

MADELEINE DEAN, MEMBER
153RD LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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JUDICIARY
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PA COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

CAUCUSES
PA SAFE, CHAIR
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
SOUTHEAST
WOMEN'S
WOMEN'S HEALTH
GOVERNMENT REFORM

August 13, 2018

Mr. Robert Bender, President
North Wales Water Authority
200 West Walnut Street
P. O. Box 1339
North Wales, PA 19454

Dear Mr. Bender:

I am concerned about the safety of our region's drinking water, and my office has worked to provide information and transparency to residents. To that end, I am writing to request information about North Wales Water Authority's (NWWA) testing for PFCs in the drinking water it supplies, and to request that you publicly share those results.

Your website asserts that NWWA monitors for PFCs and reports the results to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the PA Department of Environmental Protection. However, PFC testing results are not listed on your website. I ask that you post testing dates and results.

Additionally, if PFCs are present in NWWA supplies, I ask that you share what steps are being taken to bring that level to non-detect.

NWWA does not directly supply water within my legislative district. However, NWWA has repeatedly been suggested as an alternate supplier in Abington and Upper Dublin while Aqua works to eliminate known contamination in its supplies. It is important for the community to know if there are PFCs in the water NWWA supplies.

It is imperative for the health and safety of the community that all local water suppliers monitor, remediate, and prevent PFC contamination in our drinking water.

I appreciate your timely attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Madeleine Dean".

Madeleine Dean
State Representative
153rd Legislative District

7TH DISTRICT

VINCENT HUGHES

SENATE BOX 203007
THE STATE CAPITOL
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-3007
717-787-7112
FAX: 717-772-0579

2401 NORTH 54TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19131
215-879-7777
FAX: 215-879-7778

EMAIL: hughes@pasenate.com
TWITTER: @senatorhughes



Senate of Pennsylvania

August 20, 2018

STANDING COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS, DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN
COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
FINANCE
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PA MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEMS BOARD

Mr. Robert Bender
North Wales Water Authority
200 West Walnut Street
P. O. Box 1339
North Wales, PA 19454

Dear Mr. Bender,

A growing number of constituents within the 7th Senatorial District have reached out to my office to express concerns regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) water contamination stemming from firefighter foam used at the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove. In response, I am requesting that you provide my office with all available details on the steps that have been, and will be, taken by the North Wales Water Authority to ensure that safe water is delivered to constituents of the 7th Senatorial District. I also ask that you supply information pertaining to efforts to notify affected customers about the contamination and the steps the North Wales Water Authority is taking to address it.

Additionally, with the start of the school year fast approaching, I respectfully ask that you provide my office with the following:

