

RESPONDING TO AN EMERGING CONTAMINANT IN GREENWICH

COOPERATION

COORDINATION

COMMUNICATION

TRUST

COLLABORATION

STRATEGY

Caroline Calderone Baisley
Director of Health

8/28/2019

CONNECTION TO THE COMMUNITY

Diverse, well educated affluent mid-sized community with population of 62,359 (2016) located in Fairfield County

Full time government and agencies (not all inclusive): Health, Fire, Police, Wetlands/Conservation, Parks and Recreations, EMS by contract

Drinking Water: Aquarion Water Company and approximately 3,000 private wells

STATE STRATEGY

CT DPH Worked With Dept. of Energy And Environmental Protection (DEEP) Remediation on PFAS Strategy

- Identify areas where PFAS may have been released to the environment
- Identify public and private drinking water supplies that may be vulnerable to PFAS contamination
- Developed webpages (DWS and DEEP) and public education
- DPH Developed action level for PFAS (sum of 5 PFAS)
- Developed well water sampling criteria
- Proposed action steps if PFAS identified



Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances are a group of manufactured chemicals that are collectively referred to as PFAS. PFAS are used in a variety of products and applications including no-cookware, upholstered furniture, clothing, food packaging, and firefighting foam used to petroleum fires. These substances are not found naturally in the environment. They do not break down easily and are extremely persistent in both the environment, especially in water, and in the body. It is estimated that there are approximately 3,000 PFAS in production. The entire family of substances has been evolving. The current accepted acronym for this family of PFAS, but references to "perfluorinated compounds," or PFCs remain in older literature.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a life time health advisory of 70 parts per trillion (ppt, equivalent to nanogram per liter or ng/l) in drinking water for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) or the sum of PFOA+PFOS in drinking water. The CT DPH Environmental and Occupational Health Assessment Program has developed a CT Drinking Water Action Level of 70 ppt to be protective. Further, it has developed a CT Drinking Water Action Level applicable to private wells in Connecticut in which the sum of five PFAS (PFOA and PFOS, plus perfluorononanoic acid, PFNA, perfluorohexane sulfonate, PFHxS, perfluoroheptanoic acid, PFHpA) should not exceed the limit of 70 ppt.

Beginning in 2013, the EPA required that all public water systems (PWSs) serving more than 15 individuals test for six PFAS compounds. Connecticut's large PWSs conducted multiple rounds of testing from 2013 to 2015 and did not detect PFAS in the water from their sources of supply. Sources of supply provide drinking water for over 2.4 million daily customers in CT.

The DPH Drinking Water Section, collaborating with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), is in the process of identifying areas in the state where sources of public water may be vulnerable to PFAS. Any PWSs determined to be vulnerable will be notified by the Connecticut DPH.

For more information and fact sheets, the following links are provided:

Basic Information

- EPA information and fact sheets
- Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) website on contaminants, including PFAS
- Laboratories approved by EPA to conduct EPA Method 537 for PFAS for samples collected in Connecticut
- Interstate Technology Regulatory Council Fact Sheets for PFAS



Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs)

[DPH Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances](#) - Health information, well treatment options, and CT approved labs for PFAS analysis.

[CT DPH Groundwater and Well Contamination](#) - PFAS Drinking Water Action Level and Health Concerns

[DEEP Remediation Roundtable: June 20, 2017 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances](#) - CT Regulatory Status (begins on slide 8?)

[EPA - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\) In Your Environment](#)

[EPA Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS](#) - both basic information and EPA Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) under TSCA - EPA evaluation under

[Department of the Navy PFC/PFAS webpage](#) - information on all aspects of PFAS, especially CA Scientific Guidance Panel, Biomonitoring California: Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl

[technical information on numerous PFCs and bioaccumulation](#)

[VT Department of Health PFOA \(Perfluorooctanoic Acid\)](#) - general information regarding

[MN DOH Perfluorochemicals \(PFCs\) in Minnesota](#) - general information

[NJ DEP Site Remediation Program Contaminants of Emerging Concern](#) - PFAS information

[NEMMOA PFAS Project webpage](#) - includes links to presentations and information from

[National Institutes of Health: Perfluorinated Chemicals](#) - general health information

[SLERDP/LSICP Webinar: PFAS: Analytical and Characterization Frontiers](#) (January 2017)

[Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council PFAS Team webpage](#)

[ITRC - PFAS - Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances](#) - technical fact sheets (including in Spanish)

Perchlorate

[CLU-IN Perchlorate Overview](#) - numerous state and federal links regarding all aspects

[EPA Perchlorate Page](#) - contaminant profile and regulatory information

[ITRC Perchlorate Page](#) - links to technical documents and web-based training on remediation

Nanomaterials

[EPA Research on Nanomaterials](#) - information regarding which nanomaterials EPA is testing

as well as links to other nanomaterial research

[National Institutes of Health: Nanomaterials](#) - general health information regarding nanomaterials

[EPA Contaminants of Emerging Concern Including Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products](#) - information and information regarding aquatic life

[NETWPCC Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products \(PPCPs\)](#) - information from the

Workgroup and links to federal, state, and regional resources

[CA Dept. of Toxic Substances Control Toxicological Issues Associated With PPCPs](#) - general

[NY Pharmaceuticals in Our Waters: An Emerging Concern](#) (PDF) - reasons for concern

[Occurrence of Unregulated Compounds in Surface Waters, Ground Waters and Public Drinking Water in NJ](#) - general information and links to NJ studies of PPCPs in water

[EPA Method 1694: Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in Water, Soil, Sediment](#) - technical document describing laboratory procedures

Content Last Updated January 31, 2010



Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) in Drinking Water: Health Concerns

Environmental & Occupational Health Assessment Program • August 2017

What are These Chemicals?

Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are a family of man-made chemicals with many useful properties including the ability to repel water, prevent staining and increase heat resistance. PFASs have many industrial and consumer uses including the coating of fabrics and non-stick cookware, in food packaging (e.g., microwave popcorn bags), as a mist suppressant in chrome plating, and in firefighting foam used by firemen to put out petroleum fires, but not typically in home fire extinguishers.



The most studied PFASs are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). While we know the most about the harmful effects and environmental fate of these two PFASs, several others of high concern are also discussed in this fact sheet, perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). PFOS and PFOA have been phased out of production but the other three PFASs have not. Further, these are very persistent chemicals which can remain in the environment for long periods after being removed from the marketplace.

How do PFASs get into drinking water?

The way in which these chemicals reach groundwater is still being investigated. Drinking water contamination has occurred near industries manufacturing or using these chemicals to make consumer products. PFAS use at chrome plating facilities for mist suppressant can also be a source of groundwater contamination. Because of their use in firefighting foams, it is possible that fire training schools, airports and sites where there was a major fire may have releases of PFASs. Once on the ground, these chemicals can gradually migrate down through the soil when it rains and affect groundwater.

Connecticut Department of Public Health
PO Box 340308, Hartford, CT 06134-0308
<http://www.ct.gov/dph>

PFAS

STATE AND LOCAL COLLABORATION

- NYS Westchester County identifies PFAS contamination in NY in public drinking water wells on NYS/CT border
- DPH and DEEP brief Greenwich Department of Health (GHD) about possible PFAS migration into Greenwich public/private well water supplies

PFAS

STATE AND LOCAL COMMUNICATION

Direct support, involvement and direction from DPH Commissioner's Office

Focus on the health of the community

Communication to public/private well water supply owners

Agreed upon community outreach forum

PFAS

STATE AND LOCAL COOPERATION

- Working with differences between federal and state and local strategies
- Timing of correspondence
- Scheduling well water sample collection
- Initiating press releases
- Communicating with elected officials, boards, community groups, town agencies



April 26, 2018



NEWS RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
Caroline Calderone Baisley
Director of Health
Tel (203) 425-7836

or
Michael S. Long
Director of Environmental Services
Tel. (203) 947-1091



NEWS RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
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Michael S. Long
Director of Environmental Services
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April 13, 2018
For Immediate Release

May 8, 2018
For Immediate Release

CAROLINE CALDERONE BAISLEY
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



MICHAEL LONG, Director
Division of Environmental Services
DORIS HARRIS, Director
Division of Health Services
ROBIN CLARK-SMITH, Director
Division of Public Health Services

Greenwich, CT - The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), in cooperation with Department of Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiated a survey to determine if perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) migrated into the ground servicing public and private wells in the northwest section of Greenwich. PFAS, which are man-made chemicals, were detected in several public well water supplies in a nearby area within 1/2 mile. As a result, the DPH, DEEP and EPA initiated precautionary sampling of drinking water at public drinking water systems and eight (8) private wells in Greenwich during the month of February. Drinking water samples were analyzed for six PFAS.

