

March 18, 2025.

**Dear Durham Village Residents and NWWA Water System Customers.**

**We are writing and providing this packet of materials in an effort to provide you with complete and accurate information, following an article published in the newspaper this morning. We have been in contact with the reporter several times since late last week, however despite our best efforts the article still lacks some essential information. We do not believe it was intentional, however, worthy of correction and clarification.**

**Background and Planning:**

Until recently, PFOS and PFOA were not part of the daily vocabulary used in water system operations and regulations. Unfortunately, these substances have recently been detected in both public and private wells throughout the S/E Pa. region, including in our service area.

Recently, the PFAS concerns gained the attention of our state legislators and the PaDEP. As such, in 2023 the PaDEP announced more stringent limits, of 14 ppt (parts per trillion) for PFOA and 18 ppt for PFOS, many times collectively referred to as PFAS.

The USEPA has recently gone further by enacting additional regulations calling for a further reduction in PFAS to 4 ppt, effective in 2029.

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide the best water quality possible, and in anticipation of the more stringent regulations, the NWWA proactively commenced additional sampling and independent laboratory testing of water from our wells, at designated "entry points" through our distribution systems. This includes Durham Village Water System.

In order to complete the testing process, we must take multiple samples including four consecutive quarters, at each entry point. Upon completion of the four samples, the results are tallied and if the average exceeds the allowable levels, a formal public notice must be provided to all customers of that water system.

At this time, we have NOT completed all four sampling and testing cycles in your system and as recently as yesterday, we confirmed that we are NOT in violation of the allowable PPT level.

Anticipating a similar 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reading, we have already commenced planning for the installation of PFAS filters as part of your water system, and we have the filter system in preliminary engineering.



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In addition, just yesterday we settled on a multi-million-dollar Bond issuance to ensure sufficient funding to install the Durham Village filters. The Durham Village filter system construction is expected to cost up to \$ 1.5 Million Dollars, with operational costs upwards of 100 thousand dollars per year. *We will cover these costs in your normal water rates.*

NWWA will be onsite to collect our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter sample in early May. Once we have completed the necessary calculations, we will send the PaDEP mandated notice to all of the customers of the system, anticipated for mid-late June.

Our long-term goal is to have “non-detect” water throughout our systems. As such, regardless of the final testing results in your neighborhood are favorable, we still intend to install a permanent filter system to serve Durham Village. As part of this effort, we will be asking both PaDEP and Buckingham Township to assist by expediting all required permits and approvals. We expect that both will assist as best possible. Further, we are investigating the possibility of renting or leasing a portable filtration system for use while the permanent system goes through final design, approvals, and construction.

We are also now seeking proposals to make water coolers and weekly deliveries of bottled water, (or possibly under sink filters), available to customers in the community, at no cost. Once in place, the coolers and water delivery will continue until the filter system is installed and the filtered water tested meets all drinking water standards.

Lastly, to ensure timely and accurate information, we have set up a Durham Village file on our website. Please visit that website as frequently as desired, to help prevent having 60 different interpretations of the status circulating in the community, and so we can continue our efforts to solve the problem, rather than spending the day on the telephone. **Please find the file on our website at [www.nwwater.com](http://www.nwwater.com), “Your Water” / Durham Village.**

Once we have all of the facts, including a confirmed plan of action, we will invite all residents of your neighborhood to a meeting, perhaps at a local restaurant or meeting hall, at which time we can provide you with project details, current testing results, confirm permits and approvals, and an accurate project schedule.

Thank you,

North Wales Water Authority,

*Robert C. Bender*  
Executive Director

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# UNDERSTANDING PFAS



- **PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances)** are a group of human-made chemicals which includes **PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonate)** and **PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid)**.
- Commonly found in consumer products like non-stick cookware, water-repellent clothing, and firefighting foams. Some of these chemicals have been in commercial use since the 1940s.
- Both are known for their persistence in the environment and potential health impacts.

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“Studies have shown that only a small amount of PFAS can get into your body through your skin. Therefore, showering, bathing, and washing dishes in water containing PFAS are unlikely to significantly increase your risk. -EPA: Meaningful and Achievable Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Risk [of PFAS exposure]

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**PFAS build up in the human body over time. Scientists are still studying the health effects of PFAS.**

**Potential health effects include:**

- Developmental issues in infants and children.
- Liver damage.
- Immune system effects.
- Thyroid hormone disruption.
- Increased risk of certain cancers.

# How PFAS Cycle Through the Environment



PFAS emissions into the air

PFAS in precipitation

Private farm

Airport

PFAS in firefighting foam

Reuse of wastewater residuals

PFAS manufacturing and industrial use

Groundwater

Groundwater contamination from surface water infiltration

Residential area

Wastewater treatment plant

Drinking water treatment plant

**Note:** This illustration does not capture every source of PFAS exposure or the varying levels per exposure source.

**A** PFAS, which are unregulated in industrial discharges, enter the environment through air, surface water and groundwater.

**B** Nutrient-rich materials that remain after wastewater treatment and testing are used on farms as low-cost fertilizers. Significant contributions to wastewater from nearby industrial sites can elevate PFAS levels in residual materials and seep into groundwater if not removed during treatment.

**C** Firefighting foams which may contain PFAS are used at airports, military bases and training sites. Runoff containing PFAS migrates through soil into surface and groundwater.

**D** At older landfills, wastewater from PFAS-contaminated waste may leach into groundwater or enter surface water.

**E** New technologies have enabled recent detection of PFAS in drinking water supplies. Water treatment facilities that hadn't previously known of PFAS in their water supplies are determining the most effective treatments for removal.

**F** PFAS continue to be used in common household products such as stain repellants and non-stick cookware. Their use contributes to PFAS exposure in humans and drinking water, source water and groundwater.

**G** Liquid waste that seeps from landfills and wastewater is treated at wastewater plants, but PFAS may remain in the water after treatment and contaminate ground water.

# WHERE DOES PFAS COME FROM?

THE CHART BELOW IDENTIFIES JUST A FEW OF THE COMMON HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS WITH PFAS

<b>Apparel</b>	Clothing that is "stain-resistant" or "waterproof"
<b>Children's Products</b>	Any product identified as "stain-resistant" or "waterproof" including apparel, mattresses, pillow covers, bibs, face masks
<b>Personal care products</b>	Any product with "perfluor" in the ingredients list.
<b>Garden products</b>	Food packaging with PFAS may contaminate compost
<b>Cleaners and waxes</b>	PFAS is in many cleaners and in floor waxes. Many cleaning products do not fully disclose ingredients on product labels
<b>Food Packaging</b>	PFAS may be in paper-based disposable food packaging, including paper plates, cups, wrappers, bakery bags, candy wrappers, and trays contain PFAS
<b>Cookware</b>	Almost all non-stick cookware contains PFAS. Those that don't, often contain bisphenol A (BPA), which should also be avoided.

## WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

Contact Us:

 267-328-4915

 [waterquality@nwwater.com](mailto:waterquality@nwwater.com)

 <https://www.nwwater.com/service-area/durham-village/>



For regular updates, please visit our Durham Village Webpage, by scanning the QR Code above. We will be updating this page regularly.

**Below are the treatment options that have been successfully implemented at other groundwater wells within the NWWA system. Providing effective filtration for these wells has always been a priority for us, and we remain committed to implementing the best solutions to protect your water supply.**

