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Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

New Castle County Airport Area Community Fact Sheet
PFAS Detected in Groundwater from New Castle Public Wells

Artesian Water Company and the City of New Castle Municipal Services Commission have detected perfluorooctanoic sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), part of a group of chemicals known as per– and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), in public water supply wells in the New Castle County Airport area. The concentrations detected were 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.**

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, part of the group of chemicals known as PFAS, are man-made chemicals that were 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 repellant properties such as clothing, food-wrappers and carpeting. Over time, PFAS have become widely distributed in the environment and have been detected in the blood of humans, wildlife, and fish across the globe.

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).

What is DNREC doing?
DNREC is continuing to investigate the source of the groundwater contamination in the public supply wells. DNREC began work with U.S. EPA in 2017-2018 to install monitoring wells and sample the groundwater to help determine the extent of the contamination. The investigation is on-going with additional groundwater monitoring activities scheduled for fall 2019.

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PFAS Detected in Groundwater from New Castle Public Wells *Continued...*

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@delaware.gov or Stephanie Gordon at Stephanie.Gordon@delaware.gov.
- **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 302-323-2330.
- **Artesian's Water Quality Department:** Please contact 302-453-6900.