

**CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

RESOLUTION NO. 38-18

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA URGING THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO TAKE ALL NECESSARY ACTION TO ENSURE THAT THE RESIDENTS OF CHELTENHAM TOWNSHIP HAVE SAFE DRINKING WATER BY DISCOVERING THE EXTENT OF THE CONTAMINATION, PROVIDING COMPLETE REMEDIATION, FULLY EVALUATING THE HEALTH CONSEQUENCES AND PROVIDING ONGOING BIOMONITORING TO RESIDENTS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL EXPOSED TO WATER CONTAMINATED FROM COMPOUNDS USED BY THE U.S. NAVY AT THE FORMER WILLOW GROVE NAVAL AIR STATION JOINT RESERVE BASE, THE PENNSYLVANIA AIR NATIONAL GUARD AT THE JOINT RESERVE BASE IN WILLOW GROVE, AND AT THE NAVAL AIR DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN WARMINSTER.

WHEREAS, the United States military used foam containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), unregulated contaminants, in firefighting training at the Willow Grove Joint Reserve Base in Horsham Township, Montgomery County, and at the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster Township, Bucks County; and

WHEREAS, the chemicals are now appearing in elevated levels in public and private water wells; and

WHEREAS, PFOS and PFOA are “extremely persistent in the environment and resistant to typical environmental degradation processes,” according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, the EPA also states: “the toxicity, mobility and bioaccumulation potential of PFOA and PFOS pose potential adverse effects for the environmental and human health”; and

WHEREAS, a growing body of science has established associations between PFOA and PFOS and a range of health effects, including a variety of cancers; and

WHEREAS, the chemicals were first discovered in local public water supplies near the former military bases by an EPA testing program in 2013 and 2014, resulting in several public water wells being taken offline; and

WHEREAS, on Thursday, May 19, 2016, the EPA issued an update to its health advisory for PFOS and PFOA that significantly reduces the amount considered safe in drinking water noting that in the worst possible case, water containing the chemicals at an amount previously deemed safe would now be more than eight times over the recommended limits; and

WHEREAS, the new recommended levels have resulted in officials of Horsham Water and Sewer Authority, Warminster Municipal Authority, and the Warrington Township Water and Sewer Department shutting down contaminated public drinking water wells, including 16 municipal wells in Horsham, Warrington and Warminster Townships and nearly 150 private wells; and

WHEREAS, although a small portion of Cheltenham Township gets its drinking water from public wells, the rest of the Township's water source comes from the Neshaminy Creek, which is much more contaminated than other surrounding areas due to surface water runoff from the Joint Reserve Base in Willow Grove being directly discharged into the Neshaminy Creek; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania acknowledge the efforts thus far, more needs to be done fully to address this situation; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urges the President, the United States Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency to expeditiously determine if a uniform Federal drinking water standard should be issued for PFOAs and PFOAs that can be enforced in the same manner as lead and arsenic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urges the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Defense to take all necessary action to ensure that the residents of Cheltenham Township, Montgomery County and surrounding counties have safe drinking water, and to discover the extent of the contamination, provide complete remediation, fully evaluate the health consequences and provide ongoing biomonitoring to residents and military personnel who have been exposed to the water contamination from compounds previously used by the U.S. Navy at the former Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base and at the Naval Air Development Center in Warminster, and by the Pennsylvania Air National Guard at the Joint Reserve Base in Willow Grove.


ADOPTED this 15th day of August 2018.

ATTEST:

**TOWNSHIP OF CHELTENHAM
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



Bryan T. Havir
Township Manager and Secretary

By: 

Daniel B. Norris, *President*