



City Of Cheney

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Well 5 Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Timeline Notes

May 17, 2017

The Cheney Water Department opted to test three wells (1, 6 and 8) for PFAS investigative testing. This was a proactive measure following the PFAS contamination issue found at Airway Heights. The three wells were chosen since they are on the outer boundary of our city's groundwater sources. All three well samples returned as negative for PFAS detection.

July 9, 2021

The city received notice from the Washington state Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water that The State Board of Health is in the process of developing state drinking water standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The rule-making process is scheduled to be completed near the end of 2021 and will become effective 31 days after adoption. These new regulations will require all Group A Community (COMM) and Non-transient, Non-Community (NTNC) water systems to conduct PFAS sampling.

At this time the office was offering voluntary free PFAS sampling to qualifying water systems. This would count towards the initial round of sampling once the rule was adopted. The city opted to accept this offer and submitted to have the remaining five wells in our system sampled.

September 10, 2021

Well 5 is turned off for season.

October 6, 2021

Test kits arrived at the city for sampling of wells 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7. Sampling was conducted and returned for analysis to Anatek Labs.

October 28, 2021

The city received the PFAS testing reports from Anatek Labs. Only well 5 returned positive for PFAS detection.

November 12, 2021

The city was contacted by Stan Hoffman from Washington State Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water, to let us know his office had received the sampling results and discuss the city's plans and help answer any questions we may have.

The city informed DOH that we were planning to resample well 5 in order to confirm the detection. We would be reaching out for further consultation once we had those results. We informed DOH that well 5

had been off line since September 10, 2021 and would remain off line until such time as we had further information.

December 6, 2021

The city collected another sample from well 5 and sent it in to Anatek Labs for PFAS testing.

January 1, 2022

The city received notice that The State Board of Health (board) has adopted amendments to chapter 246-290 WAC, Group A Public Water Supplies. The rules in chapter 246-290 WAC are the regulatory requirements meant to protect the health of consumers using public drinking water supplies. The board has amended this chapter to include requirements regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), federally unregulated contaminants.

January 6, 2022

The city received the test results from Anatek Labs. The test confirmed the detection of PFAS in well 5 at the same concentrations as the October 6, 2021 sample.

January 6, 2022

The city reached out to DOH to confirm the PFAS detection in well 5 and request assistance in moving forward with how to evaluate the effects of the PFAS in well 5 and begin the process of public notification.

January 19, 2022

The city and DOH held a conference call to discuss the PFAS detection in well 5. This meeting included public works staff and the Department of Health.

Items discussed in this meeting:

- Options for S05:
 - Provide public notification and conduct any monitoring as required by the new rule. Use as normal.
 - Provide public notification, develop a blending plan with DOH, implement then monitor and use as normal.
 - Provide public notification, work with DOH on implementing/funding treatment, install and then monitor and use as normal.
 - Provide public notification, change source to Emergency status, source disconnected from system, no monitoring required.
- Follow-up actions:
 - City will meet with leadership to determine the path that makes sense for their community.
 - DOH may need to attend Zoom meeting.
 - Once path is determined, the City will reach out to:
 - Mike L. at Spokane Regional Health District.
 - Spokane County Fire.
 - Peaceful Pines RV Park – DOH has funding to support one-time PFAS monitoring if they choose.
 - Other neighbors who may have been impacted.
- Thoughts on messaging:

- May be valuable to emphasize:
 - Proactive, voluntary PFAS monitoring.
 - Transparency by sharing results from samples taken before new rule was effective.
 - Steps taken to verify results and reduce exposure.
 - Steps taken to work with people in or connected to the community to address PFAS.
 - Overall goal is to help people understand what is happening, provide helpful information and show positive actions that were or are being carried out.
- Additional Resources:
 - DOH PFAS FAQ: [PFAS: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances :: Washington State Department of Health](#)
 - DOH Contact Information: [Eastern Regional Office Information, Office of Drinking Water :: Washington State Department of Health](#)
 - Engineering Questions: Scott Mallery
 - Funding Questions: Brenda Smits or Scott Mallery
 - General questions from anyone, chemical monitoring, PN, water quality: Stan Hoffman
 - Potential health impacts: some information in FAQ, good to refer to person's health care provider who will understand how this exposure fits into their health care history or plan.

January 25, 2022

The city notified the Spokane Regional Health District of the PFAS detection in well 5. Test results from both samplings were sent to their office.

January 27, 2022

A Special Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting was held via Zoom to provide a well 5 update to the members. This meeting was attended by public works staff, city administration, city council committee members and the Washington State Department of Health.

Discussed in this meeting:

- The results of the two well 5 PFAS tests
- Detected levels and the State Action Limit (SAL), what they mean
- The new PFAS rule adopted January 1, 2022 by the Washington State Board of Health
- Managing options of the PFAS contamination in well 5
- Follow-up monitoring
- Delivering the Notice to Drinking Water Customers and providing correct messaging and additional resources.
- Follow-up meetings for managing the PFAS detection

January 31, 2022

The city developed a Notice to Drinking Water Customer informing of the PFAS detection in well 5, the meaning of the detection levels and follow up actions for the city and the water customer. This notice was sent to the Public Works & Utilities Committee members, DOH and SRHD for review and comments prior to being sent to the customers.

February 3, 2022

Todd Ableman, Director of Public Works sent out a projected time line to the Public Works Committee for public notification and follow investigation of well 5 PFAS source.

Good Afternoon,

We are incorporating comments into the public notice. I would like to propose a single page public notice with a website reference for anyone wanting to learn about PFAS (FAQ'S), testing history / results, and City's action on mitigating PFOS in Well 5.

I would like to propose the following schedule for Well 5 PFOS mitigation:

- 2/8/2022: Public Notice and website information draft for review prior to PW and Utilities Committee.
- 2/10/2022: PW and Utilities Committee meeting: Finalize draft notice and timeline information below. Invite DOH and SRHD to comment and answer questions.
- 2/10/2022 to 2/18/2022: Meeting with SCFD #3, Cheney School District, Peaceful Pines Camp Ground, and any other neighboring properties with private wells.
- 2/22/2022: Informational item on Well 5 at City Council Meeting. Invite DOH and SRHD to attend (via zoom)
- 2/23/2022 to 2/25/2022: Post notice and information on website and prepare notices to go out in utility bills
- March/ April: Develop scope of work to Investigate potential cause of PFOS near Well 5
- May/June: Council informational item or public meeting on any update and or recommended options.

Note: Well 5 has not been in operation since September 10, 2021 prior to PFAS testing October 6, 2021. Wells 1,2,3,6,7, and 8 (alternative domestic water sources) were also tested with no detectable levels of PFAS. We have isolated Well 5 (removed water source) form the City's domestic water supply, and will not operate Well 5 until we investigate options, and provide notice to the public when a recommendation is proposed.

Please let me know if you have any questions, clarifications, or need additional information.

Thank you,

Todd Ableman
Director of Public Works

February 10, 2022

A Public Works & Utilities Committee Meeting was held via Zoom to provide a well 5 update to the members. This meeting was attended by public works staff, city administration, city council committee members and the Washington State Department of Health.

- Well 5 updates to council committee
- Public notification letter approved
- Discussed items and contacts for city website
- Recommended to notify all well owners within 1 mile of our PFAS detection so that they may test their well if so inclined.
- Discussed immediate neighbors to well 5 for direct communication of PFAS detection including,
 - Spokane County Fire District 3
 - Peaceful Pines Campground
 - Cheney School District