

— *Martinsburg Municipal Authority* —

INCORPORATED 1938

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September 18, 2023

In response to recent news articles about sampling results for a family of chemicals known as PFOA and PFOS, chemicals that are used in wide range of products (firefighting foam, skin care products, toothpaste, dental floss, Teflon and other common household products), the Martinsburg Municipal Authority is providing clarification regarding these issues.

PFAS contamination has generally been concentrated in areas around military installations or facilities that manufacture PFAS or PFAS-containing products. Since 2013, EPA has gathered information regarding the presence of PFAS compounds more generally distributed around the United States. Several states have also begun sampling to understand where PFAS may be dispersed through their jurisdictions.

Sampling was conducted by the Pennsylvania PFAS Action Team at one of the Authority groundwater wells (Hershberger Well) in 2019 and 2020. This sampling found PFOS and PFOA in one individual well averaging 10.6 and 3.4 parts per trillion (ppt), respectively.

In a proactive response to these sampling results, the Martinsburg Municipal Authority conducted additional voluntary sampling (sampling not required by regulatory agency) at all four well sources operated by the Authority to determine if these chemicals are present and, if so, at what concentration. This sampling confirmed the previous sampling results for the Hershberger well and also found that these chemicals are present/detected at the Authority's Wineland Well Field. However, the detection at the Wineland Well Field is at such a low level that they cannot be reliably reported using current laboratory methods (less than 4 ppt).

In January 2023, PA DEP published the PFAS MCL RULE. This rule establishes maximum contaminant levels that determine the legal threshold that is allowed for safe drinking water compliance. The Municipal Authority is happy to report that the sample results from the Hershberger Well as well as the Wineland Well Field are

below the regulatory MCL's of 18 ppt (PFOS) and 14 ppt (PFOA) as established by PA DEP. At this time, no action is required of Martinsburg.

The Board of the Martinsburg Municipal Authority is committed to providing the best water quality possible and to protect water quality in the future. To accomplish this, the Martinsburg Municipal Authority, along with our engineers, have been considering ways to upgrade the wells and treatment system. Martinsburg Municipal Authority is being proactive in investigating potential sources of funding through legal means, state and federal grant applications, and any other available avenues to minimize as best possible any impacts to our customers for the treatment of PFAS and PFOA. The first phase is interconnection of our two well fields for future treatment of all wells at the Wineland treatment facility. A grant application for this project was submitted to US EPA community project funding program. This request was supported by Congressman John Joyce and funding for this project has been written into the current bill under consideration this fall. Grant funding like this is imperative for Martinsburg Municipal Authority to complete these projects and keeping the drinking water for our customers safe and affordable for current and future generations. In addition to grant funds, the Authority is also seeking money damages through the legal system from those companies that produced PFAS and PFOA. This, too, will be an important source for funding treatment and protection of the Authority's drinking water. **It is important to note that the Authority's water fully complies with all federal and state regulations.** Through these legal actions, the Authority seeks to make the water even better and install treatment to protect against future contaminants.

A misreading of recently published news articles could lead one to believe that the Authority's wells are contaminated and unfit for human consumption. The word "contaminated" sounds scary, but the EPA considers anything in water to be a "contaminant" --- including soil, bacteria, and chemicals that are not necessarily harmful, like sodium. We want our consumers to know that the Martinsburg Municipal Authority Board is proactively pursuing both legal and technical solutions to the issue.

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