

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Fruithurst Site, Cleburne Co., AL



Fact Sheet #1

September 2019

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is investigating possible ground water contamination in the town of Fruithurst, AL and surrounding areas. EPA is seeking permission to perform sampling at selected properties based on a study conducted by Auburn University in 2017.

Free Groundwater Sampling

EPA is offering this groundwater testing **at no cost** to the selected residents and property owners. The samples will be taken from private wells used for drinking water; the residents/property owners do not have to be present. Individual results will be kept confidential and shared directly with residents and property owners.

If the sampling indicates additional wells may be impacted, the study area will be expanded, as necessary. The results will determine what, if any, additional response actions are necessary to protect human health and the environment.

What You Can Do

Read the letter and access authorization. Call any of the contacts listed below if you have questions about either document. Most importantly, **please sign the access authorization and return it by mail in the postage-paid envelope.**

We understand you may have questions about the possible contamination and what it means for you and your family. Residents and property owners are encouraged to reach out to the EPA contacts listed below to learn more.

We Need Your Help to Test Your Private Drinking Water Well for Possible Contamination

EPA is offering **FREE** groundwater testing for residents and property owners in the Fruithurst study area.

If you are the renter or owner, please sign the attached form to give EPA permission to sample your well.

Background

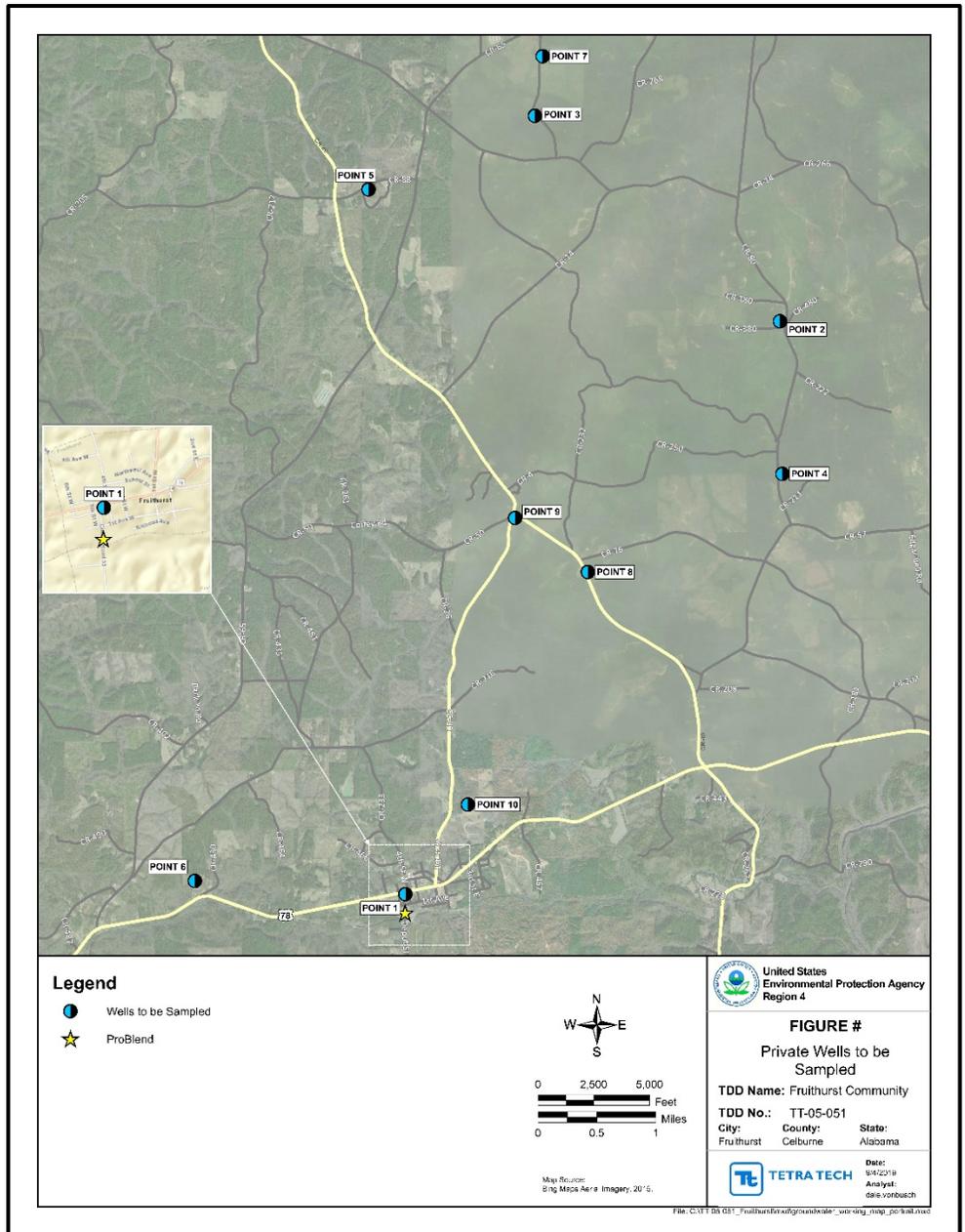
On March 9, 2018, the principal of Fruithurst Elementary School, Dr. Christy Hiatt, sent an email to the EPA Region 4 Regional Administrator (RA) concerning multiple cases of children diagnosed with Leukemia in communities of Fruithurst and Muscadine, AL. The report shared links the cancer cases to the private drinking water wells being used in the community. Her email included a report conducted by Auburn University that showed contaminated groundwater from private wells in Cleburne County, primarily bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate. EPA is currently preparing to conduct a Site Inspection (SI) in the community to determine if there are any contaminants present in the soil, groundwater or surface water in the Fruithurst Community to confirm the data from the study conducted by Auburn University in 2017.

CONTACTS

EPA Remedial Project Manager
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EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

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Map of the Fruithurst study area. Area may be expanded.