

City of Airway Heights Water Quality Report



April 2018

The City of Airway Heights is working to ensure the health and safety of its citizens by addressing impacts to the City's domestic water supply.

What's Happening:

WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH CITY OF SPOKANE

An agreement between the City of Airway Heights and the City of Spokane has been approved by both city councils and gives the green light for construction of the new intertie/pipeline to connect with Spokane's water transmission system. The new agreement gives the green light for the construction of the new intertie/pipeline to connect with City of Spokane's water transmission system. The new intertie replaces old infrastructure that was not big enough to handle the supply of water needed for Airway Heights.

The Air Force agreed to cover the costs the City incurs from purchasing water from the City of Spokane. Airway Heights ratepayers will not have to pay an increase for the purchase of alternative water sources. The Air Force has also expanded the area it is testing for water contamination in drinking water wells not served by the Airway Heights water system.

WORKING TOGETHER WITH LOCAL LEADERS

City of Airway Heights leaders continue to work with other elected officials to coordinate the ongoing efforts to ensure a reliable water source for city residents. Mayor Kevin Richey, Councilmember Veronica Messing and other community leaders recently met in Washington, DC with Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers who continues to



Mike Westby, Westby Associates, Councilmember Veronica Messing, Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Mayor Kevin Richey, Parks Recreation & Community Service Director JC Kennedy, City Manager Albert Tripp meet in Washington, DC to discuss water quality for Airway Heights

advocate on behalf of West Plain residents. She reported that multiple bipartisan amendments were included in National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2018 to ensure the drinking water is safe and remains so in the future. These amendments authorized the Secretary of Defense to provide health screenings for communities affected by the water contamination (including Airway Heights) and requires the Department of Defense to provide reports on the status of the cleanup process.



Meetings with the U.S. Air Force, state legislators, the City of Spokane and Spokane County Commissioners will continue to be a priority as we work to protect public health and make sure ratepayers don't incur the costs of securing safe water sources.

TEMPORARY WELL TREATMENT SYSTEM

The City has been working with the Air Force on the design of a temporary water treatment system. The granular-activated carbon treatment would be installed in one of the City's wells and could be up and running by mid-summer. It would allow the City to start using the well if the system is successful in removing contamination from water before it gets to the taps of Airway Heights residents. A more long-term solution is also being considered and an analysis of possible options will be reviewed later this year.

Background:

In May 2017, the City's domestic water supply was found to be impacted by chemicals known by the acronyms PFOS and PFOA, ingredients found in fire-extinguishing foam and other materials. The chemicals are believed to have seeped into groundwater from a fire training site on the eastern edge of Fairchild Airforce Base. An intertie into the City of Spokane's water system has been providing an alternate source of clean water to Airway Heights and, until the source of the contamination is cleaned up, the City will continue to use water from the City of Spokane or other sources to ensure its citizens are provided with clean water.

Check out the City's website www.cawh.org for more information.

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