

**YTC PFAS  
Community Engagement Questions  
24 March 2022**

**1. Why are there still so many people that have not been informed that they may be consuming PFAS?**

**Answer:** The Army and YTC have a priority to investigate all drinking water that may be affected by past use of PFAS on the installation. –The identification of wells to be tested follows the data we collect from previous phases. The data from Phase 1 was used to identify wells that were tested in Phase 2. The data from Phase 2 is being used to identify wells that will be tested in Phase 3. The analysis and planning of each Phase follows a deliberate and methodical process. As the data indicates the need for additional information, we will contact additional well owners for permission to test the drinking water.

**2. When is Phase 3 and how far spread is this?**

**Answer:** YTC estimates that Phase 3 letters of permission to test wells will be sent out in May 2022. YTC estimates the testing of wells will be done in July 2022 and results from testing will be available in August 2022. In the summer of 2022 we will begin the Remedial Investigation phase of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to determine the size and spread of the PFAS impacts

**3. When and how are you providing safe bathing and showering?**

**Answer:** The primary exposure routes for PFAS is in drinking water and foods or beverages prepared with that water. Exposure routes that are not significant include bathing, showering, dishwashing and laundry. YTC is providing bottled water for purposes of consumption to homes with wells above Environmental Protection Agency's lifetime health advisory of 70ppt. Bottled water is provided as an intermediate measure for consumption based on the above assessment. Additional information can be found at The Washington State Department of Health website. <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas>.

**4. How do you propose to provide water to our livestock? Is it safe to consume livestock that consume PFAS?**

**Answer:** YTC is providing bottled water for purposes of consumption to homes with wells above the Environmental Protection Agency's Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 ppt. At this time the Army is not providing water for residents' livestock. Information regarding PFAS and livestock, please contact the Washington State Department of Health and the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

**5. Referencing letter dated November 12 2021 from the office of the Garrison Commander: Where was our in-person outreach effort when people were not reached by mail?**

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**Answer:** YTC acknowledges that previous processes for notification were challenging. We have made changes to improve our communication with land owners and residents and are committed to transparent and timely information sharing.

**6. How are you informing renters and/or tenants of the potential contamination, when landlords are non-responsive?**

**Answer:** Planning for each phase of well water testing includes notification of both landowners and residents.

**7. What is your plan to remediate our lost property value?**

**Answer:** YTC does not have the authority to remediate lost property values.

**8. Does your 30-year plan include providing us city water and will we have a say?**

**Answer:** The Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) involves deliberate and dedicated steps to determining what remediation efforts are best for each individual well. There are a number of potential solutions and during the Proposed Plan/Public Participation/Decision Document phase, there is a public comment and review opportunity for landowners to share input with YTC.

**9. Why aren't our representatives getting involved?**

**Answer:** YTC continues to collaborate with federal, state, and local agencies, to include local representatives. If you have specific questions for your government representatives and their involvement, we encourage you to contact them directly.

**10. Does watering from my well further spread PFAS?**

**Answer:** Watering from your well, may or may not spread PFAS. At this time, the Army does not have enough site specific data and information to answer this question.

**11. How regularly are you testing to monitor this?**

**Answer:** To date, we have not retested any wells. Frequency of testing wells beyond the initial test will be determined during the remediation investigation. You will be notified if and when your well is designated for retesting.

**12. If the county is metering my water and therefore selling me toxic water – is it understood that they have claimed ownership of this problem?**

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**Answer:** Metering of water wells is a county action and specific questions regarding this should be directed to the Yakima County Public Services.

**13. When are you going to start medical monitoring and for how long?**

**Answer:** YTC and the Army are not currently planning medical monitoring for the community. For specific questions regarding the process of medical monitoring of populations, we encourage you to contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and/or the Washington State Department of Health.

**14. Why are you only holding us to EPA's LHA standards of 70 PPT while WA state's safe action level is PFOA is 10 ng/L and PFOS is 15 ng/L?**

**Answer:** The Department of Defense requires the Army to respond with a short-term alternate water source whenever drinking water has PFOS and/or PFOA above the EPA's lifetime health advisory levels.

**15. If they offer a buy back on our home – will our home value be affected by hot wells around us if our well is not hot?**

**Answer:** The Army has no buyback program on homes.

**16. What is the proper way to dispose of a filter contaminated with PFAS?**

**Answer:** Under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Congress developed an exclusion for household waste. Under this exclusion, found in Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 261.4, wastes generated by typical household activities (e.g., routine house and yard maintenance) are excluded from the definition of hazardous waste. Specifically, the waste must be generated by individuals on the premise of a residence, and must be composed primarily of wastes generated by consumers in their homes.

However, for specific questions regarding alternative means of filter disposal we encourage you to contact the Yakima County Moderate Risk Waste facility (MRW).

**17. What about our existing systems in our house that have been used? I.E pipes and water tank?**

**Answer:** The levels of PFAS that would remain in infrastructure within a home is unknown at this time.

**18. Should we be concerned about the other PFAS chemicals showing up on our well tests?**

**Answer:** The Environmental Protection Agency is currently evaluating other PFAS compounds. At this time, the Army follows DoD and federal guidance to prevent people

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from consuming water with PFOS and/or PFOA above the Environmental Protection Agency's Lifetime Health Advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt).

**19. How are you using allocated funds to best resolve this situation?**

**Answer:** The Army must first determine where PFOS & PFOA exist above the Environmental Protection Agency's Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) as a result of Army activities. If a resident's well is found to be above the LHA of 70 ppt, the Army is offering a bottled water service to that resident. Simultaneously, YTC is following the environmental cleanup steps detailed in the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) law in order to investigate and ultimately remediate the situation.