

 SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE

 **MEMO**

HSCA Section 484.250.5960

**Easton Road PFC HSCA Site**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**How did DEP become aware of the PFC contamination in the Doylestown area?**

On May 19, 2016, EPA issued a Lifetime Health Advisory Level (HAL) of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for the combined concentration of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)in drinking water. Sample results from 2014 of a Doylestown Township Municipal Authority (DTMA) supply well exhibited levels of PFOA above this HAL. This supply well was immediately taken out of service.

**Why was my well selected for sampling?**

In early June 2016, DEP met with municipal officials from Doylestown Borough, and Buckingham, Doylestown, and Plumstead Townships. They assisted DEP by compiling a list of private well owners located within a 1 mile radius of the impacted water supply well. You were on this list.

**When will my well be sampled?**

Beginning the week of June 27th DEP sent over 375 Well Questionnaires to private well owners located within a 1 mile radius of the affected municipal well. The laboratory has limited availability and capacity to analyze the large amount of samples. DEP plans to sample private homeowners’ wells closest to the affected well first, and expand out from there. If any private wells are found to be impacted with PFCs above the HAL at the edge of the 1 mile radius, DEP will continue to expand the investigation. Samples will be analyzed for PFCs only.

You will be notified by phone or email the week before we plan to collect the sample. In order to accommodate the large amount of homes, we plan to collect samples from outdoor spigots at homes where the Questionnaires indicated they are present. Please note that if you have indicated that your water is treated by a softener or neutralizer, it will not affect these results, and does not need to be shut off and/or bypassed during sample collection. If you have a whole-house carbon filtration system or reverse osmosis system, we will contact you by phone to make an appointment so that samples can be collected before and after the treatment system.

**When will I get my results?**

We will mail you a copy of the results. Please note it may take approximately one month for the laboratory to analyze the sample and provide DEP with the official laboratory report.

**What if my results are above the HAL?**If the results of your analysis indicate that your well water contains a combined concentration of PFOS and PFOA above the HAL of 70 ppt, DEP will arrange for the delivery of bottled water to your home in order to limit your exposure through drinking and cooking. DEP has verified that bottled water meets all safe drinking water requirements, including PFCs.

**Is my well water safe to drink?**

DEP does not regulate private wells; as such, it is the property owner’s responsibility to sample and maintain their own well. Private wells can be exposed to a variety of contaminants, including, but not limited to, PFCs. In order to confirm that your private well is safe for human consumption, DEP recommends that you have it sampled every 3-5 years. More information about laboratories that you can contact to sample your well, as well as what contaminants to sample for, can be found on the DEP website: <http://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/My-Water/PrivateWells/Pages/Water-Testing.aspx>

**Who can sample my well for PFCs?**

DEP established a website for the Easton Road PFC HSCA Site in order to provide the public with information as it becomes available. This website includes more information regarding laboratories that are capable of analyzing for PFCs. Follow the DEP link below and then click on the “Helpful Links” word document. On that document will be a list of labs that you can contact to have your well privately sampled if you so choose.

[http://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/SoutheastRegion/Community%20Information/Pages/Easton-Road-PFCs%e2%80%99.aspx](http://www.dep.pa.gov/About/Regional/SoutheastRegion/Community%20Information/Pages/Easton-Road-PFCs%E2%80%99.aspx)

**If I am connected to a community water supply system, is my water safe?**

Yes, as stated above the community water supply well that was impacted with PFCs above the HAL has been taken out of service.

**Who is responsible for the contamination?**

At this time there is limited information available to determine a source of this contamination. DEP’s first priority is to evaluate and reduce the threat to human health. The investigation to find a responsible party is ongoing.