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YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER PFAS RESPONSE

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

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POETs Effectively Treat Millions of Gallons of Water

Tanaq-Sundance contractor Willem Martin takes a water sample from a Point of Entry Treatment system in East Selah as part of the Army's continued performance monitoring of the treatment systems.

Army contractors keep a busy schedule of sampling Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems installed at homes in the East Selah community.

Ongoing performance monitoring of Army-installed POET systems are demonstrating that the systems are working as designed to effectively remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from water entering the home.

Between July 2024 and January 2025, contractors took 139 samples from POET systems, which were analyzed at independent laboratories. Results from the treatment systems averaged at 0.1 ppt for the six PFAS that the Environmental Protection Agency has established Regional Screening Levels.

During the six-month period, the Army-installed systems have treated over 1.4 million gallons of groundwater in East Selah.

As of April 22, 50 POET systems had been installed in East Selah. The first system was installed on Aug. 31, 2023.

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 the water chemistry of each well.

YTC PFAS Informational Meeting Rescheduled for May 7 at Selah Civic Center

Originally scheduled in March, the YTC PFAS Informational Meeting has been rescheduled for 3-7 p.m., May 7, at the Selah Civic Center.

A pause on temporary duty travel for civilian federal government employees required Army officials to postpone the meeting to allow subject matter experts from across the country to attend and provide vital information to the public.

The subject matter experts will be available at several stations where people can see the components of and learn about the Army's installation and ongoing upkeep of Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems, Right of Entry documents, the Army's continued PFAS monitoring and ongoing studies in East Selah, multi-connection treatment systems, and more.

POET Installation Involves More Than Plumbing

Planning and installation of Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems requires a team effort of contractors, electricians, plumbers, suppliers, and other professionals.

Team members first assess each home to determine if the electrical system meets coding standards before power can be supplied to a POET system.

POET systems are uniquely designed for the water chemistry at each well. Additional components may be needed, such as a chlorine injection system, where nuisance or harmful bacteria occur naturally in the groundwater.

Before the system can be built, the land-owner must sign a Rights of Entry (ROE) document, allowing the Army access to the property to build and maintain the treatment system.

Many of the POET systems are also housed in sheds built by Army contractors that include concrete-slab foundation, insulation, and heating to keep the filtration tanks from freezing in cold weather.

Wild West Electric LLC contractor Zack Briscoe installs a new electrical service box at an East Selah home to bring it up to code before power can be provided to a Point of Entry Treatment system.

The POET filtration systems were chosen after extensive scientific research to ensure they were the right system to effectively filter PFAS from drinking water.

