



Township of Abington

138 Central Avenue
North Hills, PA 19038
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Michael J. Thompson
Commissioner – Ward 6

8/2/2018 PFOS/ PFOA Meeting
Antioch Baptist Church
North Hills

Rep. Dean made opening statement, brief overview of PFOS/ PFAS.

Marc Lucca, president of Aqua spoke first, discussed mission of Aqua.
Introduced Chris Crockett, lead Aqua scientist. Chris conveyed the following-

- Noted that well was taken offline voluntarily
- Says water is served by Abington well now.
- Installed GAC filters in Chalfont and Hatboro.
- Testing wells and streams and rivers
- Providing info to military- military needs to be held responsible for pollution
- Advocating for EPA/ DEP to set a regulatory limit.
- Waterfacts.com discussion
- Committed to safe water

Pat Patterson- DEP

- Notes that Aqua has laid out the problem fairly accurately
- Notes issues are federal government responsibility
- Safe water act grants authority to act on systems over HAL
- Limits- petition sent to environmental advisory board at state level, requesting action setting a limit.

Rep. Dean introduced EPA. EPA will not make a presentation, but will listen.

Community Questions:

Is reverse osmosis a temp fix? ONE OF A FEW TECHNOLOGIES, AQUA NOTES THAT GAC FILTER IS THE BEST FILTER. CONTINUALLY EVOLVING SCIENCE. AS A HOMEOWNER- GO TO RESOURCES TAB ON TOP OF WATERFACTS WEBPAGE, CLICK NSF APPROVED DEVICES

Who pays for it? AQUA NOTES THAT IT IS A MATTER OF CHOICE, CHECK W/ PHYSICIAN TO ASSESS NEED.

Cumulative effect of toxin? Health consequences? ATSDR CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION, AQUA CANNOT. ATSDR & CDC HAS THAT INFO ON THE WEB.

Science is unknown, but level keeps going down. Doesn't believe 70 is safe. AQUA IS TRYING TO GET



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AHEAD OF THE ISSUE AND REMEDIATE.

Homeowners with private wells? Who reimburses for testing? DEP RESPONSE- PA IS ONE OF 2 STATES THAT DOES NOT HAVE DEP REGULATE PRIVATE WELLS. PRIVATE WELLS ARE UNDER REGULATION OF COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT. PFOA AND PFOS TESTS ARE COSTLY. **Resident wants to test as frequently as Aqua. What is this doing to our soils?** DEP HAS FOCUSED ON DRINKING WATER, NOT SOIL.

Why did it take so long to notify the community? DEP NOTES THAT THE LEVELS WERE BELOW THE HEALTH ADVISORY LEVEL (HAL), THERE WAS NO ACTION REQUIRED. AQUA NOTED THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR 2 YEARS. **Crowd notes lots of publicity in Horsham, not Upper Dublin.** AQUA HAS BEEN MONITORING AND POSTING FOR 2 YEARS. 1100 SAMPLES COLLECTED BY AQUA. INFO HAS BEEN AVAILABLE.

Rep Dean adds that info should be provided in the bills.

Rep Dean discusses issue- HAL is a squishy number. ATSDR report greatly reduces the number to 18, to 5, somewhere.

Showering, exposure to water? Filtration in home (can DOD help homeowners defray cost?) DERMAL EXPOSURE IS DISCUSSED IN THE REPORT, BUT THE FOCUS IS ON ORAL. AQUA NOTES THAT THESE CHEMICALS ARE IN A WHOLE HOST OF ITEMS THAT PEOPLE USE EVERY DAY. THIS NUMBER ASSUMES ONLY 20% EXPOSURE FROM WATER, 80% COMES FROM EXPOSURE TO OTHER HOUSEHOLD SUBSTANCES.

Follow up question references soil. DEP NOT QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS HEALTH EFFECTS DUE TO SOIL EXPOSURE. **Rep Dean notes that we will follow up with qualified officials to answer. Showering:** EPA OR DEP HAVE NOT PUT OUT A NUMBER ON THAT. CDC WOULD HAVE TO CLARIFY THAT. AQUA WOULD LIKE TO GET THAT ANSWER AS WELL. AQUA WILL TRY TO GET AN ANSWER.

