

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 Begins POET System Installations in E. Selah



(Above) An Army contractor connects a UV system to the first POET filtration system installed in an East Selah, home where PFAS levels are at or above 70 ppt.



(Left and Below) This POET installation was split between an existing pump house and the homeowner's garage. Each system is designed specifically for each home.



YTC and U.S. Army Environmental Command have installed four Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems in East Selah homes affected by PFAS migration in the groundwater from YTC.

A POET system is a whole-house, multi-stage treatment system that filters and disinfects all water entering the home.

The first system was installed on Aug. 31 and work is continuing until installations all locations that samples for PFAS are above 70 parts per trillion are complete. A total of 72 homes are currently scheduled for POET system installation.

These systems are uniquely designed for each home and installing the systems requires a team effort of contractors, electricians, plumbers, suppliers, and other professionals.

POET system installation, maintenance and monitoring costs are covered by the Army. The cost of a POET system

varies, depending on quality of the well system in place at the residence, which dictates the needs and size of the system.

An average POET system can cost anywhere between \$7,500 and \$35,000. This does not include long-term maintenance.

Aggressive sampling and monitoring continues for eight weeks following installation before the Army certifies the system for use.

The Army is continuing to investigate PFAS contamination originating from the Yakima Training Center and is collaborating with other federal entities, state agencies, and environmental professionals as they work toward developing a sustainable solution for the impacted drinking water. As such, three years of monitoring are scheduled at this time; however, maintenance and monitoring will be extended unless a more permanent solution becomes available.

POET Scheduling Begins For 29 More E. Selah homes

Army contractors recently took water samples at 29 East Selah homes that will provide the information needed to design Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems for each residence.

The general chemistry of the water provides a baseline for each specific POET design.

The Army then schedules a pre-construction meeting at the home so contractors can gather final details for design and

placement of the system.

Homeowners will also receive a Rights of Entry (ROE) form to sign, giving the Army permission to enter their property to install and maintain the POET system.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Army's real estate agent who manages its land agreements, will provide ROEs during an open house this month to residents whose well general

chemistry was tested in September. The event is scheduled for noon- 4 p.m., and 5-7 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 15, at the Selah Civic Center, and will give residents a chance to ask questions and provide the signed document to USACE representatives.

Private appoints to discuss the ROE agreement may be scheduled with residents unable to attend.

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POET Monitoring

Once a POET system is installed, the Army will continue a robust monitoring schedule to ensure effective treatment to remove PFAS.

The system will be sampled eight times during the first year after installation. Quarterly sampling will continue through the third year, and maintenance and monitoring will continue until a more permanent treatment solution is available.



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More POET Scheduling Begins

Following the homeowner’s approval of the agreement, a POET system design is presented for approval prior to installation.

Time needed for installation depends on the design complexity. The average POET can be installed in one-to-two days.

The process leading to installation is complex, but necessary to assure the treatment system works as it should. Samples taken from completed POET systems have shown they are working as intended to remove PFAS from drinking water.

This latest round makes for a total of 42 general chemistry samples for POET system design completed.

For questions on the POET systems, email: YTCPFAS@army.mil.

YTC Shares Information At Open House

More than 70 people attended the Yakima Training Center’s open house, Aug. 30, at the Selah Civic Center.

The community members attending asked questions, shared ideas, and learned about the Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems being installed in the East Selah community to remove PFAS from drinking water. The Army installed four POET system as of Oct. 31 and will continue until the systems are installed in all East Selah homes



More than 70 members of the community received information on the YTC PFAS response during an Open House, Aug. 30, at the Selah Civic Center whose PFAS levels are above 70 parts per trillion.

The event format allowed attendees to visit multiple booths to receive information on their sampling results, continued water monitoring in the area, establishing a Restoration

Advisory Board, and other information. Some answers weren’t immediately available, and staff followed up with community members with answers.

Some of those questions and responses are listed on page 3 of this newsletter.

Electrical Resistivity Surveys part of subsurface mapping



Army contractors Nick Pilar (front) and Cameron Stewart string wire along YTC Mettie Airstrip to conduct electrical resistivity surveys.

Army contractors conducted electrical resistivity surveys this summer to map subsurface geology in Yakima Training Center.

The crew strung 1,110-meter lengths of wire to send electrical pulses into the ground and collect thousands of data points under the surface. The test will help scientists and engineers better understand the geology of the soil composition and groundwater pathways as part of the Army’s continued PFAS response.

