



U.S. ARMY

YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER PFAS RESPONSE



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



VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2026

Continuing Progress in the Yakima Valley



As 2026 kicks off, the Army team continues to work on several fronts to better understand and respond to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in East Selah, WA. To date, 70 point of entry treatment (POET) systems have been installed on residential wells throughout East Selah to provide clean drinking water, with plans to install more as the year continues.

In addition, the POET systems are being improved with new remote monitoring hardware. The Army will continue to work with our partners at Washington Department of Ecology, Yakima Health District, Yakima county, and others to respond to the impacts of PFAS from historical activities at Yakima Training Center and provide clean drinking water to the East Selah community.

Stories in this issue:

- SINGLE-FAMILY POET INSTALLATION UPDATES
- MULTI-CONNECTION POET SYSTEM INSTALLATION UPDATES
- TELEMETRY EXPLAINED
- EAST SELAH DRINKING WATER CAPACITY TESTING

Single-Family POET Installation Updates

The Army has expanded its contractor team to expedite the installation of residential Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems.

To date, 69 POETs are in operation, with construction expected to continue throughout 2026.

In preparation for the next round of installations, the Army and its contractors conducted site visits at 10 properties across the Eastern Selah area.

To ensure continuity and consistency, contractors involved in previous installations were present.

During the visits, the team performed a condition assessment on each existing water system, which included checking the flow and pressure.

They also identified optimal locations for the new treatment components. Property owners received general information on the installation schedule and next steps.

Progress for Multi-Connection POET Systems

The Army has contracted APTIM Federal Services LCC to design and install nine POET systems on larger scale, multi-connection residential groundwater well treatment systems. The design of each of the systems has been completed. The systems will be fairly similar to the single family POET systems but on a larger scale to account for

greater demand. They will use granulated activated carbon for adsorption of six PFAS compounds including perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), the removal of other organic materials, and to improve the taste and odor of the drinking water. After the groundwater flows through the granulated activated carbon, it will go

through a water softener, pressure tanks, and an ultraviolet light system for bacterial and viral disinfection. The first system, shown to the right, was installed and commissioned on December 9th.



U.S. ARMY

Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Yakima Training Center
970 Firing Center Rd., Bldg. 140
Yakima, WA 98901-9399
usarmy.ytc.id-readiness.mbx.ytc-pfas@army.mil

Telemetry and the Digital Twin



Digital Twin Image of individual POET systems.

**TELEMETRY
HARDWARE ...
ENABLES REMOTE
MONITORING,
MEANING FEWER
HOME VISITS FOR
MAINTENANCE.**

2026 brings continued expansion of the Army’s water treatment initiatives throughout the East Selah community. Recent efforts have been focused on equipping existing POETs with telemetry hardware that will enable Army contractors to monitor POET performance remotely, and in turn, minimize disturbance to home owners through less frequent sampling, a technology referred to as the Digital Twin. Development of this technology spanned several **months/years**, and involved a pilot study that was conducted in June 2025.

Currently, seven POET systems have been fitted with remote monitoring telemetry hardware, and the next 20 units are in the testing phase. Army contractor, ECC, works with trade partners to tie in four additional pressure sensors and a digital flow meter, as shown below. ECC personnel are actively analyzing the data sets to better understand regional water demand, individual POET function, and duration of treatment capacity of the granular activated carbon (GAC) media.

The Digital Twin platform is programmed with normal operating pressure ranges and will push out an alert to local crews each time a system component operates outside of these thresholds. The alert system is designed to notify ECC and its trade

partners of a potential problem immediately, so that crews can evaluate the issue and mobilize rapidly to minimize any damage.

ECC personnel continue to perform routine maintenance and monitoring of existing POETs, with assistance from Culligan Water Supply and Shephard Plumbing and include monthly shed inspections, quarterly and/or semi-annual sampling.

The Army, in conjunction with Defense Center for Public Health (DCPH), have developed the GAC Vessel Management and Sampling Policy, which is conservatively modified from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) Final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (May, 2025). A representative from DCPH will showcase the policy highlights at the next Open House event at the Selah Civic Center, scheduled for Thursday, April 30, 2026.

