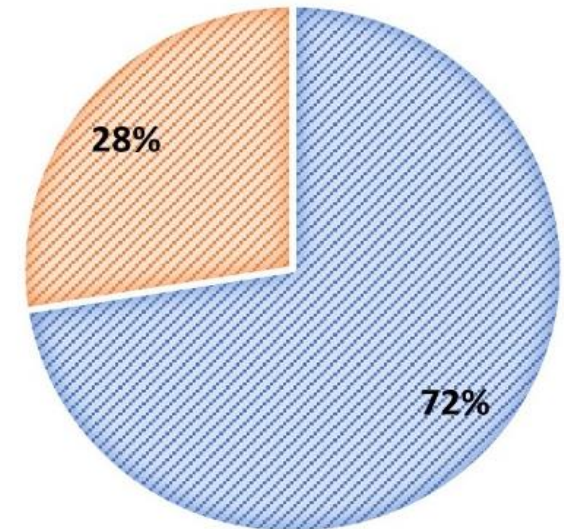
- Above = 142



NORTH HAMPTON

Samples= 40

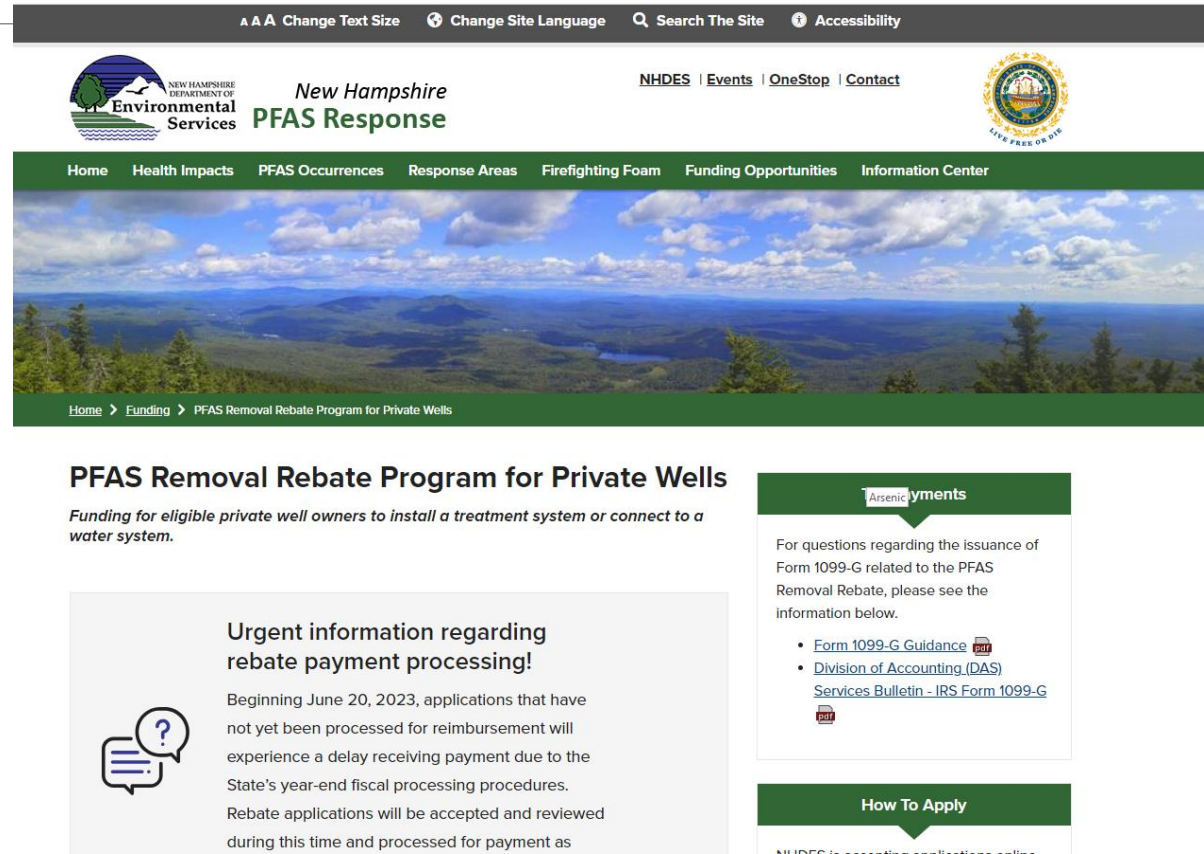
- Above = 11



PFAS Sampling in the Seacoast

We tested for the 4 PFAS with NH health limits

