



Opinion

LETTER: We cannot wait for EPA to act on water contamination

May 5, 2019 Comments

On May 6, leaders from across our region, the commonwealth and the country will gather in Upper Dublin to address the challenge of water contamination and its health consequences.

Article 1, Section 27 of Pennsylvania's Constitution guarantees all Pennsylvanians the right to clean water. Yet for years, water contaminated with PFAS chemicals has spilled off of the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove and into our region's ground water supply. These chemicals — long used in firefighting foam at military bases across the country — are linked to cancers, infertility, immune system problems and other health consequences. Unfortunately, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delayed the establishment of a Maximum Contaminant Level that would trigger mandatory cleanup efforts.

We cannot wait for the EPA to act.

On May 6, I will host members of Congress for a roundtable discussion on PFAS contamination in our drinking water. The conversation will include Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania Secretary of Environmental Protection Patrick McDonnell, experts in remediation, veterans groups, environmental leaders and local advocates.

I will also host a press conference to announce new PFAS legislation.

The press conference will be held at 12:30 p.m. at the Upper Dublin Township Building, 801 Loch Alsh Ave., Fort Washington, followed by the roundtable from 1 to 3 p.m. Both events are open to the public. I hope you'll join us!

— U.S. Rep. Madeleine Dean, D-4