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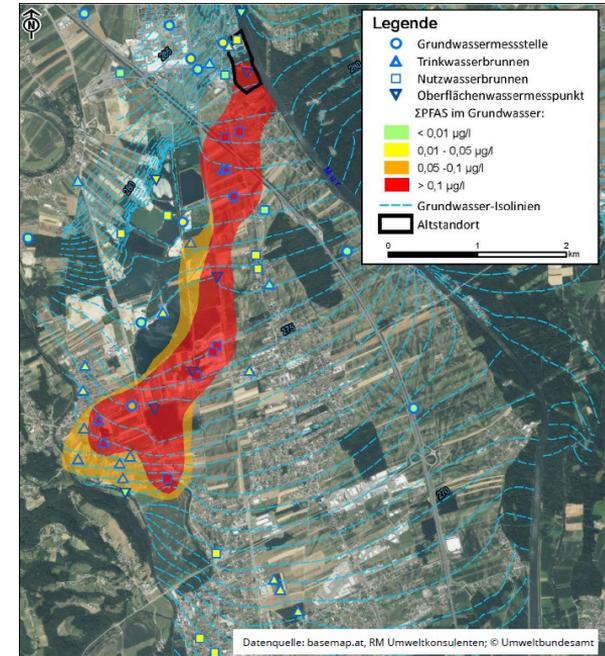
Conference „PFAS in soil – forever pollution, forever concern?“ on 25 – 26 March 2025 in Berlin, Germany

## 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 m<sup>3</sup> 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

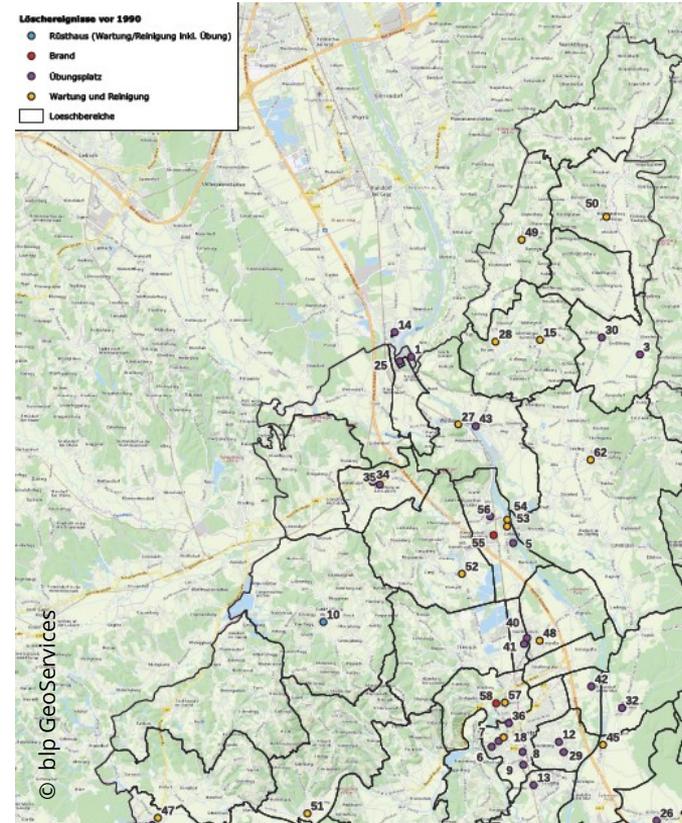
- Prepared by the Environment Agency Austria on behalf of the Ministry for Environment
- Legal Framework: Remediation Act with special focus on:
  - National program for the **identification** of historic industrial/commercial sites and old landfills
  - National program for the **investigation** of 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](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