



December 9, 2019

In response to a recent news article 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 Coraopolis Water and Sewer Authority is providing clarification on the information provided.

EPA has recently identified these compounds to have potential health effects and have set advisory levels while additional work is done to determine the prevalence of the chemicals in water supplies and to collect additional health data. Advisory levels are preliminary but intended to ultimately be enforceable when a final maximum contaminant level can be established. The current advisory level is 70 ppt (parts per trillion). This is the equivalent of one drop of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water. EPA sets its maximum contaminant levels based on a lifetime (70 years) of drinking 2 liters each day of water that results in 1 more case of cancer in a million people.

The sample taken from the CWSA System measured 12.9 ppt which is significantly lower than the EPA advisory level of 70 ppt. It is also important to note that less than 25% of the more than 400 susceptible public water systems in PA have been sampled to date by the PA Department of Environmental Protection. CWSA was among the first round of sites sampled.

The Board of the CWSA is committed to providing the best water quality possible. To accomplish this, the CWSA had previously approved a plan in 2019, which includes significant upgrades to the CWSA well field and treatment system. The upgrades to the Treatment System proposed include the use of granular activated carbon. This treatment was selected by the Board as a barrier for removal of various contaminants, which may exist currently or in the future in the well field.

The Times recently published headline that the "Coraopolis Drinking Water Contaminated" is misleading. The use of this word by the Times implies that the drinking water is unfit for consumption. CWSA Drinking water meets all current federal, state and local drinking water standards for all uses including consumption. The Times use of the word contaminated mischaracterizes the quality of the drinking water.

Coraopolis Water and Sewer Authority Board

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