



HLRA Update

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Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority
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PFC Groundwater Contamination Impacting HLRA's Redevelopment Plan

The discovery of groundwater contamination relating to perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) on and in the vicinity of the former Naval Air Station – Joint Reserve Base (NAS-JRB) Willow Grove and the adjacent Horsham Air Guard Station has impacted the schedule for redevelopment at the former base.

The Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority's (HLRA) ability to complete negotiations with the U.S. Navy on its Economic Development Conveyance (EDC) application has been slowed until the Navy completes an investigation on the nature and extent of the contamination and develops and implements a plan for remediation. Any remedial plan will require EPA concurrence. Compounding the issue is the lack of a federal standard for PFC levels in soils.

The U.S. Navy is working closely with the Horsham Water & Sewer Authority (HWSA) with a cooperative agreement aimed at compensating the HWSA for costs incurred when water supply wells had to be shut down due to the PFC contamination thought to have originated from the former base. The cooperative agreement will pay for installation of granular activated carbon (GAC) units so that those wells with PFC levels above the EPA lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) can be returned to service. Currently there are five HWSA wells that have been shut down. The HWSA will also be able to receive reimbursement for the added expenses of purchasing water from neighboring water suppliers to meet the daily needs of its customers. Additionally, the Navy is paying to connect private well owners in Horsham Township with PFC levels above 70 ppt to the HWSA public water supply system. Similarly, the HWSA has a separate cooperative agreement with the Air National Guard to address PFC contamination originating from the Horsham Air Guard Station.

Elected officials in Horsham Township and the HWSA Board have led a comprehensive effort to provide for the health and well-being of Township residents and the companies and individuals that work in the Township every day. They have established a goal of having a public water supply with less than one ppt of PFCs and are working on a short term plan to accomplish that goal. The full health effects of PFCs is not completely known at this time, but lobbying for blood testing of residents continues on many levels.

The HLRA stands ready to proceed with the redevelopment only after the community is satisfied that the property is cleaned up and is suitable for the mixed use development including offices, educational facilities, housing, parks and a town center. At the present time, the effort to redevelop the former base awaits the Navy's preparation of a remediation plan and EPA's approval of the same.

The HLRA Board and staff are actively monitoring the investigation efforts of the Navy and Air National Guard including attending meetings, reviewing the available studies and reports and providing input to regulators and other involved stakeholders.

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