



**PUBLIC NOTICE FROM WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP WATER & SEWER
DEPARTMENT (WTWSD)**

*“ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE
ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.”*

**WTWSD Takes Two Additional Wells Out of Service Due to Release of EPA Health Advisory for
Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA)**

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the Department monitors the quality of water removed from each of the groundwater wells used to provide public water to the eastern portion of the Township. The eastern portion of the Township is best described as that portion from Valley Rd to Folly Rd. The Department samples each well routinely for substances for which the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have set primary or secondary drinking water standards. As we reported to you in our annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), all Department in-service wells produce water, for the eastern portion of our system, which meets both the primary and secondary drinking water standards.

The 1996 amendments to the SDWA require that once every five years, the EPA issue a new list of *unregulated* contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWSs). The Unregulated Contaminant Rule (UCMR) provides EPA and other interested parties with scientifically valid data on the possible occurrence of non-regulated contaminants in drinking water. These data serve as a primary source of occurrence and exposure information that the agency uses to develop future regulatory decisions. In addition to conducting routine sampling required by the SDWA, the Department has also tested for substances that fall under the third round of UCMR (UCMR3).

On October 29, 2014, the Department received the first set of results from samples collected under UCMR3. At that time, three of the Department’s supply wells, namely wells 1, 2 and 6, were taken out of service due to the detection of Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) above the previous EPA Provisional Health Advisory (PHA) level of 0.2 parts per billion (ppb). Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) was also detected at that time, but below the previous PHA level of 0.4 parts per billion (ppb).

The PHA levels served as interim guidance while EPA continued its research on the chemicals. The science has since evolved and on May 19, 2016, EPA replaced PHA levels for PFOS and PFOA with a combined lifetime health advisory of 70 parts per trillion (ppt), which is equivalent to 0.07 parts per billion (ppb). This health advisory level offers a margin of protection to the most sensitive populations—pregnant women, fetuses, and breastfed infants—against adverse health effects from exposure to PFOS and PFOA in drinking water. The health advisories for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

Since the initial detection of PFOS and PFOA in the Department’s supply, the Department has continually monitored its active sources for these compounds. Upon the release of the lifetime health advisory, the Department immediately removed two additional wells from service: numbers 3 and 9. Throughout our monitoring of our public supply wells, results for wells 3 and 9 were below the Health Advisory in all but one sample. Out of an abundance of caution, wells 3 and 9 were shut off because a single result for each well exceeded the Health Advisory. PFOS and PFOA were also

detected in other Department sources but significantly below the health advisory level and are being continually monitored.

PFOS and PFOA have also been detected at elevated levels in groundwater on the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (“NASJRB”) and the existing Horsham Air Guard Station (HAGS). It is possible that the presence of PFOS and PFOA in the groundwater is related to historic activities at the former NASJRB and HAGS. The Navy, National Guard Bureau and EPA continue to sample multiple locations both on and off the respective military facilities and the impact to the groundwater associated with these operations is part of an ongoing cleanup effort for which regular public meetings through the NASJRB Restoration Advisory Board are held.

What is being done?

The Department has voluntarily removed five wells from service. The Department has been in discussion with the National Guard Bureau concerning amendments to our existing Cooperative Agreement to address the recent closures of wells 3 and 9. The Cooperative Agreement includes provisions to install treatment on public supply wells 1, 2 and 6, purchase supplemental water for water lost due to the closure of public supply wells 1, 2 and 6 and connect properties with private wells with levels above the health advisory level to the public supply.

The Department is purchasing water from North Wales Water Authority (NWWA) and all supply sources will continue to be monitored. Although it is not anticipated at this time, the possible need for future water conservation measures will be evaluated based on supply and demand.

What should you do?

The water supplied by the Department meets all standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act, including the health advisory standards introduced by the EPA on May 19, 2016 for PFOS and PFOA. All sources of supply, which were at any time, above the lifetime health advisory level have been removed from service. You do not need to take any action at your home, office or school. You do not need to boil your water or provide treatment at your tap. If you have specific health concerns, you should contact your healthcare professional.

What does this mean?

PFOS and PFOA are among several perfluorinated compounds that are used, or were once used, in a variety of commercial and consumer products, such as firefighting foam, stain and water repellants, paper products, the lining of microwave popcorn bags, floor wax and non-stick cookware.

PFOS and PFOA are persistent in the environment and it is estimated by health officials that perfluorinated compounds such as PFOS and PFOA are present in the blood of most people in the United States. Studies indicate that exposure to PFOS and PFOA over certain levels may result in adverse effects, including developmental effects, such as low birth weight, to fetuses during pregnancy or breastfed infants, testicular and/or kidney cancer, liver tissue damage, immune and thyroid effects and other effects such as cholesterol changes. Additional information is available at:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_updated_5.31.16.pdf

Please share this information with other people within the eastern portion of the Township who also receive water from Warrington Township Water and Sewer Department who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Warrington Township Water and Sewer Department. For more information please contact Christian R. Jones, Director at 215-343-1800.