How does this water effect pets? BOILING WATER ONLY WORKS FOR PATHOGENS. BOILING WILL NOT REMOVE CHEMICAL AT ALL, AND IS NOT RECOMMENDED. AS FAR AS PETS, AQUA HAS NOT SEEN ANY INFO ON THAT, BUT WILL TRACK IT DOWN FROM CDC AND POST IT.

Military is responsible for this situation? Any type of remediation deadline? DEP- DOESN'T HAVE AN ANSWER, RELYING ON EPA. MILITARY HAS LEAD, DEP HAS BEEN IN A CONSULTING ROLE. MILITARY IS PROGRESSING, BUT TIMELINE LIKELY ISN'T FAST ENOUGH. NO DROP DEAD DATE. BY SAYING THEY'RE RESPONSIBLE, YES, AROUND THE BASE. MAY NOT JUST BE FIRE FIGHTING FOAM.

On aqua site- sees fluctuation in well results. What causes that kind of fluctuation? When does it get under control? AQUA NOTES WELLS ARE PUSHING/ PULLING CONTAMINATION AROUND UNDER THE GROUND. STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF IT IS GOING TO BE A STABLE NUMBER OVER TIME, OR IF SPIKES WILL CONTINUE. NORTH HILLS HAS STRANGE FLUCTUATIONS, NOT SURE IF ITS SEASONAL, OR AQUIFER FLUCTUATIONS.



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Speaker notes Oreland is 4.4, North Hills is 40. Why the large gap? Speaker notes not everyone has access to the water. Notes its elected officials' duty to notify residents. AQUA NOTES THAT THE UPPER DUBLIN WELL (AIDENN LAIR) IS CURRENTLY OPERATING AND IS IN DESIGN FOR A GAC SYSTEM. 6-9 MONTH TIME LINE. LAST TEST RESULT WAS 18, BUT ABOVE 30 ROUTINELY.

Limit has dropped- what are health implications? How many fires, how many gallons was used? Has formula been changed. 2009 HAD A 200-400 LEVEL, DROPPED TO 70 IN 2016.

Speaker notes offense to how Aqua is taking a leadership role. 70 ppt seems to be arbitrary. Notes this isn't going to stand. Other towns are at non-detect. Why taking so long? AQUA NOTES THAT INTERCONNECT IS NOT THAT SIMPLE. BALANCING ACT- MASS BALANCE- WATER FOR FIRES, WATER FOR WAKE UP, WATER FOR IRRIGATION PLACES DEMAND ON SYSTEM. CHANGING ANYTHING IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM WILL TRIGGER CONSEQUENCES- PRESSURE PROBLEMS, MAIN BREAKS, WATER QUALITY ISSUES. AQUA IS ANALYZING WHAT THEY CAN AS QUICKLY AS THEY CAN. TWO GAC SYSTEMS. ONE WELL OFFLINE. ANOTHER IN DESIGN. TALKING TO VENDORS FOR PRIORITIZATION. THERE IS A LOT OF ACTIVITY OCCURRING, AND THEY ARE WORKING ON IT.

Are they able to take Aidenn Lair offline? AQUA TIERED APPROACH- LEVELS OF CONTAMINANT DETERMINE PRIORITY. TAKING WELLS OFF INDISCRIMINANTLY COULD CAUSE ISSUES. NEEDS TO BE THOUGHT THRU.

Oreland, Upper Dublin- which well am I on, and what is contaminant level? AQUA WILL CHECK BASED ON ADDRESS. Residents unimpressed with this answer- want more transparency regarding where drinking water comes from.

Speaker notes that we can no longer count on EPA. Thinks this is not #1 on their priority list. Need Aqua to think about how to get to non-detectable.

House bill 705- limits lowered to 5 or 10. Tried to get it passed in 2017. Need to rely on government in order to move Aqua.

Speaker reads health effects. What will be done for vulnerable populations? Any tracking in the area? DEP- LIMITED UNDER SAFE WATER DRINKING ACT, CAN ONLY ACT ABOVE 70. AFTER THAT, CAN PURSUE RESPONSIBLE PARTY TO PROVIDE BOTTLED WATER. Speaker would like bottled water for vulnerable populations.

