



Water on Whidbey

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Newsletter

September 2022

Time and venue change: The Quarterly Member Meeting will be September 15th, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm, at Coupeville's Fort Casey Water Treatment Plant. Details below. Agenda and zoom link to follow.

Welcome to the WIWSA September 2022 Newsletter!

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association sends a monthly newsletter to keep our community up to speed with water news. We send this newsletter to our email list and post it on our website. We aim to provide an easy place to find all the month's news and upcoming events.

Please share this newsletter with your fellow water system board members, commissioners, operators, members, friends, neighbors, and anyone who drinks water on Whidbey and beyond, and encourage them to [subscribe](#).

News from Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

Special Section: PFAS

Drinking Water and PFAS Rule Update

The Washington State Board of Health (Board) received an update on the Drinking Water and per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) rule from the Washington State Department of Health at its Aug. 10 public meeting. Board members heard results of the voluntary PFAS drinking water monitoring currently underway and the status of work at the federal level on revised PFAS health advisory levels (HALs) and PFAS maximum contaminant levels (MCLs). The Board considered other related work happening in Washington including recent PFAS drinking water detections near the Yakima Training Center involving work with the local community, Department of Defense, and other partners. More information is available on the [Aug. 10 meeting webpage](#) (agenda item 8). Information about the rule project is available on the [PFAS Drinking Water Standard rule webpage](#).

Here is the section on PFAS (actually agenda item 7)

7	Update – Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Rule Implementation and Related Issues – Group A Public Water Supplies, Chapter 246-290 WAC PFAS Cover Memo DOH PFAS in Drinking Water PowerPoint Presentation DOH PFAS Rulemaking Overview
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[EPA PFAS Health Advisory Levels FAQ](#)
[Ecology PFAS Cleanup Levels](#)

EPA Proposes Designating Certain PFAS Chemicals as Hazardous Substances Under Superfund to Protect People's Health

[EPA Proposes Designating Certain PFAS Chemicals as Hazardous Substances Under Superfund to Protect People's Health | US EPA](#)

Commissioner Bacon's newsletter discusses PFAS

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WACOISLAND/bulletins/327e2fe>

...I want to share with you ... a meeting to discuss PFAS in our drinking water, with John Lovie, president of the Whidbey Island Water Systems Associations; Keith Higman, Island County Public Health Director; and Heather Korteum, Island County Environmental Health Manager.

- On June 15th the EPA announced new Lifetime Health Advisories (LHAs) for per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) which in some cases are over 10,000 times lower than the LHA numbers we have been working with in the water systems and private wells around the Navy facilities on Whidbey Island. This means that levels we thought were safe are now deemed to be above the health advisory limits.
- In the wake of the discovery of PFAS around our Navy facilities and elsewhere in the state, the State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (ODW) offered voluntary testing to Group A water systems. In Island County, King Water and Water and Wastewater Services volunteered the systems they manage, and ODW sampled most of these. These results are now in. Of the 122 systems sampled in Island County, 12, or about 10%, show detections. Of these twelve, three exceeded the new LHAs and one exceeded the old LHAs and was above the State Action Limits (SALs). Many water systems in Island County were not tested, so we should expect there may be other water systems exceeding the new advisory limits for lifetime exposure to PFAS.
- PFAS are not limited to areas around the Navy. Most PFAS in drinking water are considered to come from firefighting foam.
- Mandatory testing of Group A water systems will begin to roll-out in Washington in January 2023. They are still waiting for EPA rule-making. NOTE: Group A water systems are defined as those which have 15 or more service connections or serve 25 or more people 60 or more days per year.
- Ultimately, resolution of the problem will need to be addressed at each water system.
- But in the meantime, if you're concerned about your drinking water at your home, I encourage you to identify at least one fixture in your house to designate for drinking water and install an under-the-counter or a countertop reverse osmosis system. NOTE: I googled "reverse osmosis systems", and many of the products that showed up are not, in fact, reverse osmosis systems. I guess many water filter products that are not reverse osmosis will include the term "reverse osmosis" in their hypertext so that they pop up in searches. But a regular (cheap) water filter system will not capture PFAS. So pay attention to make sure what you buy will handle these

substances. For assistance in finding the right product, try here: <https://www.nsf.org/consumer-resources/articles/pfoa-pfos-drinking-water>

- For more information: <https://sboh.wa.gov/news/drinking-water-and-pfas-rule-update> , <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html> and <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/drinking-water> .
- I will of course keep you informed as I know more. But one thing we can all do now: let the state legislature know you want them to make money available for testing for Group B and private wells too, not just for Group A wells. Not all Island County residents get their water from big water systems. Well testing costs around \$600 per well.

PFAS Project Lab

-  [PFAS September Newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

We will be devoting our September member meeting to PFAS.

See below for details

Web site updates

We have added an [events calendar](#) to the web site. You'll find it on the main menu. The calendar contains WIWSA events and those from partners. There's a submenu that lets you choose just [WIWSA events](#).

We've added a special [PFAS resource](#) section to the web site.

Look for further website improvements over the coming months.

Billing

- 2022 invoices have been sent by regular mail. Thank you to those who have already paid. Let us know if you have not received your invoice. If your water system's contact information needs to be updated, please use the [Membership Application/Renewal/Update](#) form.

Scholarship/Apprenticeship Program

- WIWSA is partnering with ERWoW/RCAC and SMAs and water systems on Whidbey Island to offer a scholarship and apprenticeship for persons interested in pursuing a career in drinking water. Please contact us for details. We have already interviewed our first applicant for this scholarship.

