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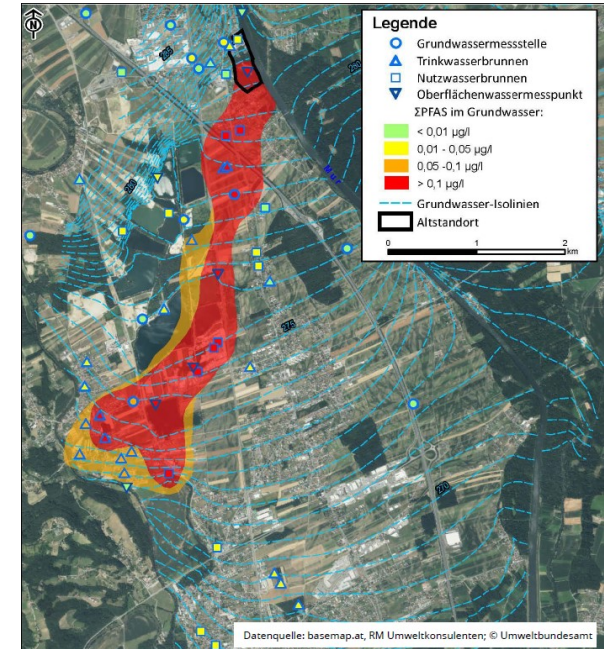
Conference „PFAS in soil – forever pollution, forever concern?“ on 25 – 26 March 2025 in Berlin, Germany

Managing PFAS Contaminated Sites – Strategic Approach in Austria

Dietmar Müller-Grabherr, Gernot Döberl & Martin Weisgram, 26 March 2025

PFAS CONTAMINATED SITES – STATUS QUO IN AUSTRIA

- National groundwater monitoring programs → **3 „hotspots“** clearly identified; evidence for some more
- **„Salzburg Airport“**
 - Fire fighting training area → plume length: > 3,5 km
 - Drinking water supply not affected
 - High pollution levels in fish
 - Pump-and-treat measures implemented
- **„Provincial fire brigade training centre Styria“**
 - 200.000 m³ contaminated soil → plume length > 5 km
 - Several local/regional drinking water supplies affected
 - Remediation measures: planning stage
- **„Linz Airport“**
 - Plume length > 5 km; several water supplies affected
 - Characterization of source: ongoing



ANALYSIS OF INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES: RELEVANCE FOR (HISTORICALLY) CONTAMINATED SITES?

- Main sources of contamination
 - Primary production of PFAS (see BE/NL, FR, IT); **none in AT; fluoropolymere (PTFE) plants**: some few identified
 - **Fire fighting foams (AFFF)**: probably **most important pollution path** in AT (see 3 hotspots)
 - Industries with PFAS use: electroplating, textiles, paper, cleaning agents, cosmetics, paints, varnishes, ski waxes: **“hundreds” of sites** as potential sources
 - **Leachate from MSW landfills**: Large landfills from the 1970s/1980s (household waste, sewage sludge or fire debris or landfills from PFAS-relevant industries)
 - Agricultural use of waste (see DE): relevance in AT?
 - Background pollution soil/groundwater: one national and some regional studies available