The team of contractors hammered small rods into the ground, called

surface electrodes, every 10 meters to collect data near YTC’s Mettie Airstrip and in its Cantonment Area. The surface electrodes assisted in the recording of information up to 500 feet below the ground’s surface.

Extensive folding of the sedimentary and Columbia River basalt in the area has created a complex groundwater system with a wide range of hydraulic properties, depths to water, and flow directions. This makes the hydrogeology in and around Yakima Training Center highly unique and complex.

Dep. Assistant Secretary of the Army (ESOH) Visits YTC

YTC Garrison Command Team welcomed Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, Amy Borman, and the Commander of U.S. Army Environmental

Command, Col. Matthew Kelly, to YTC on Sept. 27.

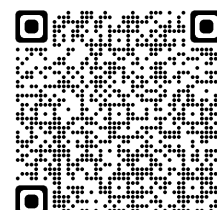
Borman and Kelly received an overview of the Army’s PFAS response efforts in and around YTC, including a tour of a completed Point of Entry

Treatment system, groundwater monitoring wells along the Garrison’s boundary and community wells serving several residents in the East Selah community outside the Training Center’s gate.

Scan QRs for more info



YTC Facebook



YTC Webpage





Army contractors Sarah Zurkee (left) and Michelle Schwartz, of Tanaq Environmental LLC, collect water samples to determine general chemistry that is used to design Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems.

Sampling Continues for Wells at East Selah Homes

Army contractors recently took samples at 29 East Selah homes that will provide the general chemistry of the water to determine the design of Point of Entry Treatment (POET) filtration systems at each of the homes. The sampling was the initial step to install POET systems in a second grouping of homes. Installation of the POET systems for the first grouping of 13 homes started in late August.

Next, these homeowners will receive a Rights of Entry form during an open house this month, giving the Army permission to enter their property to install and maintain the POET system that will remove PFAS from the water. Following the homeowner’s approval of the agreement, a system design is presented for approval prior to installation.

The Army will also continue testing different wells on a quarterly basis to detect variation in PFAS levels. A sixth phase of PFAS-level sampling is scheduled to begin in December. The Environmental Protection Agency again will accompany YTC during this round of sampling. A fact sheet on how to read the laboratory results can be obtained at YTC PFAS page at: <https://dvidshub.net/r/es2j62>.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS

ANSWERS

Why haven’t I heard anything about starting a Restoration Advisory Board?

Since initial community meetings over a year ago, only 11 people showed initial interest in being part of a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). There was no response to the article asking for volunteers in the July YTC PFAS Response Newsletter and no one filled out an interest form to volunteer during the Aug. 30 Open House/Community Meeting. In order to represent the diverse community, a variability of perspectives, people, and backgrounds is needed. East Selah community members interested in starting a RAB should contact Paul Noel at paul.e.noel6.civ@army.mil.

Will the Army be reassessing who is eligible for alternative water after the EPA sets its federal PFAS regulation next year?

The Department of Defense respects and values the public comment process on this proposed nationwide drinking water rule and looks forward to the clarity that a final regulatory drinking water standard for PFAS will provide. In anticipation of the final standard that the Environmental Protection Agency expects to publish in 2024, the Department is assessing what actions DoD can take to be prepared to incorporate EPA’s final regulatory standard into our current cleanup process, such as reviewing our existing data and conducting additional sampling where necessary. In addition, DoD will incorporate nationwide PFAS cleanup guidance, issued by EPA and applicable to all owners and operators under the federal cleanup law, as to when to provide alternate water when PFAS are present.

Who will be responsible for the POET systems once they are installed?

The Army will be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of filtration systems. Maintenance activities will include replacement of filtration tanks, cleaning or replacing the UV disinfection unit, and checking for proper valve settings and pressure.

I purchased a filtration system for my home. How can I get reimbursed for that system?

At this time, there is no funding method to provide direct compensation for resident expenditures; however, there is a system through which someone can file a claim against the government for losses associated with military activities. For more information about this process for YTC, please contact the Claims Division, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, at 253-477-1878.

Will the Army build a shed for my POET system if I prefer?

The Army creates a design plan specific to each residence that allows for optimal operation and life of the system. In most cases, the best location for the POET system is inside the home, garage, or existing well house.



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