



Township of Abington

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Michael Thompson
Commissioner - Ward 6

September 11, 2018

Abington Township Public Water Quality Update

ABINGTON, PA- On July 25, 2018 the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held a community engagement meeting in Horsham, PA to discuss Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), which include Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). This meeting demonstrated a lack of consensus amongst the scientific and health agencies on the health effects of PFAS exposure, with the revelation that the Centers for Disease Control, via the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) released a DRAFT report called *Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls*, that challenges the EPA's existing health advisory levels. In response, Abington Township officials immediately began working with State Representative Madeleine Dean on the removal of Aqua PA's North Hills well from Abington's public water supply as it demonstrated the highest concentrations of PFOA and PFOS in Aqua PA's Abington water supply sources.

The North Hills well was temporarily taken offline on July 27, 2018 and transitioned to the Abington well which has significantly lower levels of PFOA and PFOS. It is important to note that PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS, are not regulated by the federal or state government. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has placed a "lifetime health advisory level" of 70 parts per trillion (PPT) for a combined limit for two PFAS chemicals, PFOA and PFOS. The EPA's "lifetime health advisory level" does not require these chemicals be tested for or remediated if found. Any actions taken to limit the amount of PFAS in public water is at the discretion of the public water provider. All Abington public water supply sources are and have been under the EPA's lifetime health advisory levels of combined concentrations of 70 parts per trillion (PPT). Aqua PA has monitored the PFOA and PFOS levels in their water supply sources since 2016 and have not had a single incident where combined concentration of these chemicals exceeded the EPA's health advisory level of 70 PPT in Abington. To view all readings, please visit Aqua PA's website at www.waterfacts.com.

Please note that Abington Township has no authority or jurisdiction over the current public water system provider. All public water in our Township is serviced by Aqua Pennsylvania (Aqua PA) who is regulated by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. We, alongside many of you, are working tirelessly to ensure that Aqua PA is held to the highest standard in providing our residents with safe drinking water that has no detectable levels of PFAS.

Our Board of Commissioners continues to work with Aqua PA examining every aspect of our business relationship in order to assure that they are doing all that they should be doing to protect our residents; including installing Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) or Ionized Resin filters on their water supply sources to reduce the levels of PFAS compounds to non-detectable limits, and working with our State and Federal agencies, legislators and the PA Public Utility Commission to assure that



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they, regulate and legislate these chemicals.

At a public officials meeting hosted by Aqua PA on August 28, 2018, Aqua PA stated they will work to ensure all their customers understand PFAS and their action plan. Aqua PA will be using their website, <http://www.waterfacts.com> to host information related to PFAS and are encouraging residents to register to receive email updates. Registration can be found on the right-hand side of this page: <http://www.waterfacts.com/monitoring/>.

The Township has initiated and established a partnership with Upper Dublin, Cheltenham, and Springfield Townships in developing an approach to addressing the public water quality in our area. To date, these municipalities have passed resolutions in support of House Bill 705 which seeks to set more stringent limits on PFOA and PFOS chemical levels in our drinking water.

The Township has been working diligently with local partners and elected officials on developing a strategy to address the prevalence of Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in the public water system provided by Aqua Pennsylvania (Aqua PA). The Board of Commissioners and Township leadership are committed to protecting the health and safety of all residents, visitors and customers of the Township. We have developed a list of "Frequently Asked Questions" and resources to help our residents and businesses begin to understand and make their own judgement of this issue. This information, as well as, any updates we receive will also be posted to our website at www.abington.org. We also encourage you to follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AbingtonTownship where we will link to posted information.

END

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