

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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Water treatment system installs continue in E. Selah

Army contractors are continuing installations of Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems in the East Selah community.

As of June 17, 2024, a total of 25 POET systems had been installed and contractors were in various stages of designing and installing eight other systems in East Selah.

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

home. They are specifically designed for the water chemistry of each well, and results from samples taken from working systems are showing they are effectively removing PFAS chemicals. Army provides continued monitoring and upkeep of these systems while it continues to address PFAS in drinking water in East Selah through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA).



Army contractors install a Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system in a shed at an East Selah home. The Army is installing POET systems to remove PFAS from the water entering the home.

Army completes 8th sampling phase

The Army contractors collected 41 samples in mid-May in East Selah as part of its eighth phase of sampling well water in the community outside of Yakima Training Center.

The Army takes regular samples in the area to test for per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) chemicals.

Some of this sampling was done in conjunction with Yakima Health District. As part of the split sampling, the Army and health district are having water samples analyzed at different laboratories to assure consistency of the readings. This partnership will provide well owners' two independent results.

This is the second split-sampling the Army has conducted. The first was with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State



Army and Yakima Health District contractors recently took split samples from wells in East Selah that are being analyzed at different labs to assure consistency of the readings.

Department of Ecology in May 2023.

The Army tests drinking water in the East Selah community outside the Yakima Training Center boundary as part of its ongoing PFAS remedial investigation.

Army delivers Phase 7 results of water well sampling to residents

Army contractors recently sent out results for water samples taken at 49 East Selah wells in March as part of a regularly scheduled round of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) sampling in the area.

The Army samples drinking water in the area outside of Yakima Training Center as part of an ongoing PFAS remedial investigation.

Individual results of the seventh phase of sampling were recently shared with the well owners.

There were no additional wells with PFOS/PFOA results above 70 parts per trillion, and 23 wells with PFOS/PFOA levels between 4 ppt and 70 ppt.

As of June 17, the Army had installed 25 Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems at homes in the East Selah community to filter PFAS from drinking water and are in various stages of installing eight others.

Performance monitoring of these systems are demonstrating that the treatment systems are effectively removing PFAS from drinking water to meet new EPA requirements.

As POET installations continue, the Army will also continue sampling different wells on a regular basis.

For a fact sheet on how to read the laboratory results go to: www.dvidshub.net/r/es2j62.

ECC Adds Environmental Scientist to YTC PFAS Response Team

Environmental Chemical Corporation (ECC) has added a second local member to its PFAS remediation investigation team at YTC.

Lia Mathison has joined Marisa Allen as an Environmental Scientist on the local ECC staff.

A recent Washington State University graduate with a bachelor’s degree in earth and environmental science, Mathison started her new role on Earth Day – April 22. Her primary duties include sampling Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems and overseeing POET installations.

Mathieson has lived throughout the Pacific

Northwest and spent some time in Nebraska. She said she prefers Washington state for its outdoor activities and scenery.

“I’m very excited to join the project at YTC to be able to help the community and the environment,” she said. “Both are what I was looking for in my career path.”

ECC expanded its staff at YTC to meet the needs of the growing number of East Selah residents who have Army-installed POET systems for their wells. The Army contracts with ECC to install, maintain, and monitor the treatment systems.



Lia Mathison, ECC Environmental Scientist

EPA announces new PFAS limits in drinking water



An Army contractor samples water from a Point of Entry Treatment system, which are effectively removing PFAS from the water in the East Selah area.

The Environmental Protection Agency published its final rule on drinking water standards for certain PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act in

April, which will lower the allowable PFAS levels to 4 parts per trillion.

The Defense Department has been preparing to implement the final rule for

its on-base drinking water systems and within its clean-up program worldwide.

A Pentagon spokesman said the Department of Defense remains committed to fulfilling its PFAS-related cleanup responsibilities and will take necessary actions to implement the rule in accordance with federal cleanup law.

An Army Headquarters spokesman said existing cleanup investigations will be expanded and action will be taken at additional impacted off-installation wells on a prioritized basis once new maximum contaminant levels go into effect on June 25, 2024.

E. Selah residents attend Informational meeting

About 25 people attended a YTC PFAS Informational meeting in March to learn more about Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems, water sampling, YTC's remedial investigation, and Rights of Entry (ROE) agreements. Several residents dropped off their signed ROEs to start their POET installation process.

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.

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

USACE sends another 25 ROEs to East Selah residents

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, recently sent out Rights of Entry (ROE) documents to 25 East Selah residents.

ROEs allow the Army to install Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems and have continued access

for their ongoing monitoring and upkeep.

This grouping includes the remainder of the wells above 70 ppt for PFAS. The timeline for installation starts when the well owner returns the signed form.

Signed ROE forms can be

returned to the Corps of Engineers via regular mail or email.

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

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