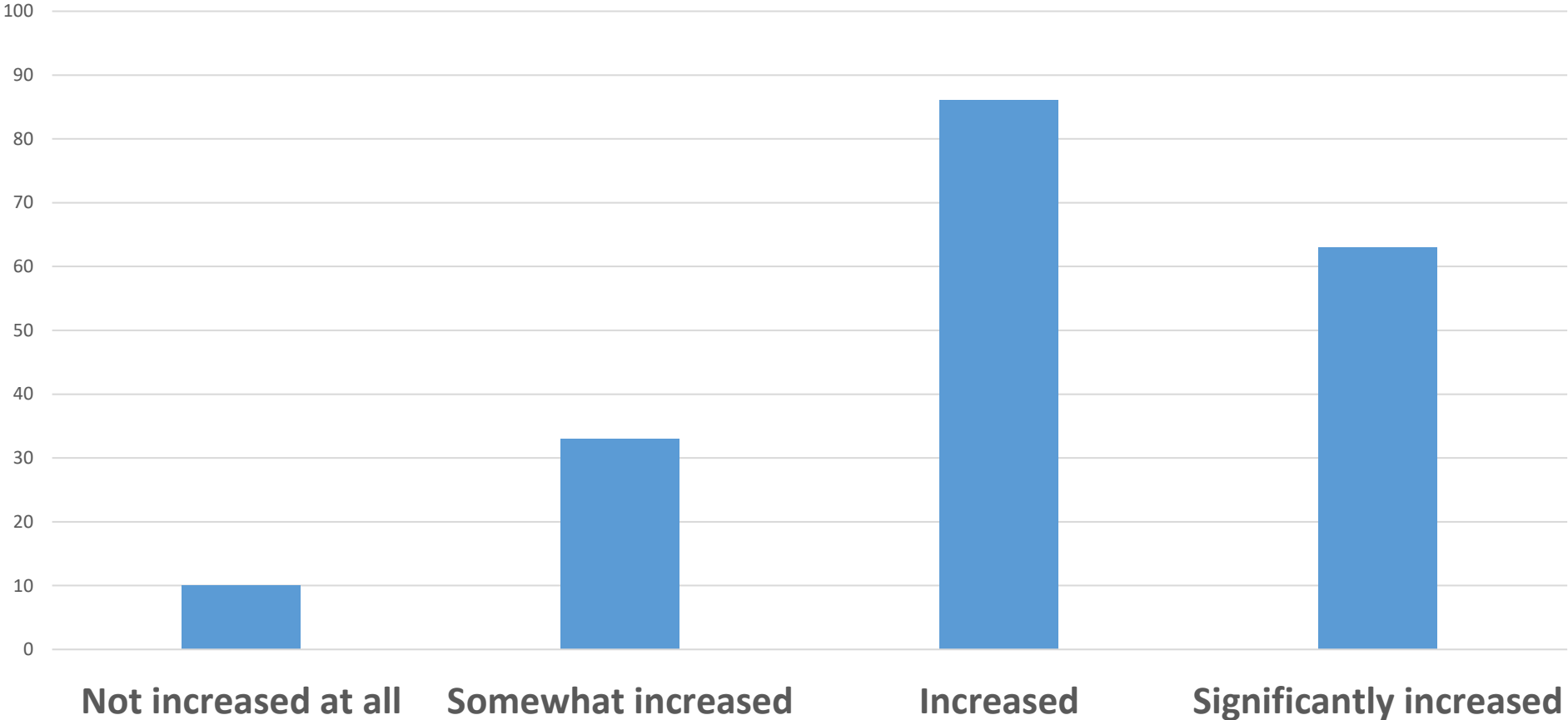
- Identified **19** households with at least 1 PFAS above health limit
- Encouraged each household to utilize PFAS Treatment Rebate of up to \$5,000