Discussion of HB 705. Can DEP use PA constitution to take action?

Federal agencies should not be allowed to opt out of meetings. No one can answer health questions tonight. Needs to be a follow up from this meeting that will require someone from EPA/ CDC. DEAN'S OFFICE WILL RESPOND.



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Where is Aqua with installing treatment. 2 WELLS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED. INSTALLING UPGRADE FOR AIDENN LAIR. 6-9 MONTHS.

Can we streamline the permit process?

Rep. Stevens- Take Aidenn Lair offline right away. 6-9 months is too long. Able to hook up temp GAC filters. Any reason that cannot be an alternative? GOOD QUESTION- WORKING WITH MFR TO SEE HOW QUICK THEY CAN GET TEMP VESSELS. SIZE, TYPE, AND AVAILABILITY OF THE UNITS NEEDS TO BE CALC'D OUT.

Resident notes that not many answers have been provided. Pays bill in advance for quality service, quality water. What is Aqua doing in the interim? Filters? Is it safe to drink the water? AQUA SAYS THEY ARE NOT HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, AND CANNOT GIVE A FIRM ANSWER. AQUA PROVIDES WATER AT A LEVEL OF 70 PPT OR LESS, IN ACCORDANCE W/ EPA GUIDELINES. Residents less than thrilled with this answer.

Fed government is deregulating. What will Aqua do when EPA deregulates? AQUA WILL NEVER BACKSLIDE ON REQUIREMENTS. IF EPA IS NOT STRICT, THEY FOLLOW STATE. STATES TAKE ACTION.

Will state take action when federal gov't won't? REP. MURT DISCUSSES HB 705. BILL REDUCES TO LIMIT TO 5.

How can we get it out of committee? CALL REP IN CHARGE OF COMMITTEE AND TELL HIM TO MOVE IT FORWARD. THERE IS A PETITION ONLINE. Can this be put in the water bills? Also, put what well the water comes from in the bill? REP DEAN- PRESSURE THE CHAIRMAN! SIGNAL TO EPA VIA LETTERS AND MEETINGS THAT THE HAL BE TAKEN DOWN TO NON-DETECT. PARTNER WITH DEP, AQUA- PLEASE ACT AGGRESSIVELY. NON-DETECT IS THE GOAL.

What was used in Horsham to bring it down to 0? How long did it take? Why not use on every single well? IN HORSHAM, THEY DETECTED LEVELS OVER 400/ 600. WERE REQUIRED TO SHUT DOWN WELLS AND ADD TREATMENT. WHY AREN'T ALL WELLS ON GAC? HAL IS SET AT 70. Why wouldn't you want clean water for everyone? AQUA DOES PROVIDE SAFE WATER, NONE OF 90 CONTAMINANTS ARE REGULATED AT A 0 LEVEL.

Contamination is in the soils. Who's cleaning up the contaminants? What's happening at the naval base? Need to fix the soils. Filtration isn't the answer.

Paul Leonard (UD manager)- Board of Commissioners will have a similar meeting at the township building next week. Paul and Scarpello went to DC and met w/ Casey to get more info. Learned that this material is still leaving the base, uncontained. Park Creek plant is downstream. Upper Dublin has been proactive and purchased clean water from NWWA, which does have GAC. Has not seen the level



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of investment by Aqua (privately owned) as they have in publicly owned systems. To Aqua- could there be a reasonable investment PLUGGING A SYSTEM IN IS SIMPLY NOT THAT SIMPLE. CANNOT DO EVERYTHING AT ONCE. GOING OUT IN A TIERED WAY. TREATING AIDENN LAIR WITH CARBON. NESHAMINY HAS POWDER ACTIVATED CARBON, BUT NOT GRANULAR. AQUA WILL LOOK AT PURCHASING WATER FROM NWWA TO TEMP SUPPLY WATER. VERY COMPLEX PROCESS WHEN THEY HAVE A SYSTEM. Yes or no question. Aqua declines to provide a yes or no.

