



TOWNSHIP OF WARMINSTER

Office of the Township Manager

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Steven M. Wiesner
Interim Township Manager

August 21, 2014

Property Owner
106 W. Bristol Rd
WarminsterPa18974

RE: EPA to Test Private Drinking Water Wells

Dear ,

Warminster Township has been contacted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency regarding the identification of what are known as perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) in private drinking wells near the former Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) located in Warminster, PA. These compounds are used in many consumer products, and are also associated with the use of fire-fighting foams such as those historically used at the former NAWC.

While these substances are currently not a regulated contaminant, they have a provisional health advisory level established by the EPA. The EPA, on behalf of the U.S. Navy, is taking proactive steps to determine if additional actions are needed to protect human health.

The EPA has begun testing privately owned wells in a defined area surrounding the NAWC. You have received this letter because our records indicate that you may have a private drinking well. If you are determined to be in the testing area, you will be hearing directly from the EPA, if you have not already. If the EPA contacts you or has contacted you, we encourage you to allow the EPA to test your well and follow their instructions. If you have any questions, please contact:

Larry Brown, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

Brown.larry@epa.gov

215-814-5527

Sarah Kloss, EPA Remedial Project Manager

Kloss.sarah@epa.gov

215-814-3379

Attached is an informational flyer from the EPA regarding this matter which may answer many of your questions. In addition, an informational session is being hosted by the EPA and the Navy at William Tennent High School on Wednesday, August 27, 2014 from 5-9 PM.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Wiesner
Interim Township Manager



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC
INFORMATION
SESSION**

**PERFLUORINATED
COMPOUNDS
IN DRINKING WATER**



**FORMER NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER
WARMINSTER, PA**

The U.S. Navy is hosting a public information session on August 27, 2014, at William Tennent High School to share information with the public on actions taken in response to the identification of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) in drinking water at public and private water wells near the Former Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster (NAWC), Pennsylvania. Representatives from the Navy will be joined by representatives from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and the Warminster Municipal Authority. These agencies are working together to address this issue.

Perfluorinated compounds, including perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), have been identified in groundwater and drinking water near the former NAWC. These compounds are used in many consumer products and are often associated with the use of fire-fighting foams such as those historically used at the former NAWC. Samples taken recently in public drinking water supply wells located near NAWC by the Warminster Municipal Authority showed levels of PFOS above EPA's provisional health advisory level (HAL). In response, two public drinking water supply wells have been taken off line, and EPA is sampling privately owned wells, on behalf of the Navy, to take additional actions if needed to protect human health.

The session will be an Open House format with multiple information displays manned by the various agency representatives, who will be available to talk one-on-one with residents and answer questions about PFOA and PFOS. Residents are encouraged to attend anytime between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. If you have questions about the meeting, please contact (215) 897-4900 or visit this website: http://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac_bases/northeast/former_warfare_center_warminster.html

**Wednesday, August 27, 2014
5 to 9 p.m.**

**William Tennent High School
333 Centennial Road
Warminster, PA 18974**



NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER WARMINSTER COMMUNITY FACT SHEET EPA TO TEST PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELLS

Warminster, PA

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hscd/npl/PA6170024545.htm>

July 2014

PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELLS TO BE TESTED FOR PERFLUOROOCCTANOIC ACID (PFOA) AND PERFLUOROOCCTANE SULFONATE (PFOS)

At the request of the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing technical expertise to determine if private drinking water wells in the area of the former Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC), Warminster, PA, have been impacted by PFOA and PFOS. EPA is coordinating closely with the U.S. Navy, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), and the Warminster Township Municipal Authority (WTMA) to ensure that public health is protected.

Samples taken recently by the WTMA in public wells show levels of PFOS above EPA's *provisional health advisory level (HAL)*. In response, two public drinking water production wells have been taken off-line and EPA is requesting access to sample private residential wells. Results will determine if additional actions are needed to protect human health and the environment.

EPA SEEKS PERMISSION TO SAMPLE PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELLS

Representatives from the EPA have begun contacting users of private drinking water wells to obtain permission to take samples from those wells.