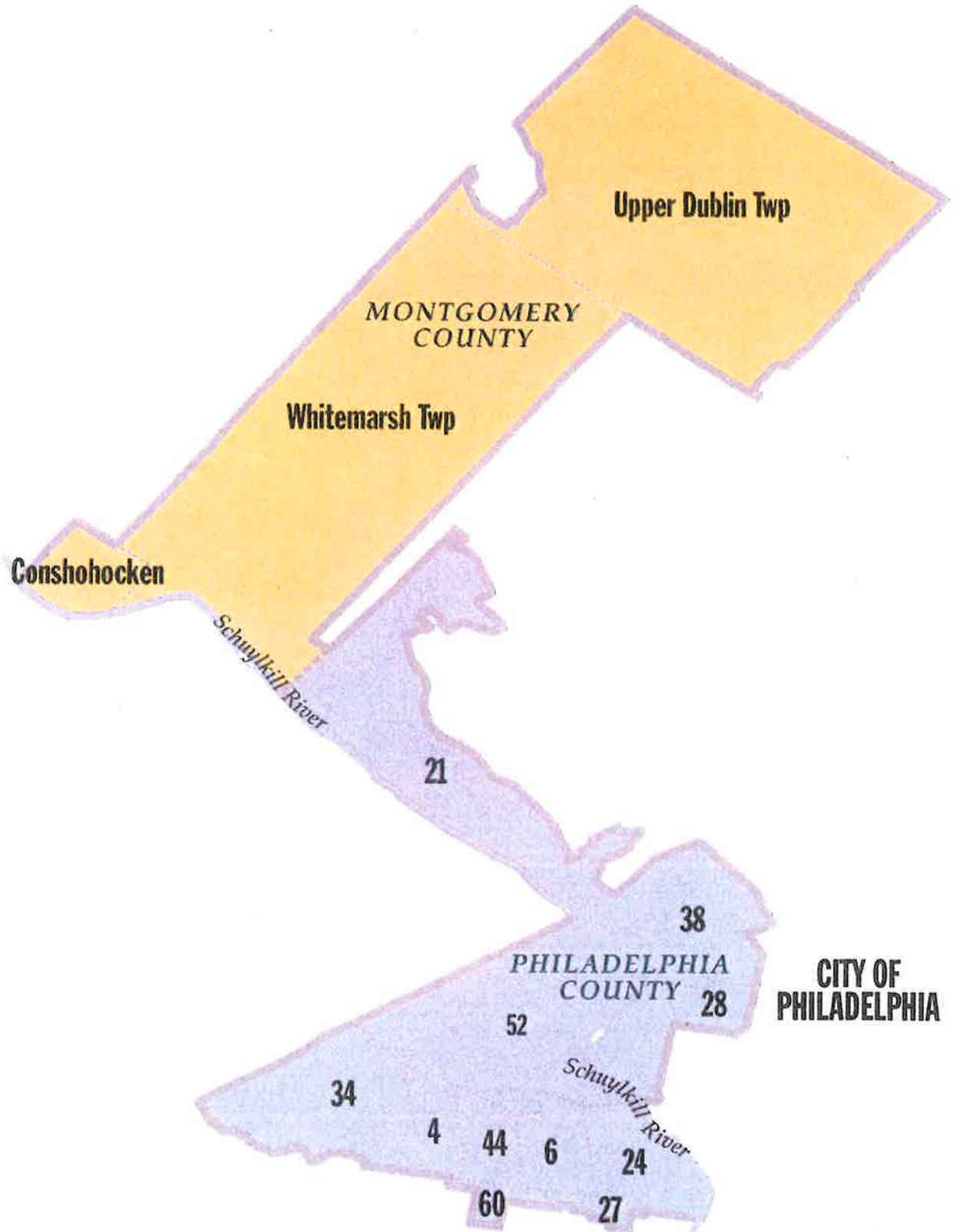
1. A listing of any schools serviced by the North Wales Water Authority in the 7th Senatorial District that have been impacted by the contamination;
2. The water source for each impacted school;
3. Test results of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), and any other contaminate related PFAS for each source; and
4. Any corrective action that has been, or will be taken, for sources listed.

I also ask that the relevant information requested above, as well as necessary background regarding the contamination, be shared with each impacted school to inform students and employees.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Zachary Ross in my office at (717) 783-1217.

Sincerely,

Vincent J. Hughes, State Senator
7th Senatorial District



(8th District - Senator Vincent Hughes)

STATE SENATOR

VINCENT HUGHES
DEMOCRATIC APPROPRIATIONS CHAIR

(<http://www.senatorhughes.com>)   

7th District

Montgomery County

- Conshohocken
- Upper Dublin
- Whitemarsh Township

North Philadelphia

- Allegheny West
- Hunting Park
- Strawberry Mansion

Northwest Philadelphia

- East Falls
- Manayunk
- Roxborough
- Wissahickon
- Andorra

West Philadelphia

Whitemarsh Township

616 Germantown Pike

Lafayette Hill, PA 19444

HOURS OF OPERATION

Thursday • Noon – 4:00 P .M.

Upper Dublin Township

801 Loch Alsh Avenue

Fort Washington, PA 19034

HOURS OF OPERATION

Friday • Noon – 4:00 P.M.



District Office



NORTH WALES WATER AUTHORITY
200 WEST WALNUT STREET, P.O. BOX 1339
NORTH WALES, PA 19454-0339 • 215-699-4836 • fax 215-699-8037
WWW.NWWATER.COM

Pure water, quality service...naturally

August 28, 2018

The Honorable Vincent J. Hughes
Pennsylvania State Senator
2401 North 54th Street
Philadelphia, PA. 19131

Re: North Wales Water Authority

Dear Senator Hughes,

We are responding to your letter of August 20, 2018, requesting additional information about the quality of water we provide to constituents of your Senatorial District.

After reviewing our service area map in comparison to the Senatorial District map located on your website, we have determined that we do provide water service to a small portion of your district within a portion of Upper Dublin Township. We have about 3,200 customers in that area. (Enclosed is a *copy of our service area for your reference*). We currently serve two public school facilities within that area, being the Maple Glen Elementary School and Bus Garage, both located along Fort Washington Ave. We also serve a Temple University satellite. We are not aware of any PFC impact to any of these facilities.