Resident concerned because they did not know what was going on. How will every resident be reached? People do not know. REP DEAN NOTES THAT WE ARE TRYING TO COMMUNICATE. Reverse osmosis. Granulated activated carbon- inexpensive solution on a home to home basis. Does Brita bring water down noticeably? AQUA WILL LOOK INTO IF ANY BRITAS ARE ADEQUATE. RES- NSF CERTIFIES SYSTEMS. P473 SYSTEM (?)

What is the end goal? AQUA NEEDS EPA TO SET LIMIT, BUT ONCE TREATMENT IS SET, THE WATER IS NON-DETECT. NEWER TECHNOLOGIES MAY BE MORE EFFECTIVE. AQUA'S GOAL IS THAT, WHEN A SYSTEM IS INSTALLED, THE LEVEL IS NON-DETECT. AQUA IS STARTING WITH SYSTEMS SHOWING HIGHEST CONCENTRATIONS, AND WORKING DOWN.

Can PFAS levels and well distribution be included in utility bills? How will all of this information be disseminated? This affects everyone in the community. A lot of folks are simply not aware of the issue. AQUA WILL TRY TO DISSEMINATE THE BULLETIN VIA HARDCOPY.

Lack of recourse is a problem. Can't shop around for water companies. Frustrated that they cannot get straight answer and plans. No contingency plans? Many in the room consider this to be an emergency.

Inconsistent testing. 33 cities have contaminated water, only solution is re-drilling. Lived in community for 20 years, thinks this is not new. Contact the EPA. Put pressure on them for the safety of our community.

Rep. McCarter- Holding a meeting next Tuesday. We're all working together to disseminate as much info as possible. Cheltenham is also impacted by this.

Information is half fact- North Hills well is offline, but next closest well is still tainted. Plume will move, needs clean up. Access an allied company that gets ground water. Use surface water. Suppliers have offered to supply water to Aqua. An interconnect is 30 days, and could run temporarily. Plume will continue to move. Will Aqua purchase water from NWWA? AQUA IS LOOKING AT ALL OPTIONS AS PART OF THEIR REVIEW. SIZE OF SYSTEM MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO FIND A SOLUTION. Speaker- worst we would see is some ruddy water for the first few days. Should see healthy non-detect water from surface water/ clean water purchase. Suggests Aqua engages community in an honest way. Aqua wants water at zero detect, here's what it costs. Speaker installed a system in house last weekend, cartridges are pricey, but maybe can buy



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cartridges as a collective. Vulnerable populations- consider providing filtered water within public schools. One source per school. Lets not let the military off the hook. Military has made strides for installations, should make strides for communities that house installations.

Rep Murt- HB 705 Rep McCarter is also a co-sponsor.

Rep Dean- will upload EPA guidelines to their websites. We are committed to getting more experts into this community. More meetings next Tuesday in Cheltenham and Upper Dublin. Will hold everyone accountable.

Speaker is a volunteer firefighter- thanks for all of the fire hydrants. What kind of security at reservoirs and treatment plants? AQUA NOTES THAT SECURITY IS ESSENTIAL IN TODAY'S WORLD. ALL PLANTS HAVE SECURITY, CAMERAS, FENCES, 24/7 MONITORING. GUARDS AT RESERVOIRS. All this ground pollution didn't happen overnight. This has happened over generations. Suggests that we look at fertilizer as a contaminant. Look at septic systems. Planes had to dump fuel.

As an Abington resident, there are no other choices for water. What kind of pressure can we put on Aqua to say that we are going to change our water supplier. There's too many unknowns, no deadlines. We need to be the ones that are acting. What kind of pressure can we put on Aqua- how can we find a way to go somewhere else?

Can Aqua be transparent with their tiered plan? Can we search by address to see what wells we're served by? Can we get info for our local doctors? Where are schools getting water from? AQUA WANTS TO MAKE SURE SHE HAD INFO SHE NEEDED. LIKES SUGGESTIONS MADE BY SPEAKER. Speaker reviewed PFAS level numbers in several wells.

Property value?- REP DEAN- WATER IS BELOW THE 70 PPT.

