

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TOWN OF COUPEVILLE PRESS RELEASE – December 7, 2016

Town of Coupeville Wells – Water Sample Results

With the assistance of Washington State Department of Health professionals, the Town of Coupeville recently tested four town water supply wells located in the Keystone and Fort Casey well fields. These tests were conducted as a result of the EPA recently setting lifetime health advisory levels for two compounds, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). The water from the four wells is treated and blended before entering the Town's distribution system.

The EPA's lifetime health advisory level recommends that the combination of these two compounds, in drinking water, not exceed 70 parts per trillion (ppt). PFOS was not detected in any of the four wells tested. No PFOA was detected in the three wells at Fort Casey. Two different samples were taken at the Keystone well and showed PFOA at 62 ppt and 59 ppt.

The Town's water was also tested at the entry point to our distribution system, after the water from all four wells has been blended. Two different samples from the entry point to distribution system showed PFOA at 25 ppt and 27 ppt. **All results, both at the Keystone well and at point to distribution, were below the EPA's lifetime health advisory level.** "The EPA lifetime advisory establishes a level that is intended to be safe and protective against adverse health effects for individuals consuming water for an entire lifetime" said Lauren Jenks, Director of the Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences of the Washington State Department of Health. Although the EPA advisory level is not a legal requirement for public water systems, the State Department of Health encourages public water systems to follow the EPA Health Advisory for these compounds.

This week, the Navy took separate samples from our four wells, and at entry point to distribution. Their results should be available shortly. We anticipate this redundancy in testing will further verify the Town's independent testing.

Although the Town wells tested below the EPA's lifetime health advisory levels, for these two nonregulated compounds, we will continue to work with our Public Health partners in Island County and the State Department of Health to determine what steps, if any, are needed to monitor the water provided by the Town of Coupeville.

Drinking water is highly regulated by the Washington State Department of Health and US Environmental Protection Agency and is tested regularly. The water for Coupeville comes from aquifers. Well water at the Fort Casey Water Treatment Plant is treated for the removal of iron and manganese, components often found in the Whidbey Island source waters. It is chlorinated before entering the Town's distribution system. The entire treatment process is regularly monitored by state certified operators through daily, routine testing. You can view our annual Water Quality Monitoring Results on the town website. www.townofcoupeville.org – Documents & Info – Water Quality Reports

If you have questions about the results, please call Mayor Molly Hughes at Town Hall. 360-678-4461