Dates and plans for 2022 member meetings:

- The June member meeting was held in person with a zoom option. It was great to see people in three dimensions again. We are working on improved sound for the next meeting. The topics were:
 - Grant and loan opportunities for water systems
 - Water use efficiency
- Our next Member Meeting will be **Thursday September 15, 2022, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**. We will meet in person at Coupeville's water treatment plant with a Zoom option. The topic will be **PFAS in drinking water**. We'll have a tour of the plant and brief presentations from DOH, Ecology, the Navy, and Confluence Engineering, followed by a panel discussion.

- Full agenda and zoom link to follow. Remember that to receive the invitation email with the meeting link you need to [subscribe](#) to this email service.

News from our Partners

- [Office of Drinking Water | Washington State Department of Health](#)
 - The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program will accept Construction Loan applications October 3 to November 30. This year's cycle includes funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). **September 21, 10 AM to noon - Join us for an informational MS Teams meeting on the Construction Loan program. The MS Teams meeting link is available on the [DWSRF Webpage](#).**
 - DWAG September Meeting Date Change, Two Free Trainings
DWAG: Next Meeting—September 19
Based on your feedback, we changed the next DWAG meeting date to the third Monday in September 9/19. Please make a note of it on your calendars. We will send out reminders as usual, about a week before the meeting. You can check the DWAG webpage for more info.
- [AWWA](#)
 - AWWA looks forward to ACE23 June 11-14, 2023 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Call for abstracts is open. [ACE23 CFA - 9/8 \(contentsharing.net\)](#)
- [PNWS-AWWA | Drinking Water Management Resources for Northwest Professionals](#)
 - Latest newsletters: [PNWS-AWWA Newsletters - PNWS-AWWA - Drinking Water Management & Resources for Northwest Professionals](#). We suggest you subscribe to the AWWA-PNWS newsletter [here](#).
 - AWWA's Water Infrastructure Conference Comes to Portland September 11-14. [Registration is Now Open](#)
- NWWA-AWWA
 - Upcoming Workshops:
 - [Water Storage Basics – September 21, 2022, Zoom \(on-line\)](#)
 - [Chlorine Residual Testing and Lab Skills – Morning and afternoon sessions, September 26, 2022 in Port Angeles \(in-person\)](#)
 - [Chlorine Residual Testing and Lab Skills – Morning session only, September 27, 2022 in Port Angeles \(in-person\)](#)
- [Circle of Blue | Water Reporting, Data & Convening](#)
 - [EPA Warns of Health Problems When PFAS Levels in Drinking Water Are Inconceivably Tiny - Circle of Blue](#)
- [Evergreen Rural Water of Washington > Home \(erwow.org\)](#)
 - Water & Wastewater Professional Growth Course Catalog July - September 2022 [2022 3rd Quarterly.pdf \(erwow.org\)](#)
 - [Calendar \(erwow.org\)](#)
- [Water and Wastewater News | WWD \(wwdmag.com\)](#)
 - [Water and Wastes Digest : August 2022 \(mydigitalpublication.com\)](#)
- [Environmental Working Group – Know your choices | Environmental Working Group \(ewg.org\)](#)
 - [EWG Updates Tap Water Database](#)
 - [EWG-AvoidingPFCs.pdf](#) A timely guide to avoiding PFAS
- [BC Water News](#) is a great resource. We suggest you sign up for a [free subscription](#).

- [NRWA's](#) Rural Water Wire is another great resource. Click the subscribe link at the top of the email.
 - [WaterPro Conference 2022 held in National Harbor, MD | NRWA](#) is coming up, September 26-29
- [Wateroperator.org](#) is also well worth a subscribe. Click the subscribe link at the top of the email.
 - All their Newsletters and Innovations for Small Water Systems can be found in the [WaterOperator > Newsletter](#)
 - Water Security Virtual Conference: Free for Small Systems
On the afternoons of November 15-17, 2022 WaterISAC will host a virtual event for "water and wastewater professionals looking to level up on their Physical Security, IT and OT Cybersecurity, and Resilience."
Small systems may email events@waterisac.org to request a coupon code for free registration. Learn more about H2OSecCon.

Podcasts

Podcasts are a great way to catch up with news while giving your eyes a rest. Here are some of the best water podcasts. You can also find the links on the resources page of our web site.

- **Circle of Blue** [What's Up with Water](#) "What's Up With Water" condenses the need-to-know news on the world's water into a weekly snapshot.
- **Water Environment Federation** [Words on Water](#) A podcast featuring conversations with influential and interesting people from the water sector and news from the Water Environment Federation.
- **The H2duO** [Water in Real Life](#) Award-winning communication professionals, Arianne Shipley and Stephanie Corso, aka The H2duO, chat with thought-leaders from both inside and outside of the water industry to serve as a resource for both personal and professional growth. Water in Real Life was created for water professionals who believe that if you desire to build the right relationships with your community, and thereby overcome many of the challenges you face, then your ability to connect with them through storytelling is essential.
- **(Don't) Waste Water** weekly water podcast covers case studies, market trends, and technology breakthroughs.
- [talkingunderwater | Water & Wastes Digest \(wwdmag.com\)](#) Talking Under Water is the premier podcast for the water industry, including municipal and industrial water and wastewater, residential water treatment, storm water management and erosion control. It is produced in coordination between [Water & Wastes Digest \(WWD\)](#), [Water Quality Products \(WQP\)](#) and [Storm Water Solutions \(SWS\)](#).

Do you have news you want to share?

If you have water news you'd like to share with the water drinkers of Whidbey Island, please send a message to mail (at) whidbeywatersystems.org

Subscribe!

Please [subscribe](#) to receive our emails including this monthly newsletter and quarterly meeting invitations.

Join!

We encourage water systems, private well owners, and companies serving water systems to become members of WIWSA. Please use the [Membership Application/Renewal/Update](#) form to apply.