



Horsham Township Water Update – July 8, 2016



Horsham Township Announces Plan for Water Quality Improvements

Horsham Township Council and the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority (HWSA) announced today they have finalized a short term remediation plan to address the levels of perfluorochemicals (PFCs) found in Horsham's water supply as a result of U.S. Department of Defense activities on the Naval Air Base in Willow Grove.

All water provided by HWSA currently meets or exceeds all DEP and EPA drinking water quality standards. In fact, HWSA'S most recent testing verifies that all nine of the HWSA's active wells show PFC levels significantly below the new EPA Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 parts per trillion (ppt). However, in an effort to proactively address the presence of PFC's in the public water supply, Township Council elected to implement an aggressive remediation plan intended to bring average PFC concentration levels in the Township's water system to less than one ppt by the end of 2016.

The newly adopted water quality standard mandated by Council far exceeds any known published standard in the nation. Under the approved plan, Horsham will suspend the purchase of water from Aqua Pennsylvania, which currently supplies 400,000 gallons per day to the Township. Instead, the Township will increase the total gallons of water it purchases from North Wales to 1.2 million gallons per day. In addition, the HWSA, with the support of the Township, will install custom filters on five of its wells. The filters will address PFC levels in the wells, which are currently inactive, allowing them to be put back into service. A sixth well, which has PFC levels of five ppt, will continue to contribute to Horsham's total water supply. The U.S. Navy has committed to paying for the temporary and the permanent filters on the five wells that exceed the EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory level.

The plan was agreed upon by Council at its June 27 meeting. At that meeting, Council reviewed multiple remediation options, and selected the most aggressive of the options that were presented. The additional cost for this remediation option is estimated to be between \$2,750 and \$3,300 per day. Horsham Township Council will seek reimbursement for this expense from the Department of Defense, and has committed to having the plan fully in place by December 31, 2016.

More information on water quality concerns can be found at horshamwater-sewer.com and on Horsham Township's website, horsham.org. The Powerpoint presentation from the June 27th meeting is available on the Township's website.