



REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
May 19, 2022

ISSUED BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
FOR INFORMATION ON SCIENTIFIC FINDINGS AND AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY RELATED TO PFAS-
CONTAMINATED LIVESTOCK AND DISPOSAL AND/OR DESTRUCTION OF PFAS

Request for Information

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is soliciting information relevant to the disposal and/or destruction of per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Information on PFAS disposal and/or destruction across various forms, sectors and media will be valuable. In addition, for all the types of information requested, NMED is interested both in data specific to individual PFAS compounds and to classes of PFAS.

NMED seeks access to the best information available related to scientific studies, technology testing, policy considerations and active research projects. NMED seeks information from the general public, scientific/research community, private industry, academia, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Relevant information on PFAS includes, but is not limited to data, reports, narratives, or other information related to:

- PFAS-contaminated livestock, including any information on bioconcentration, products of metabolism, strategies to reduce PFAS concentrations in animal tissue and plasma, etc.
- Composting PFAS-contaminated livestock carcasses, including the composting method and resulting concentrations of PFAS compounds in the compost.
- PFAS destruction, including methodology and efficacy data.
- Incineration of PFAS-contaminated material, including:
 - By-products (e.g., dioxins/furans) and PFAS residuals,
 - Air emissions associated incineration,
 - Fate and transport of PFAS during incineration, and
 - Subsequent disposal of solid material (e.g., ash) in a landfill.
- Data from placing PFAS-contaminated material in a hazardous waste landfill or associated research into short- and long-term risks.
- Related to the above topics:
 - Technology testing,
 - Research studies, and
 - Case studies or pilot projects.

If you have extensive information related to any of the topics above, please submit an associated annotated bibliography or literature review, if available. If appropriate, please provide a point of contact with your submission in case NMED staff need to follow-up with questions on information submitted.

Background

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been used for a large number of purposes since the 1950s. PFAS have been used in food packaging, cleaning products, stain resistant carpet treatments, nonstick cookware and firefighting foam, among other products. Due to the widespread use of PFAS and the fact that they bioaccumulate, they are found in the bodies of people and animals all over the world, as well as ground and surface water and other natural resources.

The health effects of these emerging contaminants are still being studied, but research indicates that some PFAS may affect reproductive health, increase the risk of some cancers, affect childhood development, increase cholesterol levels, affect the immune system, and interfere with the body's hormones.

PFAS-contamination in groundwater caused by the U.S. Department of Defense at Cannon Air Force Base resulted in contaminated livestock at nearby Highland Dairy. As per the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA), NMED is the appropriate state agency to approve Highland Dairy's removal plan for disposal of PFAS-contaminated livestock, which is required by FSA for the Dairy to qualify for cow indemnity under USDA's Dairy Indemnity Payment Program. The Removal Plan includes two phases. First the Dairy will compost all PFAS-contaminated carcasses on the farm property in accordance with USDA conservation practice standards and provisions of the Removal Plan. In Phase 2, the Dairy will conduct PFAS analysis of the composted material and associated impacted material, such as soil at the compost site, in order to determine final removal options. In Phase 2, the Removal Plan utilizes the NMED Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Risk Assessment Guidance screening level of greater than or equal to 26 mg/kg for PFOS and PFOA in industrial/occupational soil.

The Highland Dairy Removal Plan is the first of its kind and was developed in consultation with the USDA Farm Service Agency, the USDA NRCS, the State Veterinarian of New Mexico, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture and NMED. Information collected through this RFI will support strong policy and science-based decision-making during implementation of Phase 2 of the Removal Plan.

NMED has consistently required corrective action for PFAS contamination pursuant to the Hazardous Waste Act, NMSA 1978, Sections, 74-4-1 to -14, as PFAS meets the statutory definition of hazardous waste found at NMSA 1978, Section 74-4-3(K) due to the threat it poses to human health and the environment.

Comment Submittal

NMED requests responses to this Request for Information (RFI) within 60 days, no later than **July 18, 2022**. Submit information within the scope of the RIF to NMED's Public Comment Portal, available at <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>.

For questions about this RFI or to submit information where you lack access to the Public Comment Portal, please contact Michael Chacón, NMED Science Coordinator, at michael.chacon@state.nm.us.