



RESOLUTION 2016-R- 44

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP, BUCKS COUNTY, PA

August 9, 2016

This Resolution is made this 9th day of August, 2016, by the duly elected and appointed Supervisors of Warrington Township, Bucks County, PA.

WHEREAS, five (5) of the Township's primary water supply wells, providing the Water and Sewer Department with as much as 1.4 million gallons of water per day (MGD), recently have been taken out of service due to the detection of certain Perfluorocarbon (PFC) compounds in excess of either provisional or final Health Advisory Levels (HALs) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, while the remaining three operational water supply wells have detected levels of PFC, but at levels currently below the applicable HAL;

WHEREAS, the source of the PFCs has been identified to be surface and groundwater discharged or migrating from the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station, portions of which continue to be operated by the Air National Guard (the "Base"), due to the historic use of PFC-containing fire-fighting foam;

WHEREAS, at several public forums many Township residents have expressed their concern for the health effects of PFCs in the public water supply system, and have raised questions concerning the safety of consuming and bathing in water containing PFCs at levels below the HAL, and have repeatedly expressed their strong preference to have the Water and Sewer Department move to a water supply system that is served by water sources that do not have detectable levels of PFCs;

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has carefully evaluated these issues with the guidance and advice of the Water and Sewer Department staff, and its consulting engineers, hydrogeologist and legal counsel, and in consideration of the potential dangers posed by exposure to PFCs in drinking water, and the emerging nature of the technical and health-related information respecting these contaminants,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

1. The Township Manager, Director of the Water and Sewer Department and Township Solicitor are hereby authorized and directed to forthwith initiate negotiations with the NWWA to determine, in light of NWWA Executive Director [?] Robert Bender's statements at the public forum held on August 8, 2016, whether and under what terms and conditions the Water and Sewer Department can replace the Township's current PFC-impacted groundwater supply system with appropriately treated surface water obtained from the NWWA, so that the Water and Sewer Department's PFC-impacted groundwater supply wells can be relegated to back-up and emergency use once Pa DEP-approved

treatment systems designed to meet a “non-detect” standard for PFCs (at 2 parts per trillion) have been installed; and

2. The Township Manager, Director of the Water and Sewer Department and/or Solicitor are further directed to report progress to the Board on a weekly or more frequent basis as negotiations advance and on any other developments in the pursuit of funding for these initiatives; and

3. Simultaneously, the Water and Sewer Department and Solicitor are directed to continue to advance negotiations with the Air National Guard (“ANG”) and other governmental officials to identify other sources of funding to enable the Water and Sewer Department to add interconnections, booster stations and other facilities needed to more fully integrate the Township’s water distribution system while both assuring the security of the system for fire protection purposes; and

4. The Water and Sewer Department shall continue to maximize the purchase and distribution within its own water distribution system of non-PFC-containing and otherwise safe drinking water purchased from the NWWA; and

5. The Board recognizes the current physical system limitations on the ability of the Water and Sewer Department to more fully integrate its existing water distribution system with the NWWA, and supports the continuing efforts of the Water and Sewer Department to obtain funds to effect necessary changes to both systems to assure that the water distribution systems can be more fully integrated, so water purchased from NWWA can achieve more widespread distribution within the Warrington Township system.


RESOLVED, this 9th day of August, 2016.

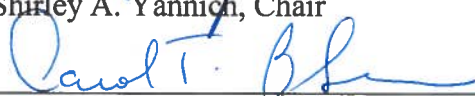
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WARRINGTON TOWNSHIP

ATTEST:



Barry P. Luber
Interim Township Manager



Shirley A. Yannich, Chair


Carol T. Baker, Vice-Chair



Matthew W. Hallowell, Sr., Member



Millie A. Seliga, Member



Fred A. Gaines, Member

BACKGROUND FOR ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL WATER FROM NWWA

Warrington Township operates a permitted public water supply system serving some 7,500 households and businesses within the Township's boundaries, reaching as many as 20,000+ Township residents or visitors to the community. The Township relies, and has historically relied on area groundwater resources as the primary source of source water for its public water supply system, operating as many as 9 water supply wells strategically located around the Township so as to efficiently distribute and service its water distribution system.

