



NEWS

Horsham water customers get up to \$190 reimbursement for PFAS costs

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Horsham Water and Sewer Authority ratepayers could be getting a \$190 check as payback for water cleanup costs from the unregulated chemicals known as PFAS.

The authority is reimbursing customers who paid surcharges between 2016 and 2019 through a \$1.43 million state grant program designed to reimburse residents after widespread drinking water contamination shuttered wells across the area.

“After years of working to make ratepayers whole, we are finally able to reimburse water customers for the costs of cleaning PFAS from our drinking water,” State Rep. Todd Stephens, R-151, of Horsham said during a check presentation Monday.

Decades of firefighting foam used at former and active military bases in Horsham, Warminster and Warrington led to public and private drinking water well shutdowns in May 2016.

The Environmental Protection Agency had then recently set a lifetime health advisory limit of 70 parts per trillion of PFAS in drinking water.

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Local, state and federal officials have been working toward a settlement with the military to ultimately pay for remediation efforts, but residents were left paying the upfront costs.

A state law introduced by Stephens last year created a way to repay residents using state tax dollars, then having the federal government repay the commonwealth.

The local Military Installation Remediation and Infrastructure Authority created earlier this year administers the grant programs for area water providers.

The Horsham grant was part of \$2.6 million award, including \$500,000 to Warminster Municipal Authority and \$742,691 to North Wales Water Authority.

This month's awards were part of the Quick Response Grant program to expeditiously repay ratepayers, while a larger grant program will likely see more awards at the end of this year.

More information about the grant programs can be found at www.themiria.org