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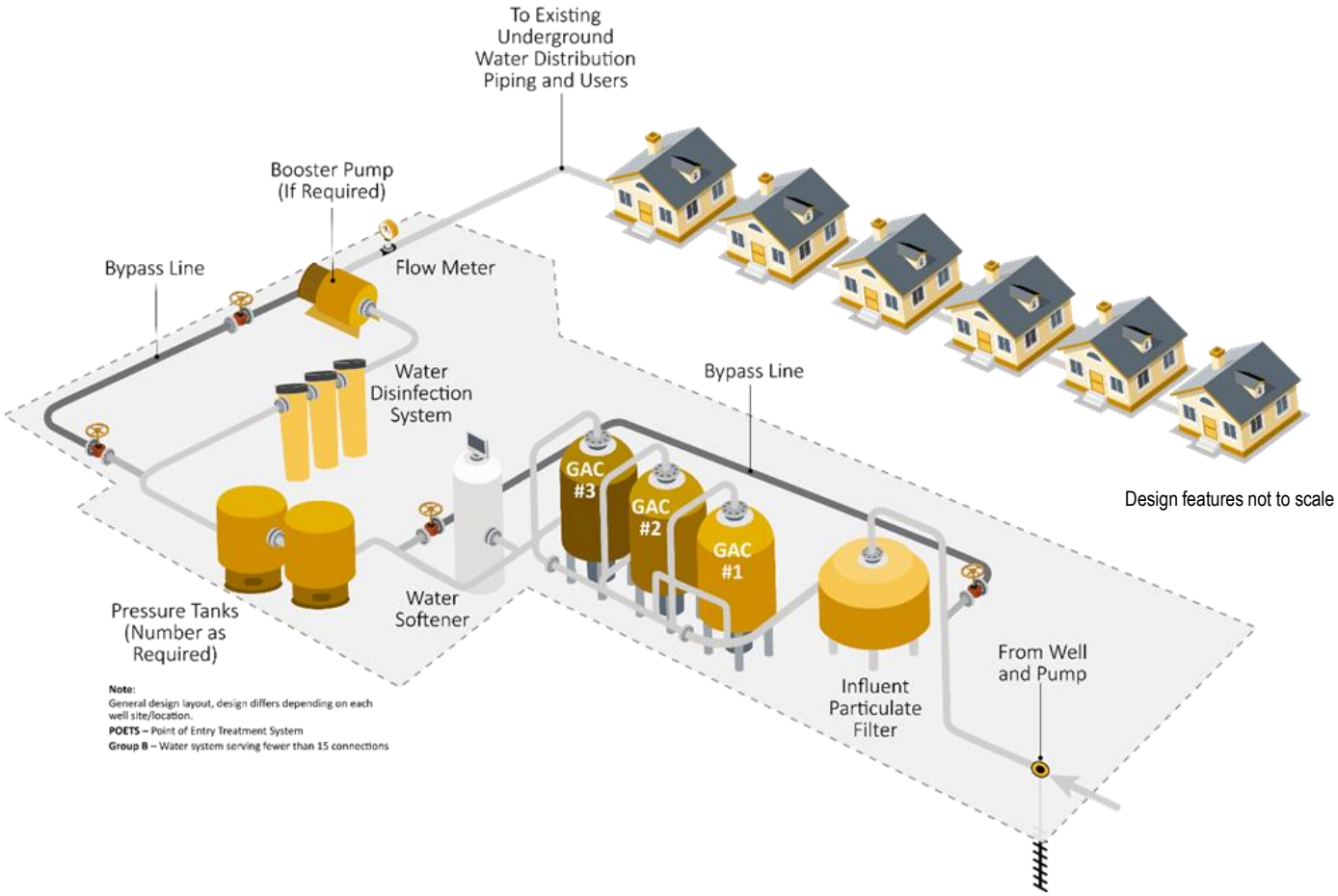
Design Phase for Multi-Connection POET Systems Begins



A multi-connection Point of Entry Treatment (POET) system is similar to an individual-home system but is on a much larger scale. The treatment system can serve up to six homes and may include an additional booster pump to assure adequate water pressure for all homes connected to the system. This graphic above is not to scale.

Installation of 6 Multi-Connection Systems Expected to Begin This Summer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractor APTIM continues to make progress on the design for six multi-connection Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems in the East Selah community.

Kicking off the multi-connection POET system design process in early February, APTIM, representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers and Yakima Training Center visited six multi-connection wells in East Selah to gather information about the wells and water usage. The multi-connection system designs will be reviewed by the Army for final approval.

The multi-connection systems work similarly to the individual POET systems that continue to be installed in East Selah. They use the same treatment technology, including granulated activated carbon filtration tanks, but on a much larger scale. Like the individual systems, the larger systems are designed to control a variety of contaminants in drinking water, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS). Aesthetic factors such as taste, odor, or color can also be improved with treatment.

Pressure tanks will be added to the design as needed. If additional pressure is needed, a booster pump will be added to the treatment system to maintain adequate water flow.

Once POET systems are installed, the Army provides continued monitoring and upkeep of the systems while it continues to address PFAS in drinking water in the East Selah community through the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act process.

APTIM will have representatives on hand at the YTC May 7 community information meeting at the Selah Civic Center to answer questions regarding the multi-connection POET systems and will have a general diagram of a multi-connection system on display. APTIM will also be available at the Civic Center for a June 18 meeting specifically focused for residents connected to one of the six multi-connection wells to provide information on each of the specific designs and the anticipated installation schedule for the systems.

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