

YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER PFAS RESPONSE



U.S. ARMY



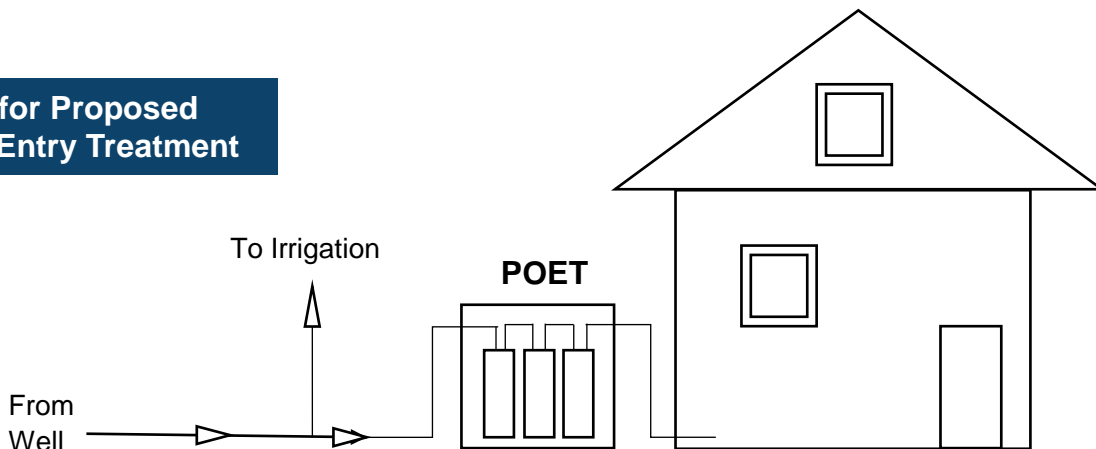
A quarterly newsletter focused on informing the East Selah, Washington, community on Yakima Training Center's PFAS response

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Concept for Proposed Point Of Entry Treatment



Army Chooses POET Filtration for E. Selah Homes

The Army recently met with several contractors to plan logistics for installing Point Of Entry Treatment (POET) filtration systems in homes where per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) levels are above 70 parts per trillion (ppt). As part of the meeting Army representatives and contractors also conducted an informal site survey of two wells in the wells in East Selah for a hands-on look at what is needed for the POET installations.

Yakima Training Center expects to begin installing the filtration systems this fall on wells serving private residences.

To begin the installation process, the Army must obtain Right Of Entry (ROE) permission from each homeowner. This document allows crews to install the system and have continued access for ongoing monitoring and upkeep of the systems.

PFAS are present in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a critical firefighting agent that was previously used during training at YTC and impacted the groundwater outside the training center gates.

Installing the filtration systems will require a team effort of contractors, electricians, plumbers, suppliers, and other professionals.

As an interim solution, the Army is providing bottled water to households whose drinking water tested above 70 ppt for PFAS. The POET filtration systems will be a durable solution while the Army continues its remediation work.

This response requires a comprehensive approach to identify, assess, and address releases of PFAS that impact drinking water.

What is a POET System?

Point Of Entry Treatment (POET) filtration systems are typically installed to filter and disinfect all water entering a single home or business.

The systems are designed to control a variety of contaminants in drinking water. It is common for POETs to use the same technology found in large, centralized treatment plants, but at a smaller scale. This established technology reduces organic contaminants, controls turbidity (cloudiness of the water), and removes micro-organisms and many other contaminants.

Aesthetic factors such as taste, odor, or color can also be improved with treatment.

Pre-construction Meetings Completed

Army officials and contractors recently met with several East Selah residents where initial whole-house filtration systems will be installed to allow construction teams to gather final details for design plans of the water filtration systems.

Construction of POET filtration systems is planned to begin this fall with an initial 13 homes.

The Army identified the homes based on a combination of scientific parameters including:

PFAS concentration levels, geography of wells and water consumption rates, and time the household has received bottled water, amongst others.

Planning for filtration systems at additional homes will continue as installation continues on the initial wells.

Installing the filtration systems will require a team effort of contractors, electricians, plumbers, suppliers, and other professionals.

Geophysics may be key in building PFAS knowledge

Yakima Training Center (YTC) crews recently drilled a network of eight monitoring wells along its boundary.

Ongoing sampling of these wells will be conducted as part of DoD’s Cleanup Program under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) response work to address the existence of PFAS in the groundwater. The wells will help determine PFAS levels and are part of multiple steps the Army is taking to better understand groundwater conditions beneath YTC and the surrounding community.

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 contact Paul Noel at paul.e.noel6.civ@army.mil.

In order to represent the diverse community a variability of perspectives, people, and backgrounds is needed.

Why Choose POETs?

- The Army recognizes its responsibilities to address pollutants and/or contaminants that may have released to the environment from historical Army activities.
- The Army worked with scientists and engineers to carefully and methodically ensure any filtration systems that will be installed are the right systems for the job to filter out PFAS from drinking water.
- In anticipation of the final standard that EPA expects to publish by the end of 2023, DoD is taking action to prepare to incorporate the EPA’s final regulatory standard into its current cleanup process, such as reviewing its existing data and conducting additional sampling where necessary.
- The Army continues to work with homeowners so they understand what these systems will look like and how they operate.
- Residences with PFAS levels above 70 ppt will continue to receive bottled water until filtration systems are installed and tested.