Please be advised that in accordance with our longstanding operational policies, and public notification regulations, we continually provide accurate information about our water supplies and quality to all of our customers, including all schools, and municipalities.

Information about our water quality is continually available on our Website, (www.nwwater.com) and is regularly forwarded to our customers within the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). (*copy enclosed*). We also provide information on our operations within our Annual Report, by special postings on our website, as well as regular communications with representatives all of the municipalities we serve.

In addition to the above, we also maintain a 24-hour per day public notification communications system - specifically to provide rapid communications and emergency information to our customers. Should any emergency or contamination issue occur within our system, we can quickly advise our customers and our municipalities, also reporting any issues of concern to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources. (PaDEP). *If the situation is expected to impact any school facility, it is our policy to make direct telephone contact with school officials to confirm their receipt of the emergency notification and to answer any questions they may have.*



A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



FOREST PARK WATER
CLEARLY THE FINEST

As to the question of PFC contamination stemming from the former Naval Air Supply Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove, please be advised that we have not experienced the PCF (PFOS or PFOA) contamination within our system as have many neighboring systems. This difference is because unlike the municipalities and water suppliers located within proximity to the Willow Grove Base, our water supply intake to the plant is located at the Delaware River - *many miles away and upstream from the Willow Grove Military Base and the suspected contamination plume.* (Also enclosed is a DVD providing detailed information about our treatment plant and this intake).

The water entering and leaving our treatment plant is regularly tested for many contaminants, including PFC's. Our testing results have never been out of compliance, and in fact, we have consistently tested at or close (single digits) to the non-detect level. (Attached is information about this testing- also posted on our website).

Perhaps the best evidence of our water quality and excellence in operations is the fact that when several local municipalities and water providers discovered contamination in their water supplies - they turned to the NWWA for assistance – seeking a safe and clean alternative. As such we have recently supplied water from our Forest Park plant to Aqua PA., as well as to Horsham, Warminster, and Warrington Townships, all of which were dealing with PFC contamination issues.

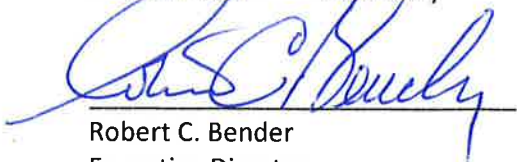
However, we are not content to be just “good enough.” We are continually working to improve, as evidenced by our repeated receipt of the prestigious AWWA Operational Excellent Award, which we are scheduled to receive again this year. As you may know, our facilities have won awards on both the State and National level numerous times. (See enclosure)

Please rest assured that the water we provide to all of our customers, including all within your Senatorial District, is of the highest quality, complies with all regulations. Further, we fully intend that this water will continue to be the very best in our entire region - as we continue working diligently to improve and advance all water technologies dealing with all issues of concern, and as we continue to improve service to each of our customers.

Should you be interested, we would be pleased to schedule a tour of our treatment facilities, so that you are more fully aware of our processes, testing, and ultimately, the high quality of the water we deliver.

