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## Addenda to the *Plan for Administration of the Fund to Address PFAS Contamination* dated July 10, 2023

### Addendum 1, adopted March 5, 2025

On March 5, 2025, the PFAS Fund Advisory Committee recommended that DACF modify **Strategy IV.E, PFAS Body Burden Reduction Clinical Trial**. Specifically, the Committee recommended that funds initially set aside for a clinical trial be redirected toward the dissemination of information about protocols for using the cholesterol-lowering drug Cholestyramine to reduce PFAS blood serum levels through the publication of a case series<sup>1</sup> by clinicians in Maine.

#### Background

The medical community's understanding of treatment options to reduce PFAS body burden has evolved since the PFAS Fund implementation plan was adopted in 2023. For instance, a clinical trial published in 2024 documents the effectiveness of Cholestyramine at reducing PFAS blood serum levels.<sup>2</sup> Also, two Maine hospitals have approved Cholestyramine protocols for treating individuals with elevated blood serum levels. Given these advances, there is less of a critical need for the PFAS Fund to support the establishment of a new clinical trial. Rather, the \$200,000 budgeted for the initiation of a clinical trial will be used to a) further document the clinical application of Cholestyramine through publication of a case series, and b) convene a panel of physicians, scientists, and affected community members to further vet, optimize, and publish a protocol for administration of Cholestyramine for PFAS body burden reduction.

This modification to the PFAS Fund implementation plan advances the original goal of Strategy IV.E. That is, it advances efforts to make treatment options available to Maine residents with elevated PFAS blood serum levels.

### Addendum 2, adopted October 7, 2025

On October 7, 2025, the PFAS Fund Advisory Committee supported a proposal to expand the scope of **Strategy III.A, Competitive Research Grants**, to include matching funds.

As originally established, Strategy III.A reads, "The PFAS Fund will establish competitive research grant programs to support scientific research to inform on-farm management decisions. Grants of up to \$500,000 will be available for multi-year studies. Additionally, smaller grants will be available for research projects that are smaller in scope and scale." Potential uses of the PFAS Fund will be expanded to include a commitment to provide matching funding to researchers who are seeking funding from external grantmaking entities when those external entities' priorities are consistent with the PFAS Fund's

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<sup>1</sup> Case series are empirical inquiries or investigations of a patient or a group of patients in a natural, real-world clinical setting. See Sayre JW, Toklu HZ, Ye F, Mazza J, Yale S. Case Reports, Case Series - From Clinical Practice to Evidence-Based Medicine in Graduate Medical Education. CUREUS. 2017 Aug 7;9(8):e1546. doi: 10.7759/cureus.1546. PMID: 29018643; PMCID: PMC5630458, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29018643/>.

<sup>2</sup> Janne Julie Moller et al., *Substantial decrease of PFAS with anion exchange resin treatment – A clinical cross-over trial*, 185 ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL (2024) 108497, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2024.108497>.

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research priorities and the external entities employ a rigorous peer review process that is comparable to the PFAS Fund's. More specific provisions will be incorporated into 01-001 C.M.R. c. 406.

Using the PFAS Fund for match allows DACF to amplify its support for research to help farmers to determine their best options for maintaining and enhancing viability despite the presence of PFAS on their property.