Why we keep asking

The Army must obtain permission each time we enter private property to sample water from a homeowner’s well.

This means we’ll be asking again soon.

Yakima Training Center is working with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Army’s designated real estate agent, to finalize Rights of Entry (ROE) forms to obtain permission from homeowners to enter their property to install Point of Entry Treatment (POET) filtration systems. The five-year, renewable agreement also allows for continued monitoring of their drinking water before and after installation of filtration systems. These POETs are being designed to filter out PFOS/PFOA from drinking water.

The ROE forms should be distributed to property owners in late July. The timeline for POET installation for homeowners starts with the homeowner’s agreement to allow installation of the systems. Construction is expected to begin sometime this fall.

These filtration systems will require continued monitoring and upkeep by the Army, which requires ongoing permission for access detailed in the ROE form.

POETs filter, treat all water entering a building

Point Of Entry Treatment (POET) systems filter and treat water entering a building by using a small pre-filter followed by tanks of granular activated carbon (GAC) or other media.

Groundwater is pumped into an existing pressure tank and then through an installed pre-filter (sediment trap) to remove sand

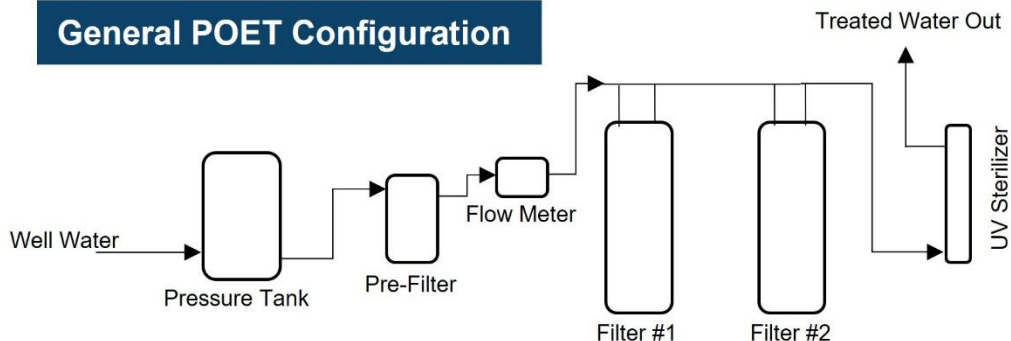
and other natural small particles that may come in with the water.

The water continues through the pre-filter, and then through a flow meter to measure how much water is flowing through the system.

From there, the water continues into the first of two tanks filled with GAC or other

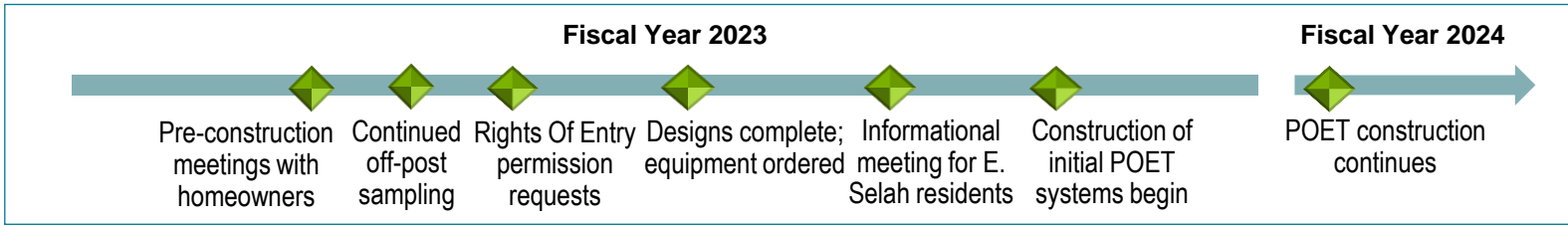
media to begin cleaning the water. The following GAC tank(s) acts as a backup to provide redundancy to the filtering process. Finally, the water passes through an ultraviolet (UV) unit where the water is disinfected before it flows directly into the existing plumbing for use within the residence or commercial building.

General POET Configuration



Scan QRs for more info





Laboratory results of water samples will soon be available

In late May the Army accompanied the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology on an EPA-led effort to test water at wells near YTC. EPA and Ecology selected the testing locations and the Army collected samples at the same wells.

These “split-samples” were independently analyzed, and results are expected soon. Results will be shared with the homeowner as soon as they are returned from the laboratories. During this fourth round of testing, the Army sampled water from 49 wells, some of which had not been previously tested. Any home testing above 70 ppt for PFAS will begin receiving bottled water from the Army until a water filtration system for the home can be installed. The Army will continue testing different wells on a quarterly basis to detect variation in PFAS levels, provide information and support to homeowners, and reach out to those whose wells have not been previously tested. A fact sheet on how to read the laboratory results can be obtained at YTC PFAS page at: <https://dvidshub.net/r/es2j62>.



Informational meeting for E. Selah residents scheduled for late August

Yakima Training Center will host an informational meeting for East Selah residents 3-7 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 30, at the Selah Civic Center, 216 S. 1st Street, Selah, Washington. The meeting will include several stations where subject matter experts can answer questions about filtration systems that the Army will begin installing at homes this fall, as well as other topics.

Officials will also be on hand to help anyone with questions about recent water testing results.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
What about the hydrogeology near YTC makes it difficult to determine the path PFAS is taking in the groundwater?	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.
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 by the end of 2023, 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 filtration 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.



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