



At Aqua Pennsylvania, our mission is to protect and provide Earth's most essential resource. We vigilantly guard the safety and quality of our customers' drinking water every day. When something interferes with that mission, we take it very seriously. Here, we outline the PFAS issue in southeast Pennsylvania, and steps we're taking to address it.

Background on PFAS in Southeast Pennsylvania

In recent years, the presence of two contaminants – Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), known as parts of the PFAS family of chemicals, in drinking water supplies has become a concern in areas of eastern Montgomery County and Bucks County where groundwater contamination from PFAS is believed to originate from nearby military bases.

In May 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, charged with setting standards for drinking water safety and quality, replaced its 2009 provisional health advisories for PFAS with a lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion for both contaminants, assigning a lower advisory level for the chemicals in our water. This level is not currently a regulatory limit. Residents, community leaders, elected officials and water utilities, including Aqua, have urged the EPA to adopt a scientifically based strong regulation, address the source of the contamination, and provide recommendations for effective treatment. **It's important to note all active Aqua water sources, including your drinking water source, have always fallen below that health advisory level.**

Aqua's PFAS Action Plan in Upper Dublin

Without additional guidance from the EPA on a PFAS regulation, Aqua continues to move forward with and expand our plan to address PFAS in the communities we serve. Our PFAS action plan employs a tiered approach, starting with systems of highest PFAS concentrations and evaluating the best actions for each. This plan includes evaluating the use of various sources to meet water supply demands, considering their PFAS concentrations, to understand the relative contribution of each source in overall system operation and importance to overall water safety; reviewing and anticipating related operational expenses where necessary; and adjusting or removing sources of supply.

We have started engineering design for granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment at **Aiden Lair well in Upper Dublin Township**. After design is complete, it will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for permit approval, as well as local permits required for construction. We will request that all permit reviews be expedited. Upon receipt of permits we will immediately move into the construction and start-up of these facilities. We are hopeful that the entire process will take about six to nine months. We remain committed to updating the community as we continue to progress on this timeline.

Aqua's Ongoing Efforts to Address PFAS

Aqua's PFAS plan builds off the actions Aqua has taken over the past two years to further address this important issue. These include:

- Investing in equipment for regular in-house testing to guide decision-making;
- Installation of GAC filters on two systems with the highest level of PFAS in 2017, ensuring all active water sources are below the 70 PPT health advisory level;
- Completing engineering evaluations of the Neshaminy water treatment plant and evaluating impacts of the National Guard's treatment system on levels in the creek; and
- Continually evaluating alternative treatment options, including ion exchange resins and other technologies.

Beyond operational efforts, Aqua is committed to educating customers and the public on PFAS through our dedicated website, WaterFacts.com, and through meetings with stakeholders. These actions include:

- Regularly sharing updated laboratory results and PFAS information on WaterFacts.com, and sending notifications each time new results are posted;
- Hosting information sessions with affected township and state officials so communities stay informed;
- Attending meetings with the U.S. Navy, Air Force, EPA, PA Department of Environmental Protection and other agencies to learn more about local and national efforts to address PFAS; and
- Being proactive participants surrounding this issue on the national level, participating in the May 2018 National Leadership Summit by the EPA on PFAS.

While we have and are continuing to take action on wells with the highest concentrations of PFAS, instituting this action plan for all sources is ongoing and may take some time due in part to the regional and interconnected nature of our systems, which requires coordination with various local, state and federal stakeholders. As an industry leader, Aqua remains steadfast in its commitment to addressing this issue and we look forward to the EPA and DEP issuing a rule that will help further guide our actions.

Please visit WaterFacts.com for up-to-date information on how Aqua is addressing PFAS in your community and to sign up for alerts when additional information is posted.

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