The purpose of the sampling is to determine if levels of PFOS and PFOA are present in drinking water above the provisional HALs and if actions are necessary to ensure that people have access to an alternate water supply.

The sampling is being done at no cost to private well users and the results are expected to be available within two to three weeks. To have your well tested, please contact:

Ruth Scharr, EPA On-Scene Coordinator
Scharr.ruth@epa.gov
215-814-3191 or 215 756-7897 (cell)

Larry Brown, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator
Brown.larry@epa.gov
215-814-5527

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

We understand that the community may have additional questions and concerns about potential exposure to PFOA and PFOS. We will continue to consult with our health agency partners to provide additional information as it becomes available.

Q: Can I continue to drink the public water?

A: Yes. The WTMA well that had PFOS at a level exceeding the provisional HAL has been taken off-line until a treatment system can be installed. The wells that WTMA is utilizing at this time are unaffected by PFOS so that residents can continue to drink public water.

Q: What if I use a private drinking water well?

A: At this time, we do not have data about private drinking water wells in the area which is why the Navy has requested EPA's expertise to conduct sampling activities.

If samples show PFOS or PFOA levels above the provisional HALs, EPA will work with the U.S. Navy and our local and state partners to ensure private wells users have access to an alternate water supply.

Q: What Happened?

A: One of the Warminster supply wells was recently sampled for PFOS and found to have PFOS levels above EPA's provisional HAL. PFOS was also detected in other supply wells but not above the provisional HAL. WTMA has notified its customers about this water quality information.

In the past, other contaminants have been identified in the vicinity of the former NAWC base, a condition the U.S. Navy has and continues to investigate and cleanup.

Q: What are Provisional Health Advisory Levels (HALs)?

A: In 2009, EPA issued provisional HALs for PFOS and PFOA for which there are no drinking water standards.

While EPA continues its research into the impacts of these chemicals on human health and the environment, provisional HALs serve as informal technical guidance designed to assist federal, state and local officials in evaluating threats to local water supplies. Provisional HALs are not federally enforceable standards and are subject to change as new information becomes available.

In 2013, the EPA required many public water systems, including the WTMA, to sample for a group of 28 unregulated contaminants, including PFOS and PFOA.

Q: What adverse health effects may be associated with exposure to PFOS and PFOA?

A: Studies indicate that PFOA and PFOS can cause developmental, reproductive, and other adverse effects in laboratory animals. The most consistent findings from epidemiology studies are elevated serum total cholesterol levels among exposed populations with more limited findings related to low infant birth weights.

Q: What is being done?

A: The WTMA has taken Supply Well No. 26 off-line, along with Supply Well No. 13 which is in close proximity to the NAWC.

EPA, the U.S. Navy, PADEP and the WTMA are currently evaluating possible response actions, including treatment options for those wells.

The WTMA took additional samples from the affected public wells in early June 2014 and expects the results by late June 2014.

In addition, the U.S. Navy has requested EPA expertise to sample private drinking water wells to determine if PFOS is present at levels above the provisional HAL.

Q: What are PFOA and PFOS?

A: PFOA and PFOS are organic chemicals used in repellants for stains, water, oil, and grease. Commercial and consumer products containing or degrading to these compounds were first introduced in the 1950s. They have been used in a variety of products such as the fabric of upholstered furniture, carpets, nonstick cookware, floor wax, and the lining of microwave popcorn bags. Firefighting foams also contain these chemicals. Over time, both chemicals became widely distributed in the environment and have been detected in the blood of humans, wildlife, and fish.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

EPA information on PFOA and PFOS

<http://www.epa.gov/oppt/pfoa/pubs/pfoainfo.html>

EPA drinking water health advisories

<http://water.epa.gov/drink/standards/hascience.cfm>

EPA's 2014 draft health effects for PFOA and PFOS

<http://peerreview.versar.com/epa/pfoa/>

Ongoing cleanup at the former NAWC

<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hscd/npl/PA6170024545.htm>

CONTACT US

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Scharr.ruth@epa.gov or 215-814-3191 or
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Larry Brown, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator

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Sarah Kloss, EPA Federal Facility Remedial Project Manager

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