

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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Army Incorporates New MCLs for E. Selah Residents

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations, and Environmental Chief Sustainability Officer recently released policy for the prioritization of Department of Defense (DoD) cleanup actions to implement Federal Drinking Water Standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, also known as PFAS, under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program.

The Army is implementing

the new policy, which incorporates the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for PFAS as its final cleanup standard to be attained for groundwater used for drinking water.

The policy prioritizes actions to address private drinking water wells with the highest levels of PFAS from DoD activities.

YTC recently sent letters

notifying residents in the East Selah community, who fall under new DoD policy for off-base drinking water systems and are now eligible to begin the installation process for a Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system.

The process starts with a Right of Entry document that will allow the Army access to the property to install and maintain a POET system.

The Army will continue installing POET systems in

East Selah on a prioritized basis, based on PFAS levels and how long a resident has been receiving bottled water.

DoD continues to prioritize actions to address cleanup at locations that pose the greatest risk to human health and will continue to accelerate cleanup efforts nationwide in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

ROEs are the first step in POET installation

Even before the slab is poured for a Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system shed, a Right of Entry (ROE) agreement is made between the landowner and the government.

ROEs are created by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

the Army's real estate agent, to allow the Army to install a POET system and have continued access for ongoing monitoring and upkeep. The Corps of Engineers creates the document by using publicly available information to

ensure the information on the property and homeowner are accurate.

The process usually takes less than a month to complete. The document is then provided to the landowner for review and signature. The timeline for POET installation starts with the return of the signed form. If a property is sold, a new ROE agreement is made with the new landowner.

ROEs have been prepared for 52 additional East Selah residents who fall under new Department of Defense policy for off-base drinking water systems and are now eligible to begin the POET installation process.

These residents can review their agreement and ask questions about the process 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Selah Civic Center.

Contract Awarded to Treat Multi-Connection Wells

The Army has awarded a contract to Louisiana-based remediation and technical solutions company APTIM to install treatment systems for multi-connection drinking water wells in the East Selah community.

The contract will include planning, design, and installation for multi-connection treatment systems, and for more complex single-connection systems that require additional design work.

Right of Entry (ROE) agreements have been finalized with eight multi-connection well owners, and coordination with Yakima Health District began early this year to determine the extent of the work needed for the contract.

Planning will include additional water quality sampling, pressure testing, and overall assessment of the condition of existing wells and systems.

The goal is to ensure the new treatment systems will deliver quality drinking water and adequate water pressure to all residences connected to each well.



An Army subcontractor spreads concrete to form an 8-by-10-foot slab floor of a Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system shed at a home in the East Selah community. The Army is installing POET systems to remove PFAS from the water entering the home.

Conditional Assessments Help with Design

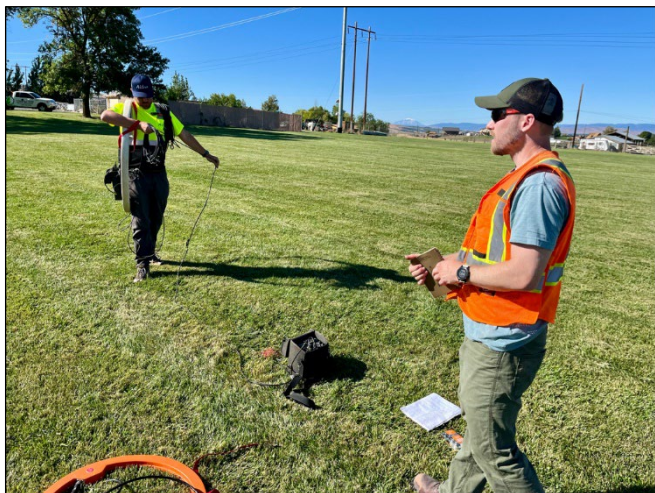
Once a Right of Entry agreement is signed, installation of Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems requires several other phases of planning and preparation before construction can begin.

Army contractors meet with landowner to assess condition of current plumbing appliances and the home electrical system before designing a POET system. The system is specifically designed for the water chemistry of each well. Once the design is complete and approved by the landowner, work begins on the installation.

Most POET systems are housed in an 8-by-10-foot shed built by Army contractors. Construction begins with the pouring of the slab foundation, which requires about 1.25 yards of concrete.

As of Oct. 1, the Army has installed 38 POET systems in East Selah and is currently in the process of designing and installing about 10 other treatment systems. Performance monitoring data collected from operational systems demonstrate that the POETs are effectively removing PFAS from the water entering the home.

Subsurface Geological Study Continues at YTC



Army contractors use surface sensors to collect underground data to assist in an ongoing underground mapping project to obtain a better picture of how groundwater may be moving under Yakima Training Center.

Army contractors recently used special instruments to collect data composition to map subsurface geology at Yakima Training Center.

The Team used both surface sensors and small rods, called surface electrodes, hammered into the ground every 10 meters to collect data in several

areas on YTC. The surface electrodes assisted in the recording of information up to 500 feet underground – deep enough to see multiple layers of sediment and basalt.

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.

The devices gathered thousands of data points that can be used to help see the shapes of the folded sediments and basalts which is useful when trying to understand how the groundwater may be moving. The information will help in the ongoing geological study.

POET Installations Continue in E. Selah as Army Contractors Push Past 3 Dozen

Yakima Training Center and U.S. Army Environmental Command contractors reached 38 Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system installations as of Oct. 1.

The Army is installing

POET systems in East Selah homes where analysis of drinking water who fall under new Department of Defense (DoD) policy for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in off-base drinking water systems

from DoD activities. 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.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, recently prepared 52 Rights of Entry (ROE) documents for residents whose drinking water analysis meet new DoD policy.

ROE agreements allow

the Army to install POET systems and have continued access for their ongoing monitoring and upkeep.

The timeline for installation starts when the well owner returns the signed ROE.

In Brief

YTC PFAS Response Stats

Total Wells Sampled: 383

POET systems installed: 38

Ongoing Response Actions

- Subsurface mapping
- Open houses/poster sessions
- Class B system planning
- Ongoing single-home POET system planning/installation

**Stats are as of Oct. 1, 2024.*

YTC seeks RAB members

Local involvement in environmental restoration activities can be done in several ways. One is through starting a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

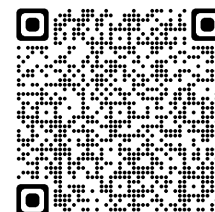
Community members interested in starting a RAB should download the fillable RAB Interest Form from the Yakima Training Center PFAS webpage and send it to Paul Noel at paul.e.noel6.civ@army.mil, or fax it to (509) 577-3556.

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

Scan QRs for more info



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