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FEB 19 2019

HORSHAM WATER AND
SEWER AUTHORITY

Opinion

Guest Opinion: More questions about PFOA task forces

By Joseph P. McGrath Sr.

Posted at 5:44 AM

I have been reading the past couple of articles on the issue of PFOA. There are several points that I call into question.

First and foremost is the lack of any language where former employees and veterans are excluded from testing and surveying of what their experiences have been or what health conditions they may be experiencing. Who but the folks who were at the source can shed light on rate of exposure and length of exposure?

Some of these folks were commuters from other counties and states and are way outside of the scope of any local research. Many have moved on from the residence they once had and may be affected. Many of these folks are a phantom population where they are not even being sampled.

Second, the fact that we now have multiple state and federal task forces studying PFOA and making studies redundant and where the responsible parties will not share information. This process will only drag out any response when the source of contamination is well known and the party responsible is well known.

Third, I am aware Pennsylvania has taken a lead on securing funds to maintain clean water sources and studying at the state level the PFOA issue. I am seeing this as a federal issue and as I applaud Pennsylvania for their concern, I see where our federal officials are failing us to not keep this on the federal level and responsibility.

It remains a fact this situation does not affect 100 percent of Pennsylvania, and I believe the problem areas are identified. It is not fair where taxpayers throughout Pennsylvania who are not a part of any contamination, will have their taxes as a part of any study or remediation.

Lastly, take a look at the Route 611, Horsham corridor between Moreland Avenue and County Line Road. You will see properties that were once thriving now showing signs of blight, neglect and abandonment. Is this as a direct negative mark as a result of the PFOA issue? Maybe another task force is needed to study the effects of the PFOA issue.

I was listening to the broadcast of the EPA press release and did not really hear anything different from what we have heard before and stand by my feelings addressed earlier in this letter.

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