Since approximately 1996, the Township has supplemented water supplied from its local groundwater resources with water purchased from the North Wales Water Authority, (NWWA) through an interconnection with its Forest Park Water Treatment Plant. NWWA relies on surface water sources, and not groundwater sources, for raw water supplied and distributed within the western part of its water supply system.

Five (5) of the Township's primary water supply wells, providing the Water and Sewer Department with as much as 1.4 million gallons of water per day (MGD), recently have been taken out of service due to the detection of certain Perfluorinated (PFC) compounds in excess of either provisional or final Health Advisory Levels (HALs) established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, while the remaining three operational water supply wells have detected levels of PFC, but at levels currently below the applicable HAL. The source of the PFCs has been identified to be surface and groundwater discharged or migrating from the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station, portions of which continue to be operated by the Air National Guard (the "Base"), due to the historic use of PFC-containing fire-fighting foam.

The Township, under the Supervision of the Board of Supervisors, has been working closely with federal and state regulatory agencies and the Air National Guard (ANG), to respond to the release and threatened release of PFCs from the Base, and has secured through a Cooperative Agreement, funds to, among other things, install PFC-capable treatment systems on three of its supply wells, purchase replacement water and take certain other actions as specified therein.

There are over 1,000 private residences and businesses within the Township who are not connected to Township's or any other public water supply system and who rely upon their own private water supply wells for their water needs. The Township has been advised by state and federal officials that a number of these private wells within the Township also have been found to contain PFCs at or above the HAL and the Township has been asked by ANG, under the terms of the Cooperative Agreement, to provide public water supply interconnections to these affected residents and businesses, which is an on-going process.

The U.S. EPA and ANG continue to test and evaluate private water supply wells located in a projected downgradient direction from the Base, as they evaluate where PFCs have migrated in the groundwater system, and it is anticipated that additional residents and businesses will need to be connected to the Township's public water supply system.

At several public forums, many Township residents have expressed their concern for the health effects of PFCs in the public water supply system, and have raised questions concerning the safety of consuming and bathing in water containing PFCs at levels below the HAL, and have repeatedly expressed their strong preference to have the Township move to a water supply system that is primarily, if not exclusively, served by water sources that do not have detectable levels of PFCs.

Since the PFC detections were first reported and Township wells taken out of service, the Township has significantly expanded its purchase and distribution of water obtained from the NWWA, which has been treated and distributed from NWWA's Forest Park Treatment Plant located in neighboring New Britain Township. There currently are physical limitations on the ability of the Township to fully integrate NWWA water purchases into its existing water distribution system, particularly on the eastern portion of the system where PFC impacts have been discovered. The Township and its engineers have been working diligently to design and construct additional facilities in the form of interconnections and at least one booster station upgrade so as to enable the Township to obtain and fully distribute additional water purchases from the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant while simultaneously negotiating with ANG for funding needed to pay for these design and system facility improvements, which will cost in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00).

The Board expresses its appreciation for, and confidence in the management of the Township. In particular, the Board is appreciative for its pro-active investigation and implementation of measures designed to protect the health and safety of Township residents from the emerging threat posed by the presence of PFCs in area groundwater; to assure the integrity of its water supply system, and the Township's significant investment in this important asset of the Township. The Board also formally expresses its support for the Township's continued implementation of all reasonably prudent measures needed to assure that the Township's water supply exceeds all applicable health and safety standards established by U.S. EPA, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and other public health authorities respecting PFCs and any other regulated contaminants. These efforts include increased frequency of PFC sampling to enable the Township to more frequently monitor, and more quickly detect any changes in PFC concentrations that have the potential to impact public health or safety.