



HLRA Update

September, 2019

Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority
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HLRA EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Member

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Executive Director

Tom Ames, P.E.
Deputy Director

Larry Burns
Deputy Director

UPCOMING HLRA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings are at 3:30pm and are open to the public.

- October 16, 2019

Meeting location has been changed to the Horsham Township Library

Navy Begins Groundwater Treatment

At the September 2019 Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) meeting, Navy officials announced that a pilot groundwater treatment system at the former NAS-JRB Willow Grove base was now operational. The pilot test is designed to extract groundwater containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), passing the groundwater through granular activated carbon and ion exchange filters and discharging the treated groundwater to the base’s stormwater drainage system. The purpose of the pilot test is to evaluate a temporary treatment system design to effectively treat extracted groundwater.

The pilot plant, one of the first in the nation to treat groundwater without a definite subsequent use (such as for drinking water purposes), is designed to treat 20 gallons per minute. The location of the treatment system is near one of the former aircraft hangars where previous groundwater testing showed high levels of PFAS contamination.

The Navy is working closely with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to assess the effectiveness of the treatment system on reducing the level of PFAS contamination at the former base. One of the objectives of the PFAS Pilot Study is to identify any operational constraints for implementing a full-scale system. A second pilot test study near the former fire fighter training area on the west side of the former base is under review by the Navy and the regulators.

Navy Plans to Address Stormwater System Deficiencies

Also at the September 2019 RAB meeting, the Navy announced plans to correct problems with the existing stormwater system piping. Prior inspections of the stormwater piping has revealed cracked piping and broken joints in the piping, allowing groundwater contaminated with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to enter the pipes and be conveyed off-site to local waterways. The Navy has awarded a contract to address the deficiencies with the work expected to commence in Fall 2019.

Next HLRA Board Meeting—October 16, 2019

The next HLRA Board Meeting will be on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 3:30 PM at the Horsham Township Library. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend all HLRA Board meetings.