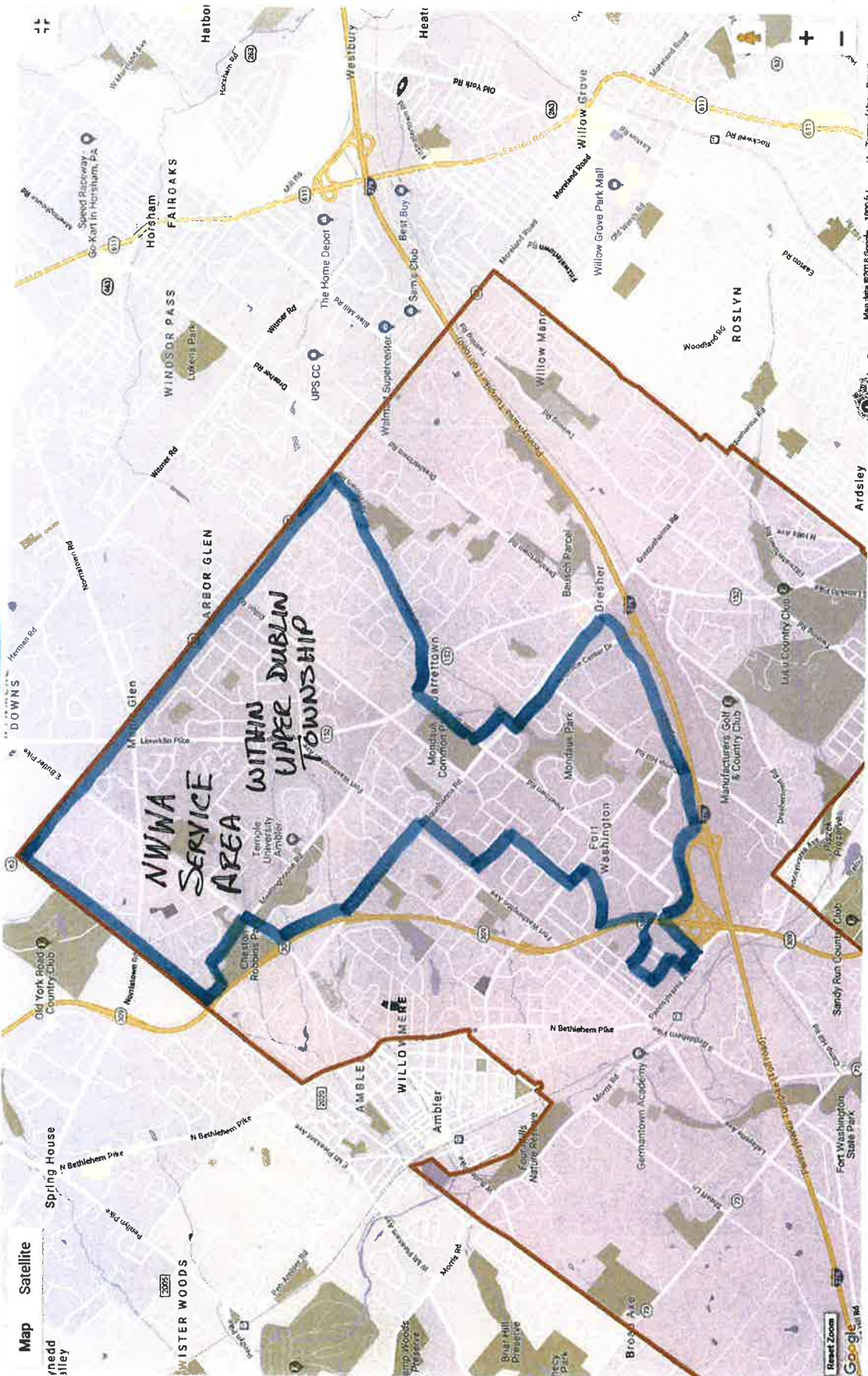
Please feel free to contact me directly if you wish to arrange a tour, or if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,
North Wales Water Authority



Robert C. Bender
Executive Director

NWNA SERVICE AREA 2018





Forest Park Water Treatment Plant (FPWTP) Receives Two Prestigious Awards for Excellence

Forest Park Water Treatment Plant (FPWTP), a state-of-the-art water treatment facility jointly owned and operated by North Penn and North Wales Water Authorities, recently received two prestigious awards highlighting the treatment plants excellent water quality. The American Water Works Association's Partnership for Safe Water Program awarded FPWTP with the "President's Award" for the 6th straight year and the Water Works Operators' Association's will present FPWTP with the prestigious Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) Award for the 10th straight year in September.



Forest Park Water Treatment Plant is one of only six facilities in the U.S. to achieve the "Presidents Award" of recognition from the American Water Works Association's Partnership for Safe Water six years in a row. The program is a volunteer initiative developed by the US Environmental Protection Agency, American Water Works Association (AWWA) and other water organizations representing water suppliers striving to provide their communities with drinking water quality that surpasses the required regulatory standards, through treatment plant and distribution system optimization. The President's Award recognizes achieving very stringent individual filter performance turbidity goals,

signifying the outstanding operations and maintenance practices at this high performing water treatment plant.

For the 10th straight year, FPWTP received the prestigious Area-Wide Optimization Award (AWOP) that is presented by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). The award is meant to recognize outstanding efforts toward optimizing water treatment performance. AWOP is known as a national optimization effort among a total of 22 states, the EPA, and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA).



