



DNREC —Site Investigation and
Restoration Section
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Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

New Castle County Airport Area Community Fact Sheet PFOS/PFOA Detected in Ground Water from New Castle Public Wells

Artesian Water Company and the City of New Castle Municipal Services Commission detected perfluorooctanoic sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in public water supply wells in the New Castle County Airport area that are above the U.S. EPA's 2016 lifetime health advisory level of 0.07 parts per billion. The public drinking water is treated to remove the contaminants.

What is DNREC doing?

DNREC is continuing to investigate the source of the ground water contamination in the public wells. In 2017 DNREC will be working with U.S. EPA to install monitoring wells and sample ground water to help determine the extent of the contamination.

Can I continue to drink the public water?

Yes. Artesian and the City of New Castle Municipal Services Commission have been treating the public drinking water to remove PFOS and PFOA so the water does not exceed the health advisory level. The drinking water supplied by Artesian and the City of New Castle continues to meet Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act standards.

What are PFOS and PFOA?

PFOS and PFOA are part of a group of chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They are man-made chemicals that have been used in manufacturing and industrial operations, most prevalently in the 1950s-1970s. PFAS were first developed by companies like DuPont and 3M in manufacturing adhesives and non-stick Teflon™. They have been used in firefighting foams and other products with stain, water, oil and grease repellent properties such as clothing, food-wrappers and carpet. Over time, PFOS and PFOA have become widely distributed in the environment and have been detected in the blood of humans, wildlife, and fish.

What adverse health effects may be associated with exposure to PFOS and PFOA?

In laboratory studies of animals given large doses of PFOS and PFOA, results indicate that the substances can cause developmental, reproductive, and other adverse health effects including increased liver weight in laboratory animals. In humans, more research is ongoing, but the most consistent findings from epidemiology studies are elevated blood serum total cholesterol levels among exposed populations, and limited findings related to low infant birth weights.

Where is the site located?

The contaminated area, known as the New Castle Public Wells Ground Water Plume Site, is approximately seven square miles. The Site is bound by Interstate 295 to the north, the Delaware River to the east, Route 273 to the south, and Route 13 and New Castle County Airport to the west. DNREC's previous investigations in the area refer to the site as the Zero (0) East Basin Road Site (DE-0363).

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Outline of New Castle Public Wells Ground Water Plume Site.

FOR ADDITIONAL PFAS INFORMATION — SEE EPA AND ATSDR WEBSITES:

- <https://www.epa.gov/chemical-research/research-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>
- <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc/>

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

- **Site-related:** Please contact DNREC staff at 302-395-2600, or by email: Todd Keyser at Todd.Keyser@state.de.us or Stephanie Gordon at Stephanie.Gordon@state.de.us.
- **Public Drinking Water:** Please contact the Division of Public Health, Office of Drinking Water at 302-741-8630.
- **City of New Castle Municipal Services Commission:** Please contact Pamela Patone at 302-323-2330.
- **Artesian's Water Quality Department:** Please contact 302-453-6900.