



Township of Northampton

Northampton Township Municipal Complex · 55 Township Road, Richboro, PA 18954-1592

Phone: (215) 357-6800 · Fax: (215) 357-1251

Website: www.northamptontownship.com

September 23, 2024

Dear Neighbor,

As many of you are aware, the former Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster (NAWC), sometimes referred to as the Johnsville Naval Air Development Center, was operated by the United States Navy for half a century before its closure in the 1990's as part of the Federal Government's Base Realignment and Closure Project (BRAC). In the years following its closure, portions of the NAWC were designated an EPA Superfund Site, and significant groundwater contamination has been identified on the NAWC property, and on properties in the area of the NAWC, believed to be the result of the Navy's activities on the NAWC property over the years. Testing and other data accumulated in the years since the NAWC's closing indicate that this groundwater contamination has continued to migrate from the NAWC property into the neighborhoods and communities surrounding the former NAWC site, including areas located within Northampton Township.

The United States Navy has undertaken a project aimed at identifying private residential wells that might be affected by this groundwater contamination, and the Navy has similarly committed to remediation efforts to assist certain of the residents whose wells have been identified by the Navy as contaminated. The Township believes that the Navy has not gone far enough in its efforts to address the well contamination problems created by its activities on the former NAWC property, and that there is much more that needs to be done by the Navy to inform and assist the residents of Northampton Township in regard to this groundwater contamination and the Navy's remediation efforts.

We are therefore writing to share information we have obtained and received regarding this groundwater contamination that is affecting our community.

First, and foremost, we have been, and will continue to be, in contact with governmental agencies and elected officials at all levels of government in a collective effort to engage and pressure the Navy in regard to its activities to identify, test, and remediate private wells in the Township that may be affected by groundwater contamination. To that end, the Township has been working cooperatively with Congressman Fitzpatrick, State Senator Farry, State Representative Marcell, the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), and the Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority (NBCMA) in these efforts to obtain more and better information from the Navy, and to persuade the Navy to expand and increase its testing and remediation areas and efforts within our community.

We cannot emphasize enough that the information we have comes directly from the Navy, and that the Navy determines what information it shares with the Township and the timing at which any such information is shared. You should feel free to contact the following individuals with questions regarding your property, and we encourage you to do so:

Jonathan Harris
BRAC Environmental Coordinator
NAVFAC BRAAC Program Management Office
4911 South Broad Street, Building 679
Philadelphia, PA 19112
Phone: (215) 897-4900
jonathan.i.harris5.civ@us.navy.mil

Colin Wade
PA Department of Environmental Protection
2 East Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401
Phone: (484) 250-5722
cowade@pa.gov

Jonathan Harris is the Environmental Coordinator for the Base Realignment and Closure Program (BRAC) and is responsible for projects involving private well testing and remediation of contamination from the former NAWC that includes providing alternate water sources, such as bottled water on a temporary basis for residents with positive test results, and remediation by the public water line extensions and the connection of homes to the public water system. Colin Wade is the PADEP representative assigned to the Navy project from the State.

Additional information on the Navy's remediation efforts and program is also available on the BRAC website:

<https://www.bracpmo.navy.mil/BRAC-Bases/Northeast/Former-Naval-Air-Warfare-Center-Warminster/>

If you visit this website, click on "Meeting Materials" in the box on the top left portion of the home page to view the most recent information from the public meeting held on August 8, 2024. BRAC holds public meetings twice each year where residents can obtain updates and information on the status of remediation efforts by the Navy.

To assist Northampton residents, the Township is working to create a dedicated page on the Township Website on which the Township will share information, as we receive it, from the Navy and other governmental agencies that is related to these groundwater contamination matters. We encourage you to sign up for our e-mail notifications that will advise you of new postings to the site. You can sign up with the following link:

<https://www.northamptontownship.com/resources/alerts/>

In addition, we have enclosed a list of Accredited Drinking Water Laboratories recognized by the Navy if you wish to test your well. If you do, it would be extremely helpful for you to share those results with the Navy and the Township. This information will help us convince the Navy to expand its testing area and remediation efforts.

Northampton Township is doing its best to identify and inform potentially affected properties, but unfortunately, the Township only has information regarding those properties already identified by the Navy as either affected or potentially affected. Without assistance and intervention by the Navy and/or other governmental agencies, neither the Township nor the NBCMA have any way of knowing the extent of the groundwater contamination affecting certain areas of our community. We therefore, again, encourage you to please contact the BRAC and PADEP Representatives identified above.

We also ask and encourage you to share this letter with neighbors in your area so that we can ensure our residents are informed about this issue.

The goal of the Northampton Board of Supervisors, and the NBCMA, is to ensure all our residents have safe drinking water, and we are confident that our NBCMA is, in fact, providing safe drinking water to the thousands of Northampton residents and businesses who are customers of the NBCMA. For our residents who maintain their own private wells, we will continue in our efforts to assure that the U.S. Navy fulfills its obligations to you to address and resolve any and all issues created by the groundwater contamination caused by the Navy's prior activities at NAWC.

Sincerely,
Northampton Township Board of Supervisors

Adam M. Selisker, Chairman
Barry Moore, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Kimberly Rose, Treasurer
Paula Gasper, Secretary
Robert Salzer, Member

ACCREDITED DRINKING WATER LABS

5/3/2024

Contact the individual lab for pricing and types of testing that is conducted

ABE Laboratories LLC, 7596 Bath Pike, Bath, PA 18014

Phone: 610-837-7721

www.abe-labs.com/

Analytical Laboratories, Inc. 4208 Bethlehem Pike, Telford, PA 18969

Phone: 215-723-6466

www.analab.com/

Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., 762 W. Lancaster Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

Phone: 610-525-1400

www.aquaamerica.com/

Criterion Laboratories, Inc. 400 Street Road, Suite 100 Bensalem, PA 19020

Phone: 215-244-1300

www.criterionlabs.com/

Eagle Industrial Hygiene Assoc., 216 Cedar Avenue, Willow Grove, PA 19090

Phone: 215-672-6088

www.eagleih.com/

Eurofins QC, Inc., 795 Horsham Road, Horsham, PA 19044

Phone: 215-355-3900, Ext. 4335

www.eurofinsus.com/QC

M.J. Reider Associates Inc., 107 Angelica Street Reading, PA 19611

Phone: 610-374-5129

www.mjreider.com/

Quakertown Veterinary Clinic, 2250 N. Old Bethlehem Pike, Quakertown, PA 18951

Phone: 215-536-2726

<https://www.quakertownvetclinic.com/>

Suburban Testing Laboratories, 1037 McArthur Road, Reading, PA 19605

Phone: 610-375-8378

www.suburbantestinglabs.com/