

## **Background on PFAS in Aqua's Eastern Montgomery County and Lower Bucks County Service Area**

In recent years, the presence of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), which are part of the PFAS family of chemicals, have become a concern in drinking water in areas of eastern Montgomery County and parts of Bucks County where PFAS is believed to have originated from nearby military bases. These man-made chemicals have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s. They have been used to manufacture non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, cosmetics, firefighting foams, and products that resist grease, water, and oil. Eighty percent of human exposure to PFAS comes from these items whereas 20 percent comes from drinking water.

In May 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which sets standards for drinking water safety and quality, replaced its 2009 provisional health advisories for PFAS with a lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion for both contaminants, lowering the advisory level for these chemicals in our water. This level is not a regulatory limit. Aqua and other water utilities have asked the EPA and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to create a scientifically based regulation as well as to address the source of the contamination and provide recommendations for treatment. **It's important to note all active Aqua water sources, including your drinking water source, have always fallen below that health advisory level of 70 ppt.**

## **Aqua's Ongoing Efforts to Address and Share Information on PFAS**

Although PFAS levels in Aqua's drinking water are below the health advisory level, and without an EPA or DEP regulation, Aqua has been actively working to **further** reduce PFAS levels. Below are some of Aqua's actions to date.

- Aqua shut down a total of four area wells since 2016. Three are now back online with granular-activated carbon, GAC, filters. The remaining one is running a pilot ion exchange treatment system to accommodate its small geographic footprint. The trial is necessary for DEP's approval of a larger system to be placed in service in future.
- Aqua regularly shares updated laboratory and environmental results regarding PFAS on WaterFacts.com and sends email notifications to interested customers each time new results are posted.
- Aqua has evaluated the Neshaminy Creek and its Neshaminy water treatment plant and successfully tested alternative treatment options to reduce PFAS levels in treated water.
- Aqua has monitored and evaluated impacts of the Air National Guard's treatment system on PFAS levels in the Neshaminy Creek and is working with regulatory agencies, elected officials and community leaders to advocate for the Department of Defense's treatment and cleanup of PFAS. As a result of that work, the Air National Guard reinstated operation of its treatment system in August 2018.
- Aqua purchased laboratory equipment that enables regular in-house testing to guide decision-making and shortens the turnaround time for test results.
- Aqua evaluated alternative treatment options, including ion exchange resins and other technologies.

As Aqua continues working to further reduce PFAS levels, some customers have inquired about in-home filters. The use of filters is a personal choice. Information about filters can be found on the resources page of WaterFacts.com.

The chart below demonstrates the results of our efforts between August and October of this year. You can see that the average level of PFAS in the water is well below the EPA health advisory.

Please visit [WaterFacts.com](https://www.waterfacts.com) for up-to-date information on how Aqua is addressing PFAS in your community and to sign up for alerts when additional information is posted. If you have additional questions or would like information about well sources that serve your home, please contact us at 877.987.2782 or [custservereply@AquaAmerica.com](mailto:custservereply@AquaAmerica.com).

