

**Berkeley County Public Service Water District**  
251 Caperton Boulevard  
Martinsburg, WV 25403  
Phone (304) 267-4600  
Fax (304) 267-3864



### **PFAS Exposure Study Coming to Martinsburg Area**

(April 5, 2019) - The Martinsburg area has been identified as a location for further study of exposure to Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a group of chemicals previously identified in a Martinsburg drinking water source. It has yet to be determined if the study will include any customers of Berkeley County Public Service Water District (District). The District does purchase a small percentage of its water supply from the City of Martinsburg.

PFAS are a large group of man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s and are now commonly present in the environment. At the local Air National Guard base (Shepherd Field), PFAS has been used as a fire suppressant due their effectiveness at extinguishing fuel-based fires. More information on PFAS can be found on the CDC's website (<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/>).

To better understand how much PFAS are in humans, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Agency for the Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) selected eight sites from around the US to investigate the extent of exposure from drinking water versus other sources. Since PFAS had been identified in a drinking water supply near the Air National Guard base, the CDC and ASTDR selected Martinsburg as one of their eight study sites.

In 2016, when the EPA revised its health advisory level for PFAS from 600 parts per trillion (ppt) to 70 ppt, the City of Martinsburg immediately shut down the contaminated source and installed granular activated carbon treatment, a technology proven effective in removing PFAS from water. The water being purchased from Martinsburg today complies with all health-related regulations and recommendations, as does the District's water supplies. Martinsburg conducts routine monitoring to ensure treatment is effectively removing PFAS to levels well below the revised health advisory. The District conducts additional testing above and beyond requirements to ensure that no PFAS compounds are present above the health advisory levels.

We will update this space with additional information on the study as it becomes available. Until then, please direct inquiries to ATSDR Region 3, Christine Lloyd at 215-814-3142 or email [hjn7@cdc.gov](mailto:hjn7@cdc.gov).

Additional resources on PFAS and the ATSDR Study:

- <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/basic-information-pfas>
- [ATSDR PFAS Exposure Assessment website](#)
- [ATSDR PFAS Exposure Assessment and Multisite Health Study Factsheet](#)