Forest Park Water



A PARTNERSHIP



North Wales Water Authority

PFOS SAMPLING AT FOREST PARK WATER TREATMENT PLANT

SAMPLE DATE		PFOS
YEAR	MONTH	
2016	JUNE	ND
2016	OCTOBER	ND
2016	NOVEMBER	ND
2016	DECEMBER	ND
2017	JANUARY	ND
2017	FEBRUARY	ND
2017	MARCH	2.1
2017	APRIL	ND
2017	MAY	ND
2017	JUNE	ND
2017	JULY	ND
2017	AUGUST	ND
2017	SEPTEMBER	ND
2017	NOVEMBER	ND
2017	DECEMBER	ND
2018	JANUARY	ND
2018	FEBRUARY	2.0
2018	MARCH	ND
2018	APRIL	ND
2018	MAY	2.3
2018	JUNE	2.3

NOTE: ALL RESULTS ARE IN PARTS PER TRILLION (PPT).

PFOA SAMPLING AT FOREST PARK WATER TREATMENT PLANT

SAMPLE DATE		PFOA
YEAR	MONTH	
2016	JUNE	ND
2016	OCTOBER	ND
2016	NOVEMBER	ND
2016	DECEMBER	2.2
2017	JANUARY	2.6
2017	FEBRUARY	2.0
2017	MARCH	2.8
2017	APRIL	2.9
2017	MAY	2.9
2017	JUNE	3.0
2017	JULY	3.0
2017	AUGUST	2.8
2017	SEPTEMBER	2.3
2017	NOVEMBER	2.5
2017	DECEMBER	2.4
2018	JANUARY	3.3
2018	FEBRUARY	3.4
2018	MARCH	3.2
2018	APRIL	3.0
2018	MAY	4.1
2018	JUNE	4.2

NOTE: ALL RESULTS ARE IN PARTS PER TRILLION (PPT).

BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times

Chalfont area well closed after contaminated water detected

By James Boyle

Posted Jul 19, 2016 at 12:01 AM

Updated Jul 19, 2016 at 11:00 AM

Chalfont, New Britain and New Britain Township have become the latest communities to shut down a public well because of contamination.

Aqua Pennsylvania alerted residents Friday that test results from one of three wells showed a high level of perfluorinated compounds. The well contained 68 ppt of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), according to a company statement. The level is below the 70 ppt health advisory threshold set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in May.

The result prompted Aqua Pennsylvania to take the well offline, leaving it as a backup for a fire emergency. An Aqua spokeswoman declined to identify the location of the well, citing company policy not to disclose that information. The other two wells in the Chalfont-New Britain water system tested at 9.6 ppt and 24 ppt for the chemicals and remain in use.

“We were concerned about how the system would perform this past weekend with the heat,” said Donna Alston, communications manager for Aqua Pennsylvania. “The two remaining wells provided an adequate supply in the extraordinary heat.”

A retest of the tainted well is underway; results will take about a month, said Alston.

The water company is close to an agreement with North Penn Water Authority, which would be a backup source and provide water based on demand. *(OUR FOREST PARK PLANT)*

Public and private wells in Warminster, Warrington, Horsham and Doylestown Township have been shut down after water tests showed high amounts of PFOS and PFOA in the past two years. The source of the chemicals has not been officially determined.

The chemicals’ presence in firefighting foams commonly used for decades at naval air bases has led many to point fingers at the former Naval Air Warfare Center in Warminster and the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station-Joint Reserve Base in Horsham and the active Horsham Air Guard Station, where many of the contaminated wells are located.

The U.S. Navy has agreed to pay at least \$19 million for filtration systems on the public wells, provide bottled water to affected residents until their drinking water is cleared and pay for private well users to get connected to the public system.

The answer to where the chemicals came from is not as apparent for communities like Chalfont and New Britain. The boroughs and New Britain Township are about 8 miles from the nearest military base -- the Horsham Air Guard Station.

The Chalfont-New Britain system is not part of Aqua Pennsylvania's larger Neshaminy Creek Plant, which is in Middletown and fed by the Neshaminy Creek. Two weeks ago, the water company announced that 14 ppt of PFOS and 6.6 ppt of PFOA were present in water tested at the Neshaminy Creek plant, which serves approximately 38,000 customers in Bucks and Montgomery counties.

"Chalfont is a satellite system," said Alston. "It's a standalone and not part of the Neshaminy Creek system."

An expert studying the movement of PFCs in the environment told this news organization two weeks ago that PFOS and PFOA are not naturally occurring and can come from a variety of sources, such as military bases, landfills and wastewater plants.

"(The chemicals) are coming from somewhere ... not all groundwater is going to have these compounds in it," said Christopher Higgins, an associate professor with the Colorado School of Mines' department of civil and environmental engineering.

James Boyle: 215-345-3066; email: jjboyle@calkins.com; Twitter: [@jamesboylejr](https://twitter.com/jamesboylejr)