

## PFC Sampling - Aqua Pennsylvania



Due to recent concerns raised over PFOA and PFOS in the Horsham area of Eastern Montgomery County, Aqua is posting recent results of PFOA and PFOS testing in our service area.

Prior to 2016, all PFOA and PFOS sampling took place at water sources and at frequencies prescribed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This sampling did not detect any PFOA or PFOS, with the exception of a well in Bristol Township that had a PFOA concentration of 26 parts per trillion in 2013 and 20 parts per trillion in 2014. These levels were well below the EPA Health Advisory Level (HAL) for PFOA and PFOS and we communicated these results to customers in our annual Consumer Confidence Reports.

In 2016, the EPA combined the HAL for PFOA and PFOS and established a lower HAL for these compounds. In April 2016, a more sensitive testing method that can detect concentrations as low as 1 part per trillion was used to begin testing our water supply sources used to supply the Horsham Township area of Eastern Montgomery County. PFOA and PFOS were detected at levels well below the HAL of 70 parts per trillion at the source locations shown below. **We have been directly assured by EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that the water is safe to drink at these levels.**

| Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.  |            |           |                                   |  |                             |           |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
| PFC Monitoring During 2016 Compared With New Health Advisory Level |            |           |                                   |  |                             |           |
| Source Location  | PFC Tested | Date      | Concentration, parts per trillion | Combined PFOS + PFOA, parts per trillion | EPA HAL, parts per trillion | Below HAL |
| Well - Upper Dublin Township                                       | PFOS       | 4/25/2016 | 9.6                               |  |                             |           |
|  | PFOA       | 4/25/2016 | 8.8                               | 18.4                                     | 70                          | YES       |
| Interconnect from Aqua to Horsham                                  | PFOS       | 4/13/2016 | 7.5                               |  |                             |           |
|  | PFOA       | 4/13/2016 | 4.4                               | 11.9                                     | 70                          | YES       |
|  | PFOS       | 4/25/2016 | 9                                 |  |                             |           |
|  | PFOA       | 4/25/2016 | 4.8                               | 13.8                                     | 70                          | YES       |
|  | PFOS       | 5/3/2016  | 7.8                               |  |                             |           |
| Well - Abington Township   | PFOA       | 5/3/2016  | 4.6                               | 12.4                                     | 70                          | YES       |
|  | PFOS       | 5/5/2016  | 6.3                               |  |                             |           |
|  | PFOA       | 5/5/2016  | 3.5                               | 9.8                                      | 70                          | YES       |
| Intake to Neshaminy Creek Plant                                    | PFOS       | 5/5/2016  | 14                                |  |                             |           |

| Source Location                                   | PFC Tested | Date     | Concentration, parts per trillion | Combined PFOS + PFOA, parts per trillion | EPA HAL, parts per trillion | Below HAL |
|---|------------|----------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Intake to Neshaminy Creek Plant                   | PFOA       | 5/5/2016 | 6.6                               | 20.6                                     | 70                          | YES       |
|   |            |          |                                   |  |                             |           |
| Interconnect to Aqua - Lower Southampton Township | PFOS       | 5/5/2016 | ND                                |  |                             |           |
|   | PFOA       | 5/5/2016 | ND                                | ND                                       | 70                          | YES       |
|   |            |          |                                   |  |                             |           |
| Well - Bristol Township                           | PFOS       | 2/5/2016 | 9.1                               |  |                             |           |
|   | PFOA       | 2/5/2016 | 18                                | 27.1                                     | 70                          | YES       |

Of those wells listed above, all but one is in the Horsham vicinity. The water Aqua provides to its customers is a blend of multiple sources of treated groundwater and surface water.

As a result of the recent events in the Horsham area, we are further focusing our testing program to be sure that PFOS and PFOA remain below the HAL. In June and July, Aqua began sampling additional sources in Eastern Montgomery County, including wells in Hatboro and Chalfont, and in the Peddlers Village area of Bucks County to further determine if PFOA and/or PFOS is present. These results can take 3 to 4 weeks to get from the laboratory. If levels above the HAL are detected, our customers, EPA, and DEP will be immediately notified of the results and of our planned remedial actions.

Moving forward, Aqua will routinely update its findings for PFOA and PFOS and share them via our website so customers can stay informed. **In the interim, please be assured that your water is safe to drink.**

#### **What are Perfluorochemicals (PFCs), PFOA and PFOS?**

Perfluorochemicals are a family of manmade chemicals that have been used for decades as an ingredient to make products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease and water and are extremely resistant to breakdown in the environment.

Common uses of PFCs include: 1) nonstick cookware, stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, 2) coatings on some food packaging—especially microwave popcorn bags and fast food wrappers), 3) as components of firefighting foam, and 4) many industrial applications.

PFOA and PFOS are fluorinated organic chemicals that are part of a larger group of chemicals referred to as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. They have been used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., cookware) that are resistant to water, grease or stains. They are also used for firefighting at air fields and in a number of industrial processes.

For more information, visit the EPA website using the link below.

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>