



July 2, 2020

Benner Township Supervisors
1224 Buffalo Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Re: PFAS Investigation
Benner Township, Centre County

Dear Supervisors:

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is aware of continued interest by both you and the citizens of Benner Township about the PFAS investigation that we are working on in Benner Township, and I wanted to take this opportunity to update you. As you may be aware, in 2019 DEP developed a statewide plan to sample a select set of public water supply wells for a class of chemicals known as PFAS (Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances). These chemicals were used in the manufacture of multiple products such as non-stick coatings and are in material like AFFF fire-fighting foam. One facility that was tested for PFAS in 2019 was State of the Art, located in Benner Township on High Tech Road. The testing found that PFAS was detected in the well at a concentration of 114 parts per trillion (ppt). In 2017, the US EPA established a Health Advisory Limit (HAL) of 70 ppt for PFAS.

As the first step of DEP's investigation, we located two additional water supply wells in the immediate vicinity of State of the Art. We sampled these two locations (Matreya, Inc. and Handy Delivery Taxi) in November 2019. Results of the water samples from both facilities exceeded the 70 ppt HAL and were shared with the facilities. We have since attempted to sample a third well we became aware of at the new facility for Nittany Express, however our attempts to contact the owner have not been successful. As part of the initial investigation this spring DEP also requested The Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) sample pre-existing wells on the University Park airport property. Penn State has cooperated with DEP and sampled four wells on the airport property. Sample results for the first three wells were either non-detect or below the HAL. We are awaiting results from the fourth well.

DEP recently requested funds from our Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA) funding to initiate an investigation into the potential source(s) of the PFAS contamination, and its extent. Once a contractor has been assigned for our investigation, we will be in contact with you regarding our plans to proceed. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to call me at 570.327.3418 or e-mail me at csinclair@pa.gov.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Sinclair

Cheryl Sinclair
Hazardous Sites Cleanup Section
Environmental Cleanup and Brownfields Program

cc: File