NATIONAL PFAS STRATEGY FOR CONTAMINATED SITES

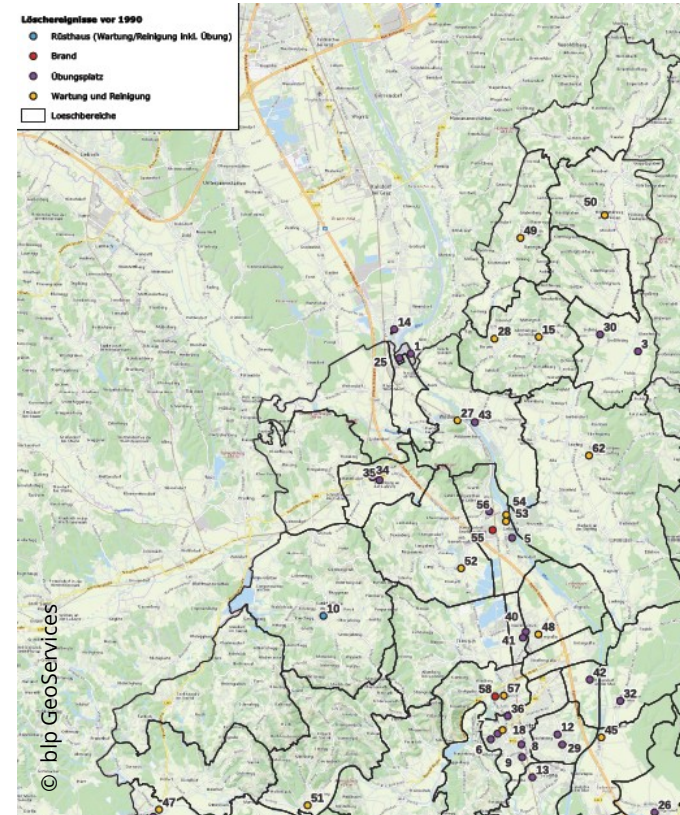
- Prepared by the Environment Agency Austria on behalf of the Ministry for Environment
- Legal Framework: Remediation Act with special focus on:
 - National program for the **identification** of historic industrial/commercial sites and old landfills
 - National program for the **investigation** of potentially PFAS contaminated sites
 - Remediation of PFAS-contaminated sites
 - Funding of R&D projects
- Institutions involved: ministry, provincial authorities, Environment Agency
- Published in May 2023:
https://altlasten.gv.at/Ueber_Altlasten/fachthemen/pfas-strategie-altlasten.html

Bundesministerium
Klimaschutz, Umwelt,
Energie, Mobilität,
Innovation und Technologie

**PFAS-Strategie im
Rahmen der Vollziehung des
Altlastensanierungsgesetzes**

IDENTIFICATION OF FIRE BRIGADE TRAINING SITES

- Not identified up to now: **fire brigade training sites** (about 5,000 fire brigades in AT)
- **Regional pilot project: completed** (rural district with 90,000 inhabitants → 100 sites identified)
 - Interviews (representatives of fire brigades)
 - localisation, classification of risk (type and amount of foams, training intensity)
- **Investigation** of 30 selected sites with different risk: ongoing
- Based on experiences from pilot project → national identification program



NATIONAL PFAS ACTION PLAN

Published by Ministry for Environment (2024): six “fields of activity”

1. Awareness raising: people, authorities, industry, science

→ Series of awareness workshops organized by Ministry of Environment and Environment Agency

2. Emission control

3. Groundwater protection

4. Drinking water protection

5. Food safety

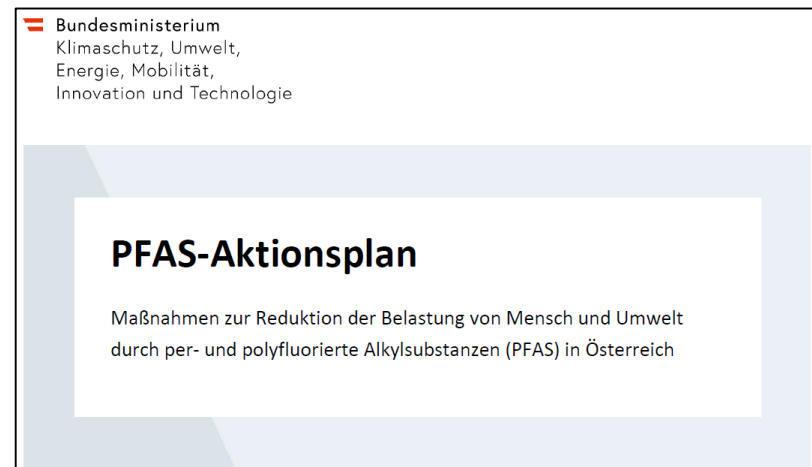
6. Protection of health

→ Current situation

→ Implementation and further development of legal basis

→ Strengthening data generation, research, innovation

→ Recommendations for action & specific measures



CONTACT & INFORMATION

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Berlin, 26 March 2025