Planned Information Session
Public Participation

Greenwich, CT - On Monday, [Date], Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiated a survey to determine if perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) migrated into the ground servicing public and private wells in the northwest section of Greenwich. PFAS, which are man-made chemicals, were detected in several public well water supplies in a nearby area within 1/2 mile. As a result, the DPH, DEEP and EPA initiated precautionary sampling of drinking water at public drinking water systems and eight (8) private wells in Greenwich during the month of February. Drinking water samples were analyzed for six PFAS.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Certified Mail

Re: Testing for Possible Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in Greenwich Private Drinking Water Supplies

Dear [Homeowner's Name]:

CAROLINE CALDERONE BAISLEY
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



MICHAEL LONG, Director
Division of Environmental Services
DORIS HARRIS, Director
Division of Health Services
ROBIN CLARK-SMITH, Director
Division of Public Health Services

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Raul Pina, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Drinking Water Section

January 29, 2018

[Date]
[Administrative Contact]
[Facility Name]
[Street Address]
Greenwich, CT [Zip Code]

Re: Testing for Possible Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in CT Public Drinking Water Supplies

Greenwich, CT 06831

Re: Testing for Perfluoroalkyl Substances in Public Drinking Water Supplies on the New York Border

Dear Administrative Contact:

The purpose of this correspondence is to notify you that the State Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Supply Section (DWS) will be coordinating the collection of water samples from your public drinking water supply. The attached letter CT DPH DWS outlines this effort.

This letter is to inform you that the Department of Public Health (CTDPH) Drinking Water Section (DWS) is sampling public water supply wells in a section of Greenwich along the New York border because of recent detections of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in a nearby area. The CTDPH DWS is collaborating with the CTDPH Katherine A. Kelley State Public Health Laboratory to provide free water sample collection for your public drinking water sources of concern. We have also arranged to have the water samples analyzed at no cost to you. We would

ORGANIZED STRATEGY FOR TEAM APPROACH

- Handled all safety and security matters with local police
- Available for media inquiries and local resident questions
- Understands community's sensitivity due to historic contamination issues
- Awareness of community/political mistrust of Westchester County Airport

Contaminated water found in Greenwich wells near airport

By Robert Marchant Updated 10:53 pm EDT, Friday, April 13, 2018



A plane returns to the terminal at Westchester County Airport in White Plains, N.Y. Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017. [Buy Photo](#)

GREENWICH — Investigators have found contaminants believed to have leached into the soil from Westchester County Airport in the well water of two Greenwich property owners in the north end of town.

ORGANIZED STRATEGY FOR TEAM APPROACH

- Facilitated by the Greenwich Department of Health
- Held in the impacted area
- Attendees were free to circulate
- Opportunity for confidential consultation
- Team presentation at the end of information session
- Team members stayed to answer questions

greenwich [time](https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Residents-ask-questions-on-well-water-in-12914107.php) <https://www.greenwichtime.com/local/article/Residents-ask-questions-on-well-water-in-12914107.php>

Residents ask questions on well water in northwestern Greenwich

By Robert Marchant Updated 6:00 pm EDT, Tuesday, May 15, 2018



Residents of the King Street area meet with health and water-safety officials at an informational event at the Harvest Time Church.

LESSON LEARNED/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Need to communicate and collaborate to deliver a common message
- State and local agencies need to gain trust of each other
- Local health lead for local communication
- Local health is known and trusted by community residents.

LESSONS LEARNED/RECOMMENDATIONS

- Public information/community outreach sessions should be conducted.
- Guidance, protection and assistance to local towns and cities from state government is needed
- Legislative action may be needed for items such as:
 - Reimbursement to communities for PFAS contamination
 - Legal action
 - Adoption of requirements pertaining to PFAS

The background features a black field with dynamic, flowing waves of color. On the left, there are vibrant green waves that curve upwards and then downwards. On the right, there are warm orange and yellow waves that curve downwards and then upwards. The waves have a soft, ethereal glow and a slight texture, giving the impression of liquid or smoke in motion.

THANK YOU!