



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC

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Office of the Assistant Secretary

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SAF/IE
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1665

Warrington Township
Board of Supervisors
852 Easton Road
Warrington, PA 18976

Dear Ms. Yannich:

Thank you for your August 24, 2016, letter to the Secretary of the Air Force, expressing concern for the health of your constituents in Warrington Township, Pennsylvania. The Air Force and Air National Guard (ANG) take our responsibility to provide your community safe drinking water very seriously. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary.

As you are aware, the Air Force entered into an Administrative Order with Region III, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in June 2015 to safeguard drinking water. This requires the Air National Guard provide alternate water to residents of Warrington Township with public or private drinking water wells with contamination above the EPA Lifetime Health Advisory (HA) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). The covered area is within a one mile radius of the Horsham Air Guard Station boundary. This includes the southeast corner of Warrington Township, bounded by County Line Road to the south, Valley Road to the east, Street Road to the north and Bradford Road to the west. Based on sampling results, the Air Force extended this area to include homes in proximity to the Little Neshaminy Creek between Street Road and Valley Road to insure safe drinking water for affected residents.

We are making good progress in testing. So far, the EPA identified 136 private wells in the ANG area with validated results at 108 of those wells. Of those, 34 wells had PFOA/PFOS concentrations above the health advisory. Four homes are now connected to new water mains being constructed along Valley Road and Center Street and the remaining 30 are scheduled for connection as the new water mains are completed. The ANG is providing bottled water to homes not yet connected to the new water mains. The EPA is scheduling testing of the remaining 28 private wells and now has 24 properties pending testing with four properties unresponsive to scheduling requests.

I asked the ANG to review the list of residential well owners you provided to see if any of them are within the area designated for sampling. If an un-sampled well is identified in our area, the ANG will contact the well owner for scheduling.


Per the EPA protocol, if a private well is identified with PFOA/PFOS concentrations above 40 ppt, the well is scheduled for at least four quarters of monitoring. If sampling identifies a well above 70 ppt, the home is provided bottled water until a connection to municipal water is completed.

In addition, we are helping protect Warrington Township residents through in place private well sampling protocols established by the EPA. If the shutdown of your municipal wells increases the migration of the PFOA/PFOS plume, we are confident the current sampling strategy will identify such movement. We are also closely monitoring the leading edge of the plume in the northeastern portion of the ANG area in order to detect any increases in private well levels through periodic sampling.

In your letter, you also requested the Air Force investigate and assess the human impacts to PFOA/PFOS exposure, specifically blood testing, to establish a baseline for medical monitoring purposes. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is the agency Congress has endowed with the expertise, authority and resources to assess the potential human health effects from environmental exposure to contaminants. We work closely with ATSDR and will continue to do so as they develop their national strategy to assess this public health concern.

The Air Force is committed to protecting human health, and we will continue to implement necessary response actions to eliminate exposures and ensure the public and private water supply remains safe to drink. We will do this in close coordination with the EPA, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and Warrington Township. I assure you this important drinking water matter is a priority for the Air Force and I look forward to continued collaboration with your board as we move forward.

Sincerely,



MIRANDA A.A. BALLENTINE
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Installations, Environment and Energy)