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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 6, 2016**

## **HORSHAM WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY REDUCES REFERENCE LEVEL FOR PFOA**

The health and safety of the residents and businesses served by the Horsham Water & Sewer Authority (Authority) continues to be the highest priority of both the Authority and the Horsham Township Council. Since shutting down two of its public supply wells in July 2014 due to the discovery of perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) at levels exceeding the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provisional health advisory level, the Authority has continued monitoring levels of PFOS and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in its remaining active public supply wells. EPA's current provisional health advisory level for PFOS and PFOA are 0.2 and 0.4 ppb (parts per billion), respectively and EPA reports that it expects to release a lifetime advisory level sometime this spring.

The Authority has been monitoring similar findings of PFOS and PFOA around the nation, and makes use of this information in its continuing commitment to protect the health and safety of its residents and businesses. On January 28, 2016, EPA Region 2 released a statement to the residents in the area of Hoosick, New York recommending discontinuing use of private wells with PFOA levels greater than 0.1 ppb for drinking or cooking purposes. Since obtaining that information, and to be as protective as possible of our own community, the Authority immediately began evaluating results of ongoing PFOA sampling of its active public supply wells against this reduced recommendation level. Both prior to and since the issuance of the EPA Region 2 recommendation, which is lower than the current EPA provisional health advisory level, PFOA concentrations in all active public supply wells in Horsham have consistently remained significantly below both the EPA provisional health advisory level and the reduced Region 2 recommendation level. With the support and cooperation of the Township Council, the Authority is voluntarily adopting 0.1 ppb as its own PFOA reference level, effective immediately. In the meantime, the Authority continues to communicate regularly with EPA about the release of a final advisory level. Recently, Horsham Township Council has written to

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EPA demanding that they establish a final and uniform regulatory standard so that safe drinking water can continue to be provided to its citizens.

HWSA will continue to proactively monitor its wells and the Authority will take immediate action to discontinue the use of any public supply well for which future sampling reveals a PFOA concentration level at or above 0.1 ppb. "Given the emerging nature of PFC contaminants, future action levels may change, and we will respond accordingly, however this interim action is yet another measure that the Authority is taking in order to minimize risks to public health" says Jack Butler, Horsham Water & Sewer Authority Chairman.

Deborah Tustin, Horsham Township Council President, on behalf of Horsham Township Council offered their continued support stating, "Protecting the health and safety of our residents and businesses is the highest priority and taking this step will help to minimize health risks to our current and future residents".

Horsham Township residents and businesses are encouraged to stay informed on these issues by:

- Checking the Horsham Water & Sewer Authority website ([www.horshamwater-sewer.com](http://www.horshamwater-sewer.com)) for the latest information
- Checking the Horsham Township website ([www.horsham.org](http://www.horsham.org)) for the latest information
- Become better informed by reviewing environmental information relating to PFCs, the NAS-JRB Willow Grove, and the Horsham Air Guard Station. The Navy and Air National Guard maintain website administrative records and environmental documents <http://www.horshamlibrary.org/pview.aspx?id=20628&catid=0>. Paper copies of these reports are available at the Horsham Township Library.
- Sign up for Horsham Township and Horsham Land Redevelopment Authority news alerts ([www.horsham.org](http://www.horsham.org) and [www.hlra.org](http://www.hlra.org))
- Attend the upcoming PFC public meeting/open house (May 24-25, 2016) at the Horsham Township Community Center.