

YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER PFAS RESPONSE



U.S. ARMY



A quarterly newsletter focused on informing the East Selah, Washington, community on Yakima Training Center's PFAS response

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USGS Study Will Help in PFAS Response Efforts



U.S. Geological Survey employees Jackson Mitchell (left) and Mackenzie Mills (right) download data from a water level logger in a monitoring well on YTC.

A U.S. Geological Survey crew downloaded data from 15 wells on and off the Installation in December 2024 as part of an ongoing study to better understand the geology and groundwater-flow system on and around YTC.

Data were collected from water-level loggers, which remain in the wells throughout the year and record the water level throughout each day. The USGS is an independent fact-finding agency that is providing information to assist with current and future efforts to respond to the spread of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) substances and support

subsequent groundwater-related issues in the area.

The study includes three primary tasks: collection of information on groundwater levels, water-chemistry sampling and analysis, and development of a conceptual groundwater model.

As part of the study, contractors are also collecting data on underground soil composition to map subsurface geology at YTC.

Extensive folding of sediment and basalt in the area has created a complex groundwater system with a wide range of hydraulic properties, depths to water, and flow directions.

Contractors Nearing 50 Completed POET Systems in E. Selah Community

Yakima Training Center and U.S. Army Environmental Command contractors reached 49 Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system installations as of Feb. 1, and were working to complete the 50th treatment system in the East Selah community.

The Army is installing POET systems in East Selah homes where analysis of drinking water fall under Department of Defense (DoD) policy for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in

off-base drinking water systems as a result of past DoD activities.

Analysis of water samples from the treatment systems show they are working as designed to filter PFAS from drinking water.

A POET system is a whole-house, multi-stage filtration system that filters and disinfects all water entering the home. The filtration systems are specifically designed for the specific water chemistry of each well.



A contractor covers electrical conduit running power to a POET shed.

Army Contractors Begin Installation Process for Multi-Connection POET Systems

Contractors will soon be contacting owners and users of multi-connection wells to schedule site visits in early February to collect information about the well system for the treatment system design. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has contracted with the

remediation and technical solutions company APTIM to install treatment systems for multi-connection drinking water wells in the East Selah community. The contract includes planning, design, and installation for multi-connection treatment systems, and for more

complex single-connection systems that require additional design work.

The site visit will allow APTIM to gain information on water usage and assess the well condition to incorporate into the design of treatment systems. During the visit, APTIM will

also work to schedule utility locators and surveyors at the sites to identify potential areas where treatment systems can be installed.

Each treatment system will be a large-scale Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system that will supply multiple homes.



Tabletop Exercise Hones Response Time, Skills for POET O&M

Yakima Training Center hosted the U.S. Army Environmental Command and the Defense Health Agency in November 2024, to conduct a tabletop exercise to talk through scenarios related to potential seasonal issues that could require service calls for Army installed and maintained Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems.

The lessons learned will help staff and contractors prepare for multiple situations in the on-going operations and maintenance of the systems.

A POET system is a whole-

house, multi-stage filtration system that filters and disinfects all water entering the home. The filtration systems are specifically designed for each home.

Once installed, the treatment systems remain federal government property, and the Army provides continued monitoring and upkeep of these systems while it continues to address PFAS in drinking water in the East Selah community through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process.



Yakima Training Center, U.S. Army Environmental Command, and Defense Health Agency staff and contractors discuss multiple scenarios related to Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system operation and maintenance during an exercise in November.

POETs Proving Effective; Working as Designed

As of Feb. 1, the Army had installed 49 Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems at homes in East Selah. Performance monitoring are demonstrating that the treatment systems are effectively removing PFAS from drinking water.

POET systems filter and treat water entering a home by using granular activated carbon (GAC) or other media.

Groundwater is pumped into a pressure tank and then through a meter that measures gallons used as part of the ongoing monitoring of the GAC tanks.

Water then passes through a pre-treatment sediment filter to trap small natural particles that may come from the well.

From there, the water passes through

three in-line GAC tanks, followed by a secondary post-treatment sediment filter. The treated water then passes through a water softener before it flows through the final system component – the ultra-violet (UV) lamp, which disinfect the treated water before it enters the building or residence. Water must be softened in areas of regional hard water to prevent scaling in the UV lamp.

Every system is uniquely designed for the water chemistry at each home. Additional components may be added, such as a chlorine injection system, where nuisance or harmful bacteria occur naturally in the groundwater. The added chlorine protects and preserves the GAC tanks.

PFAS Response Stats

- Total Wells Sampled: 385
 - POET systems installed: 49
 - Ongoing Response Actions:
 - Subsurface mapping
 - Open houses/poster sessions
 - Multi-connection system planning
 - Ongoing single-home POET system planning/installation
- *Stats are as of Jan. 21, 2025.*

YTC seeks RAB members

Community members interested in starting a Restoration Advisory Board should contact Paul Noel at paul.e.noel6.civ@army.mil.

To represent the diverse community, a variety of perspectives, people, and backgrounds is needed.

Scan QRs for more info



YTC Facebook



YTC Webpage

Informational Open House Scheduled for March 27

YTC will host an open house on March 27 to provide an update on the status of its PFAS response in East Selah.

The focus of the poster-session event will be to provide information and updates on Rights of Entry

(ROE) agreements, updates on treatment for multi-connection water systems in East Selah, design of Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems, ongoing drinking water sampling and POET monitoring, how affected residents can become

involved by starting a Restoration Advisory Board, an ongoing geological study, and more.

The open house is scheduled for 3-7 p.m., Thursday, March 27, at the Selah Civic Center, 216 S. 1st St., Selah.

