



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITY WORKING TO ENSURE CLEAN WATER FOR AIRWAY HEIGHTS RESIDENTS

(Airway Heights, WA) --- The City of Airway Heights is working with the Spokane Regional Health District and the Washington Department of Health to review a new federal report on potential human health risks associated with chemicals found in drinking water last year. The water used by the City is provided by the City of Spokane, so residents are no longer using the contaminated City wells, but Airway Heights officials continue to stay on top of any news related to water quality issues.

In May 2017, the City's domestic water supply was found to be impacted by chemicals known by the acronyms PFOS and PFOA, ingredients found in fire-extinguishing foam and other materials. The chemicals are believed to have seeped into groundwater from a fire training site on the eastern edge of Fairchild Airforce Base. An intertie into the City of Spokane's water system has been providing an alternate source of clean water to Airway Heights and, until the source of the contamination is cleaned up, the City will continue to use water from the City of Spokane or other sources to ensure its citizens are provided with clean water. Currently the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory for PFOS and PFOA is set at 70 parts per trillion (ppt) in drinking water.

"We are reviewing the new report but feel confident the water supply to Airway Heights is safe because we have a new multi-year agreement with the City of Spokane to provide our community with domestic water," said Kevin Richey, mayor. "However, we are working everyday to find more long-term solutions for water to the West Plains area and closely monitoring any news related to PFOS/PFOAs."

In related news, the City is working closely with Fairchild Airforce to complete the installation of a temporary granular activated carbon filtration system for one of the city wells. The new system

should be operational later this summer. The system is one of the many ways the City is committed to finding solutions that ensure safe and clean water sources in the future.

ABOUT PFOS/PFOA

In 1949, the 3M company began producing the chemicals but their production in the United States was phased out beginning in 2000. The chemicals are no longer manufactured in America but continue to be made in Asia. Long-term exposure to the chemicals are associated with increased risks to cancer as well as kidney and liver damage.

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