



## **Drinking Water Update October, 2018**

Hello Water Customers,

There is new information to share about our water supply and I'm happy to bring you up to date. As you are all aware, the Town's highest producing well has been testing positive for PFOS, one of the many compounds in the PFAS family. Although the town's wells are not testing over the Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA) level set by the EPA, it is still important to monitor and eventually treat our water. Currently, eight private wells are testing above the LHA. This contamination has been, most likely, caused by the Navy's use of firefighting foam at the Outlying Landing Field (OLF). The Navy has agreed to treat the Town's water for PFOS and PFOA, the two compounds currently assigned a LHA. The Navy will also hook up the private homes, whose wells exceed the LHA, to Town water.

- The Navy has agreed to put the treatment on the Fort Casey treatment plant rather than on the contaminated well. This way, all water, no matter what the source, will be treated and safe to drink.
- The treatment will consist of Granulated Activated Carbon. This process is the most effective, wastes the least amount of water, and is the most cost efficient in long-term operations.
- Our state, along with many others, is looking at the emerging contaminants in the PFAS family. The State is considering changing regulation levels. Because of this, the Navy's design for the treatment facility is very flexible and will be able to adapt to, and treat for, any new regulations.
- The Navy has agreed to contract with the Town of Coupeville for increased operation and maintenance expenses associated with the new treatment system.
- The Navy will be extending the water mains in the Town's water service area and hooking up any resident whose well exceeds the LHA levels. They will also be conducting ongoing testing of private wells, which have had detections, to monitor for changes in detection levels. If any additional wells test above the current or future advisory levels, the Navy will hook them up to Town water.
- All of these improvements to our water system are being done at the Navy's expense. There will be no cost to the Town or our water customers and will not result in rate hikes.

## Water Testing

The Town has many wells and has historically always blended water from several wells, mainly to meet customer demand at different times of the year. The Town was first notified in November of 2016 that the Navy had discovered PFAS contamination at OLF Coupeville. Since then, the Town has tested the wells in the Fort Casey well field. We also test the water that is distributed to our customers as it leaves the treatment plant, in other words after it is blended.

Currently, there is only one PFAS test accredited by the EPA and DOH for drinking water and it was developed to test for six compounds. The EPA has a Lifetime Health Advisory limit on only two of these compounds; PFOA and PFOS, together their numbers should not exceed 70 parts per trillion (ppt). Past test results are on the Town's website. The latest results (received 9/25/18) for our water at distribution are shown below. You see that the combined total of PFOS and PFOA is 34.1 ppt.

PFBS – non detect

PFHpA – 3.6

PFHxS – 19.9

PFNA – non detect

PFOS – non detect

PFOA – 34.1

**Total – 57.6 ppt**

The State is considering adding additional compounds to testing requirements, lowering or increasing the total number from 70 ppt and changing from a state advisory level to a regulatory maximum contaminate level. There is much speculation and misinformation right now about what the State might do in the future. The Town of Coupeville will continue to blend our water so that all PFAS compounds fall below 70 ppt. We feel we can meet this goal because customer demand is lower this time of year, and we can blend water from several wells.

PFAS compounds, test results, advisory levels, and possible new regulations – this is all very complex and sometimes confusing information. The Town will continue to send you new information as we get it, we will continue to test our drinking water and put the results on the Town website and we are happy to answer any questions you may have about the Town's water. You can contact me or our Utility Superintendent, Joe Grogan, at [utilities1@townofcoupeville.org](mailto:utilities1@townofcoupeville.org). Thank you for your interest and patience as we work through this situation with the Navy.

Sincerely,

*Molly Hughes*

Molly Hughes

Mayor

[mayor@townofcoupeville.org](mailto:mayor@townofcoupeville.org)