HORSHAM

Horsham Township
Horsham Water & Sewer Authority
Horsham Township
Founded 1717
17.32 Square Miles
(11,090 acres)
26,147 Residents
32,000+ Jobs
Starting in 2014, Horsham was spot-lighted by the media as a community with ‘PFC’ problems.
To address the concerns of its residents, local businesses and those who work in Horsham every day, Horsham Township Council and the Horsham Water & Sewer Authority took decisive and proactive steps to reverse this perception and provide its citizens with the best water in the region.
2014

July: HWSA received 1st PFC sample results – 2 wells shut down

2015

2016

May: EPA Issues lifetime Health Advisory of 70 ppt – 3 addʼl wells shut down

Nov: HWSA enters into Cooperative Agreement with National Guard Bureau

2017

June: Township & HWSA adopt Short Term Remedial Plan

2018

Nov: Township & HWSA adopt Long Term Remedial Plan
Horsham Township’s Plan has four distinct components:

- Education
- Communication
- Remediation
- Compensation
Currently HWSA continues to achieve more stringent water quality standards than those set by EPA and DEP.

EPA’s Lifetime HAL (70 ppt) is approximately 17 times greater than HWSA’s current system-wide average (4 ppt combined)

This average is calculated by a mass calculation formula.

Annual cost is ~ $1.2 Million and is being funded by Horsham ratepayers
Horsham has been able to accomplish these efforts through:

- Funding from cooperative agreements with the U.S. Navy and National Guard Bureau
- Funding from a PENNVEST grant
- An on-going surcharge paid by HWSA rate payers
- Township Funds

All of these efforts have been accomplished at significant cost to Horsham Township citizens. Currently the Township’s out of pocket expenses are approaching $1M. Even more importantly, the stigma of the contamination has potentially impacted local real estate values and employment opportunities.
Challenges

• Installing GAC treatment of wells, particularly those with either small land footprints and/or in residential neighborhoods can be difficult and extremely unpopular with neighboring property owners.
Challenges (con’t)

• Capital and O&M (carbon change-outs) costs are expensive.
• Carbon change-outs can result in wells out of service for days.
• GAC treatment on wells is a substantial change in operational complexity and knowledge – these are transformative changes for small/medium groundwater systems
• Permitting of alternative treatment, such as resin, is proving to be difficult, which is somewhat ironic considering PFAS is not regulated!
Challenges (con’t)

- Stormwater leaving the former Naval Air Station –Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove and the Horsham Air Guard Station has PFOA/PFOS levels above the EPA LHAL
- Much of the stormwater enters Park Creek which likely impacts down stream drinking water sources in other communities
Horsham continues to be a great place to live, work and play.

Thanks to the expedited efforts of the Horsham Township community, our drinking water continues to be high quality and safe.

However, the response has been (and continues to be) costly.

Take aways: