

# Community Meeting

## PEATT Pilot Project

PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Testing  
in the

Warrington, Warminster and Horsham areas

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# Project Information

- CDC/ATSDR has developed a toolkit to conduct biomonitoring (blood testing) for PFAS
- Pennsylvania was chosen for the pilot program to evaluate the toolkit
- Feedback from this project-
  - ▀ Will be used to improve the toolkit
  - ▀ Will support a larger, national study

# Project Information

- We are testing residents exposed through drinking water
- Households will be selected randomly
- We can only test **500** people at most
- People must have lived in the affected area prior to **July 1, 2016**

# What Are We Doing?

## Evaluation of PFAS testing toolkit

- PFAS TESTING
- All of us have PFAS in our bodies
- PFAS are everywhere
  - Air
  - Soil
  - Food & water - main source of exposure
  - Consumer products

# PFAS Testing

- Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
  - Human-made chemicals
  - Used in protective surfaces and things that have water-repellant coatings



# PFAS – in Drinking Water

- PFAS levels in your drinking water
- 1,440 ppt (PFOS+PFOA), the highest level detected in the area, was about 21 times higher than EPA health advisory guideline (70ppt)
- People in the area have been exposed for a long time- nearly 50 years
- Wide range of exposure-
  - ▀ Some wells had no levels of PFAS
  - ▀ Some wells much higher than national guideline
  - ▀ Range (PFOS+PFOA): 80-1440 ppt

# PFAS – in Blood

- Nationally, the average level of PFAS in a person's blood:
  - ▣ PFOA 3.07 ng/mL
  - ▣ PFOS 9.32 ng/mL

Reference: NHANES (2009-2010)

# PFAS Health Risks

- Studies are inconsistent in determining health effects from PFAS exposure
- Most studies involve animals
- Human population studies show evidence of association between PFAS and:
  - ▣ Liver damage
  - ▣ High cholesterol
  - ▣ Uric acid
  - ▣ Cancer



# PFAS Exposure

- Many industrial uses- photo imaging, metal plating, military aviation training
- Firefighter training – PFAS in the foam



[https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV\\_enUS790US790&tbm=isch&sa=1&ei=5BLqWoGsAuzRjwT85KqIbg&q=firefighter+training+foam&oq=firefighter+training+foam&gs\\_](https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GGRV_enUS790US790&tbm=isch&sa=1&ei=5BLqWoGsAuzRjwT85KqIbg&q=firefighter+training+foam&oq=firefighter+training+foam&gs_)

# Background

- Former Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC)-  
Warminster Twp. Bucks County
  - ▣ Firefighter training activities using  
foams containing PFAS
- Site drains into tributaries of
  - ▣ Little Neshaminy Creek
  - ▣ Pennypack Creek



[https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac\\_bases/northeast/former\\_warfare\\_center\\_warminster.html](https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/brac_bases/northeast/former_warfare_center_warminster.html)

# Background

- PFAS used in military and firefighter training activities

Horsham



<http://ujspaceainfo.com/2014/02/horsham-ags-pennsylvania/>

NAWC



Safety Town- public domain

# Background

- NAWC
- 2013: PFAS detected in ground water
- 2014: all contaminated public wells taken out of service
  - ▀ Private well residents given bottled water
- 2015: PFAS found in 93 out of 100 private wells within a 1-3 mile radius

# Background

- Horsham Air Guard Station
  - ▣ Firefighter training activities using Foams containing PFAS



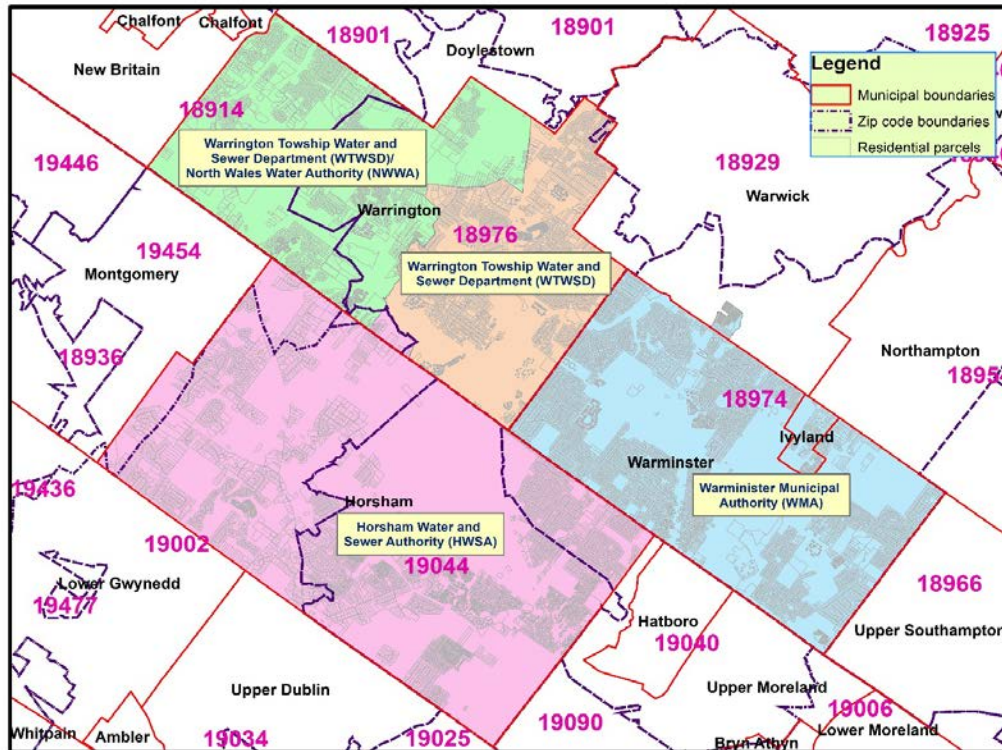
<http://ujspaceinfo.com/2014/02/horsham-ags-pennsylvania/>

- Contamination in two public water systems
  - ▣ 2014 - Five public wells taken out of service
  - ▣ 2016- EPA released new advisory level, additional wells taken out of service, private well owners given bottled water

# What's next?

- We mailed an eligibility information form to 350 randomly selected households
- Letter
- Eligibility form
  - How many in each household
  - How many lived there prior to July 1, 2016
  - How many willing to participate
- Complete the eligibility form and return it to the department

# Map of Study Area (Public Water Service Area)



# What's next?...

- We select 500 people (adults and children) who meet the eligibility criteria and are willing to participate
- Send MORE information
  - ▣ Invitation letter and consent form
  - ▣ Questionnaires for adults and children
  - ▣ Information on how to make an appointment to have blood drawn
  - ▣ Information sheet on PFAS



# What to do?

- Fill out the consent form (one per person)
- Fill out the questionnaires (one per person)
- Return them to the department

# What to do?

- Call a clinic to make an appointment:
  - ▣ Bucks County Health Department
  - ▣ Willow Grove Health Center
    - ▣ Wear loose, comfortable clothing
    - ▣ Drink water before appointment to be well-hydrated
    - ▣ No need to fast

# Laboratory Analysis

- Serum samples will be analyzed by the New York State Health Department Laboratory
- Results will be communicated to the department

# Communication of Test Results

- The department will communicate the results to the individuals
- The department will help to interpret the results and compare them to the community and to the nation

# DOH Website

[www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Environmental%20Health/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.health.pa.gov/My%20Health/Environmental%20Health/Pages/default.aspx)

[PFAS Exposure Assessment Technical Tools Pilot Program](#)

[Cancer Data Review \(1985-2013\)](#)

[Addendum 1 to Cancer Data Review \(1985-2013\)](#)

[Peruoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances\(PFAS\) Fact Sheet](#)

[Family Tree of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances \(PFAS\)](#)

# Contact Information

Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at [env.health.concern@pa.gov](mailto:env.health.concern@pa.gov) or by phone at 717-787-3350 (ask for Susan Schrack Wood)

# PEATT Pilot Project Team

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Questions?