**MSU PFAS Symposium**

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**Poster Title**

PFAS & residential well water use: How do households respond to notice of contamination detection?

**Abstract**

Widespread testing for PFAS contamination in Michigan has revealed varying levels of the chemical class in both municipal and residential well water supplies across the state. While municipal supply wells are managed through local water authorities, residential well users are independently in charge of household water quality. In Michigan, residential well users are informed of contamination through state-level correspondence and are advised to install supplied reverse osmosis filter systems if they have PFAS detections. These actions, however, are not required and depend on individual action. This poster explores results from semi-structured interviews with residential well users after they received notice of PFAS contamination detection. The goal of this research is to understand how PFAS contamination notice affects how well users think about household drinking water safety, chemical exposure concerns, and local environmental politics. Targeted sampling was done in Grayling, Rockford, and Holly, Michigan, where detected PFAS stemmed from industry, military, and landfill sources respectively. I discuss different pollution scenarios to assess whether pollution source translates into local action and household-level awareness of PFAS harms. For many well users, notice of PFAS is the first indication of poor well water quality. While most households took advantage of supplied filters, some did not. Themes of filter frustrations, PFAS harm translation, and future health concerns are explored. Overall, this research can help inform how to communicate and discuss endocrine-disrupting chemical exposure as more communities implement responses to PFAS contamination.