



Q1. What is PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances)?

A1. Please visit the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) website for specific information: www.michigan.gov/PFASresponse

Q2. What does PFAS have to do with airports?

A2. The use of firefighting material known as AFFF, or aqueous film-forming foam, is a FAA requirement for all commercial airports across the country, and has been used for extinguishing fires and for firefighting training at airports. Currently, all of the AFFF formulations authorized for use by the FAA contain some type of PFAS.

Q3. Is the Ford Airport still using products with PFAS?

A3. All FAA-required AFFF products contain some form of PFAS. The use of AFFF is a FAA requirement for all commercial airports across the country, and has been used for extinguishing fires and for firefighting training at airports nationally. For air transportation safety, FAA requires airports like GFIA to use AFFF containing PFAS because of its effectiveness in extinguishing jet-fuel fires. The Ford Airport took proactive steps by voluntarily moving to an AFFF product that is asserted to have less environmental risk. However, all FAA-required AFFF products still contain some form of PFAS.

Q4. What is being done to understand any potential issues?

A4. GFIA has handled and used AFFF consistent with safety data sheet instructions from the manufacturer. We have been in contact with the MDEQ as we work in collaboration to investigate concerns further. We are continuing to work with environmental specialists to conduct an investigation of the potential of PFAS exposure at the airport, considering the limited areas of known use of AFFF at GFIA and the local geology.

Q5. When will this testing begin and will you test residential wells?

A5. Phase one of initial groundwater tests are complete. We worked with a specialized laboratory to conduct these tests, one of a limited number of labs in the country using EPA-approved test methods for PFAS. Although test results are within acceptable standards, the Airport is demonstrating its commitment to the community by developing a plan to perform off-site groundwater testing. This plan will include some private residential wells, and those property owners will be contacted by the end of June regarding next steps.

Q6. If a resident receives results of a PFAS test, what should they do next?

A6. The Michigan Department of Environment Quality (MDEQ) is asking residents with any test results to contact their offices at 1-800-662-9278 or deq-assist@michigan.gov

Q7. Does the Kent County Health Department collect or test water for PFAS?

A7. It is our understanding that at this time they do not.

Q8. Why did the airport testing process taking a longer time than some residential tests?

A8. Doing accurate and appropriate testing takes time. Our scientific approach has been designed to address the highest areas of potential first, and is a continued, deliberate investigation. Once the airport has complete and accurate data to share, we will release the information. New wells were drilled to specifically target the highest area of potential risk; this strategic process was time consuming, but is complete with five new wells developed and sampled.

Q9. What do the airport's latest test results mean?

A9. During initial groundwater testing on airport property, all results show PFAS levels less than the State of Michigan cleanup criteria it has established for groundwater, as protection for drinking water. The State of Michigan's cleanup criteria for groundwater applies to two particular PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS, and is set at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) combined (<https://www.michigan.gov/pfasresponse>). The 70 ppt criteria also applies to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) level. In our multi-step evaluation process, initial groundwater test results show no detectable PFOS in any groundwater samples and detectable PFOA levels of no more than 54 ppt, all below the minimum State of Michigan standards.

Q10. How did the airport conduct its PFAS testing and where?

A10. GFIA's first of several evaluation steps for the identification of possible PFAS involved the deep drilling and complex sampling of five groundwater monitoring wells; each at a different site on airport property designed to assist with the overall investigation (

Q11. Who administered the test results, and who reviewed them?

A11. GFIA's initial groundwater test results have been verified by Test America, an EPA-certified laboratory that conducted the analyses, as well as environmental engineering and science firm, Limno Tech, who developed the investigation scope of work and is overseeing the sampling. These groundwater results were also shared with the MDEQ, the Kent County Health Department (KCHD), and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).



Figure 3-3. Groundwater PFOS and PFOA Sample Results (ng/L).