



HLRA Update

April, 2017

Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority

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Hatboro-Horsham School District Benefits from BRAC Closure

The recent opening of the new Hallowell Elementary School illustrates how the Hatboro-Horsham School District (HHSD) has benefited from the closure of the Horsham Memorial U.S. Army Reserve Center in Horsham.

The Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC) of 2005 closed several U.S. Army Reserve Centers in the Philadelphia/Delaware Valley region and consolidated training activities of various reserve units assigned to those centers to a new facility located on the Horsham Air Guard Station in Horsham, PA. One of the centers closed was the Horsham Memorial U.S. Army Reserve Center located

on Easton Road in Horsham. The Horsham facility consisted of a single two story training building and a separate maintenance building originally constructed in 1959. The property served as a reserve and mobilization center for Army reservists and was used for drill activities on various weekends throughout the year. The Horsham Memorial USARC ceased operations in 2009.

With a distinct vision for the future, HHSD submitted a Notice of Interest (NOI) to the Horsham Township Authority for NAS-JRB (HLRA), the entity approved by U.S. Department of Defense to plan for the redevelopment of the federal facilities in Horsham affected by BRAC 2005. The NOI was amended in 2012 as HHSD honed their plans to replace the outdated Hallowell Elementary School with a new facility constructed on the site of the former Horsham Memorial USARC.

With the approval of the plan by the HLRA, the HHSD applied for a public benefit conveyance (PBC) through the U.S. Department of Education. PBC's are one of the 'tools in the toolbox' the federal government uses to convey surplus federal property to state and local governments and certain non-profit organizations (such as educational institutions) for public purposes. HHSD's proposal to use the former reserve center site for a new school was approved by the U.S. Department of Education in June 2012 and the property was transferred to HHSD in December 2013.

The new Hallowell Elementary School, using a state grant for \$2M to assist in designing and constructing the school to a LEED Gold standard, is a state-of-the-art building designed not only with current educational needs in mind, but with future ones as well. Each classroom is designed to embrace technology, with plenty of spaces to charge laptops and hand-held devices, as well as individualized learning. While the inside of the building will take learning to a new level at Hallowell, the outside will have an updated traffic flow with separate drop-off locations for parents and buses that will act as a safety buffer between the school and Easton Road throughout the school day. In addition, a variety of play and sports areas for students will be located behind the new school so students are not playing near the busy roadway.

The HLRA salutes the HHSD on the opening of its new Hallowell Elementary School as it continues to work with the U.S. Department of Defense and other federal agencies on the redevelopment of former military facilities.

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Horsham Township Continues Water Upgrade Program

Horsham Township is continuing its impressive plans to insure its residents and business community has access to the best drinking water in the region. Horsham Township officials, working with the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, implemented plans to address groundwater contamination likely attributable to past operations at the former NAS-JRB Willow Grove air base and the Horsham Air Guard Station. The U.S. Navy and the U.S. Air Force have accepted liability and are funding some of the remedial cost.

Horsham's four pronged plan involves education, communication, remediation, and compensation. Shortly after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established new lifetime health advisory guidelines for two perfluorinated compounds (PFOA & PFOS) in May 2016, Horsham Township Council took action to address the community's concerns about the safety of its drinking water by adopting a short term remediation plan. PFOA and PFOS are man-made compounds used to make carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g. cookware) that are resistant to water, grease or stains. They are also used for firefighting at airports and in a number of industrial processes.

Horsham Township Council hosted a public meeting in August 2016 where representatives from several agencies were available to provide information on the health impacts of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. They followed up with the implementation of a long term plan to insure the drinking water provided by the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority met and exceeded all current standards for drinking water. The long term plan calls for reducing the levels of PFOA and PFOS to below detectable levels.

Horsham Township Council also conducted point-of-use testing of residential homes in the township to insure they knew what residents were getting from their taps. Over 100 homes were tested by an independent laboratory.

HWSA has secured cooperative agreements with the U.S. Navy and the National Guard Bureau to provide funding for filtration units to remove the PFOA and PFOS from Authority wells with levels above the EPA's health advisory level. The filters use granular activated carbon (GAC) to remove PFOA and PFOS from the water. The filters are designed to process the millions of gallons of water needed by Horsham residents and businesses every day. The cooperative agreements also provided funding for the HWSA to extend water mains and hook up properties which had private wells exceeding the EPA lifetime health advisory guidelines.

Horsham Township and HWSA have also been able to receive a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to help fund the long term remediation plan.



Installation of GAC Unit for one of the HWSA Wells

UPCOMING HLRA MEETINGS

All meetings are at 3:30pm in the Horsham Township Building and are open to the public

July 19, 2017

October 18, 2017