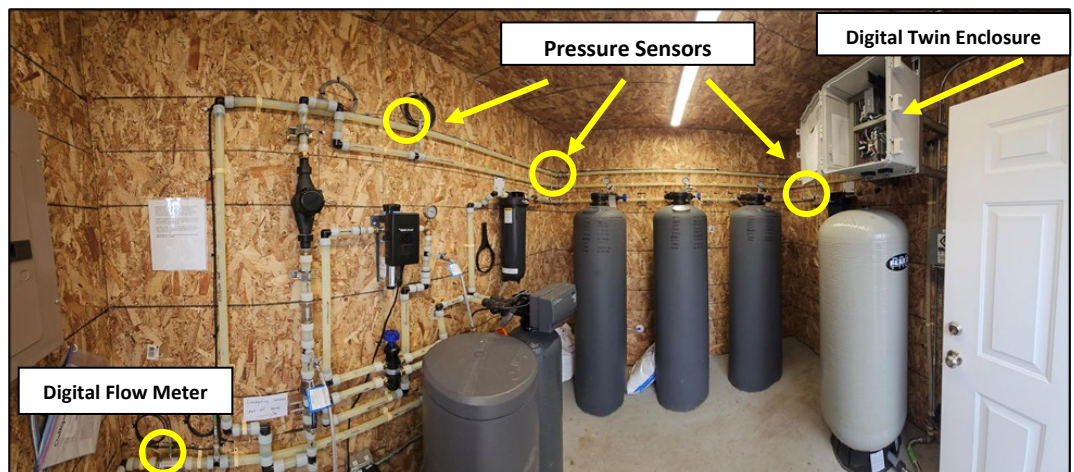
ECC recently completed the 2026 Quarter 1 semi-annual sampling event, and performance data are being distributed as they progress through the data validation process.

The Army and YTC Garrison will host an **Open House** event at the **Selah Civic Center** on **Thursday, April 30, 2026, from 2 to 5 PM.**

New information will be available:

- ◆ Optimized POET monitoring program
- ◆ USEPA PFAS Drinking Water Policy
- ◆ Digital Twin

Panoramic view of telemetry hardware components and enclosure. Performance data are retrieved through additional flow and pressure sensors



New Actions with Yakima Health District

The Army and the Yakima Health District are working together to understand East Selah's long-term water supply. This will help plan for the community's future water needs.

To do this, they will conduct a "well pumping test." This involves pumping water from a selected well and carefully measuring the change in water levels. The test shows how much

water the underground source (aquifer) can reliably provide.

Teams recently visited four local water systems to find the best spot for this test. A detailed work plan will be shared with the community and system owners before any testing begins. The results will help everyone make smart decisions to manage the area's water resources for future growth.

Army and Washington Department of Ecology Partnership Updates

The Army and Washington Department of Ecology are continuing to participate in Tiered Partnering together in order to foster cooperation and understanding between the agencies. Representatives from Yakima Training Center, Army Environmental Command, and Washington Department of Ecology are meeting approximately monthly with a neutral, third party facilitator to answer each others' questions and plan out future actions related to the PFAS response in the Yakima Training Center and East Selah communities. Meetings were held on December 17th, 2025 and January 8th and 14th, 2026. The next meeting will be held in Tacoma, WA and is a Technical Working Group that incorporates members from Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The purpose of this meeting is to bring all parties working on different aspects of the PFAS response at Army installations in Washington together to synthesize understanding.

THE ARMY WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

Government Point of Contact:

Laura Powell
US Army Environmental Command

Phone: 520-684-6058
Email: laura.z.powell2.civ@army.mil

ATTN: Mail Stop 112, Laura Powell
2455 Reynolds Road
JBSA Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-7588

The Army is planning to host the next **YTC Open House:**

Thursday, April 30, 2026
2-5 pm
Selah Civic Center

Representatives from the Army and contractors will be there to answer questions and finalize Right of Entry (ROE) agreements. An ROE allows the Army [and its contractors] to install and maintain a treatment system on private property that may be affected by PFAS from past operations at Yakima Training Center.

