



February 1, 2016

To Our Customers:

The purpose of this letter is to update our water users on work being done in coordination with EPA and the Navy related to the presence of perfluorocarbons (PFCs) in some of the groundwater in this area. At this point PFCs in groundwater are believed to be attributable to historic activities at the former Johnsville and Willow Grove Naval Air Bases, where the Navy, the Air Force (Air National Guard) and EPA are conducting studies to evaluate the extent of the impacts.

This Authority first discovered PFCs in water supply wells from sampling performed in late 2013. That sampling program was part of a regulatory initiative by EPA called the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule-3 (UCMR-3) which asked water suppliers like the Authority to begin looking for 28 “new” compounds EPA was evaluating. As a result of that sampling, groundwater in eight of the Authority’s eighteen water supply wells was found to contain PFCs. There is no current drinking water standard for PFCs, although EPA has established a *provisional* Health Advisory Level (pHAL) for PFCs while it reviews data and considers whether a formal drinking water standard is needed.

One of the Authority’s wells (Well No. 26) had PFCs above the pHAL. Two other wells (Well Nos. 10 and 13) had PFCs close to the pHAL. After receiving the results and consulting with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which issues the permit for our system, all three of these wells were taken out of service, two right away, and the third (Well No. 10) shortly after valve work was done to assure it could be taken off line without impacting water pressure in the system.

Our public water system is an interconnection of wells, water mains and tanks. We have eighteen wells (fifteen now) that feed into this interconnected system, as well as an interconnection with the North Wales Water Authority from whom we purchase additional water. Therefore, at any point in the system the water will likely come from multiple wells and/or purchased water.

The Navy is providing us in excess of \$4.3 million to pay for the purchased water and reimburse us for the design and installation of treatment systems for the three impacted wells. None of the three wells will be put back into service unless and until we are satisfied that the treatment systems will remove PFCs to *below* the provisional EPA standard. We expect the systems to be installed and the testing to begin late this Summer and into the Fall.

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In the meantime, some of the residents in our community who are not on public water have or are having their wells tested for PFCs by EPA or the Navy's consultants. If PFCs are found in these private wells above the pHAL, we understand the Navy will be providing those residents with bottled water, and are offering to pay to connect them to our water supply system. We have connected additional homes to our system and installed a new water main in Kirk and Newtown Roads.

We continue to participate with the Navy in public meetings to stay current on the PFC issues. We understand EPA and the Navy will be conducting another public meeting, probably in May, to review where they are in the process of their investigation of PFCs, and to answer any questions you may have on this subject.

We want you to be assured that the water delivered from our system to your home continues to meet all Safe Drinking Water Act standards, and we will continue to sample and monitor our systems to assure that remains the case.

If you have any questions about what we are doing with our system, please do not hesitate to contact our office. If you have questions about PFCs, please visit EPA's website using the search terms "PFCs" or "perfluorocarbons."

Sincerely,



Timothy D. Hagey
General Manager

TDH/bz