EPA notes that 80% of PFAS are from non-water sources. 20% from water. AQUA- THAT CAME DIRECTLY FROM EPA. WILL SEEK NUMBERS. 70 as a lifetime limit? AQUA THINKS WE NEED CDC TO EXPLAIN LIFETIME LIMIT. DEP- RISK BASED ANALYSIS- DAILY AVERAGE CONSUMPTION OVER A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. Resident discusses Toxicology studies. Translation of an estimate measured in the amount of material taken in per day in terms of body weight. Number is converted via calculation to get an advisory limit. That is a measurable number. ATSDR has researched more data, and reset their negative risk level. A factor of 10 less now. Toxicology is based on animal study, uptake is different in animals. Since tech exists, take it down to 0.

Where is the money coming from? Are we the one paying that cost? If so, will you show it in the bills. THAT WILL BE CALCULATED AS PART OF THE NEXT RATE HIKE REQUEST.

This is not new. Need prayer to help us. Stop spreading fear and pray.



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Why did it take this long for Rep Dean to get involved? INFO HAS BEEN ON DEAN WEBSITE FOR THE LAST 2.5 YEARS. CDC REPORT CAME OUT IN JUNE, SAYS THAT THE 70PPT IS NOT SAFE. CALLS ON AQUA TO TAKE THE LEAD.

Blood level studies? Clinical effects? Suggests local studies that neighbors could volunteer for. Help those less fortunate financially. DEP- STATE DEPT OF HEALTH IS IN THE PROCESS OF OR WRAPPING UP STUDIES IN HORSHAM AREA. **Resident notes that you cannot volunteer, random selection.** **Rep Dean knew that North Hills was dangerous, but what about Aidenn Lair.** REP DEAN NOTES THAT AQUA CONVERSATIONS HAVE BEEN ABOUT ALL WELLS OVER 10. DIDN'T JUST PICK A WELL. IN THE ABSENSE OF KNOWING WHAT A REAL LEVEL IS, FIGHTING FOR NON-DETECT.

Seems that other townships and community had power to combat issue due to having municipal water service, and we don't due to PUC. What can DEP do without EPA regs? Pressure Aqua into buying water from NWWA? Aqua decisions based on profit and shareholders. Who holds them accountable. What leverage do we have? AQUA NOTES THAT THIS TYPE OF INTERACTION HELP US UNDERSTAND CONCERNS. AQUA WILL REVIEW AND TRY TO COME UP WITH A PLAN- GRANTS, LOAN, ETC. all take time though, what can they do in 30 days? Also, need Aqua to tell truth- below limits, but above CDC is suggesting.

Filters- whole house filter, changes filters every year. How are well filters being maintained? AQUA- STANDARD PROCESS. CONTINUOUS TESTING DONE, TANKS SET UP IN SERIES. IF ANY LEVEL DETECTED COMING OUT OF FIRST TANK, TANK SWITCHED OFF BEFORE CONTAMINATES SECOND TANK. SOME FILTERS CAN GO YEARS, OTHERS NEED TO BE REPLACED IN MONTHS.

Will testing continue after GAC installed? YES, BUT IT'S A PRESCRIBED PROCESS. UNSURE OF TWO CURRENT WELLS, BUT THERE IS A PRESCRIBED PROCESS. AQUA ACKNOWLEDGES THEY NEED A TABLE THAT SHOWS EACH ND TEST RESULT AT EACH WELL.

1100 samples- send out random to test water out of tap? Possible? Speaker thinks that 0 may not be possible. AQUA- GOOD SUGGESTION, WILL LOOK INTO THAT.

What are all wells names and locations that are not studied? Release the results of testing? AQUA TESTS ALL WELLS MONTHLY. ALL WELLS COME OFF OF WATERFACTS.COM. **a few wells in Abington Twp, a few in northeast, etc.** AQUA- WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT WELLS ARE IN THE TOWNSHIP? **Is this a money issue? If HB 705 passes?** IF THE STANDARD CHANGES, WHETHER STATE OR FED, AQUA HAS TO MEET IT, COSTS MONEY TO MAKE CHANGES. **Does aqua fund elected officials?** NO POSITION TAKEN ON THIS PARTICULAR BILL. **What if everyone didn't pay the water bill? What if a twp decides to boycott?** AQUA DOESN'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN. HERE TONIGHT TO LISTEN, TRYING TO BE TRANSPARENT.

Residents want Aqua to show support for HB 705. That would restore some faith in Aqua.