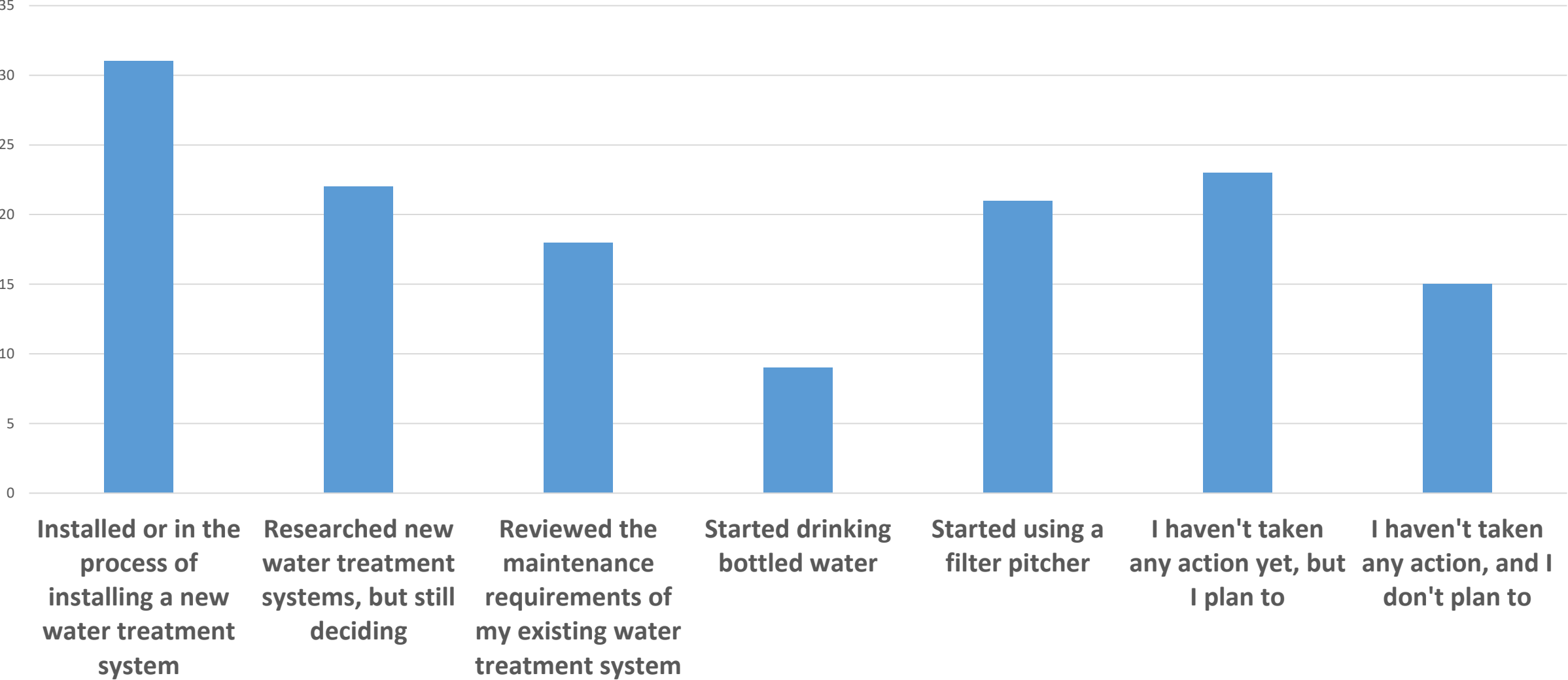
The screenshot shows the website for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, specifically the "PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells" page. The page features a navigation bar with links for Home, Health Impacts, PFAS Occurrences, Response Areas, Firefighting Foam, Funding Opportunities, and Information Center. A large banner image of a scenic landscape is at the top. Below the banner, the page title is "PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells" with a breadcrumb trail: Home > Funding > PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells. The main content area includes a sub-header "PFAS Removal Rebate Program for Private Wells" and a brief description: "Funding for eligible private well owners to install a treatment system or connect to a water system." A prominent callout box with a question mark icon contains the text: "Urgent information regarding rebate payment processing! Beginning June 20, 2023, applications that have not yet been processed for reimbursement will experience a delay receiving payment due to the State's year-end fiscal processing procedures. Rebate applications will be accepted and reviewed during this time and processed for payment as..." To the right, there is a section titled "Arsenic Payments" with a sub-header "Arsenic Payments" and text: "For questions regarding the issuance of Form 1099-G related to the PFAS Removal Rebate, please see the information below." This section includes links for "Form 1099-G Guidance" and "Division of Accounting (DAS) Services Bulletin - IRS Form 1099-G". At the bottom right, there is a "How To Apply" section.

Surveys were sent to participants: 193 responded

How has your knowledge of private well water contaminants increased as a result of participation?



For respondents with contaminants above health limits, we asked, “What action(s) have you taken?”



Remaining workshops will be held in fall 2023 and winter 2024



Free filter pitchers for low-income households

Free Workshop & Water Testing for Hampton & Seabrook Private Well Users



The Seacoast Private Well Initiative invites residential private well users in Hampton & Seabrook:
Hampton & Seabrook Private Well Workshop
Thursday, September 14, 2023 @ 6:00PM
Hampton Academy Auditorium
29 Academy Ave, Hampton NH

Keep your family safe from health risks of common well water contaminants. **Test your water.**

At the Private Well Workshop we'll:

- Explain what contaminants you should test for and why;
- Send you home with a test kit and tell you when & where to return with filled bottles;
- Test your water for common well water contaminants including: radon, arsenic, lead & PFAS;
- Teach you about selecting the appropriate water treatment if contaminants are found.

Workshop & water testing are free, and registration is simple! Just send an e-mail saying you plan to attend to Amy Hudnor, NHDES Private Well Coordinator at welltest@des.nh.gov

Please register & we'll see you at Hampton Academy
Thursday, September 14 at 6pm!



Got questions? Feel free to contact us!
NHDES: Amy Hudnor at (603) 271-5986 or welltest@des.nh.gov
Town of Hampton: Brianna O'Brien at (603) 929-5808 or bobrien@hamptonnh.gov



Seacoast Commission on Drinking Water





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