

Wyoming Water Well Contractors' Newsletter

NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



IN THIS ISSUE:

Director's Welcome	1
PFA Contamination Study	1
Private Water Well Filtration	2
Calendar/Events	3

Water Well Contractors,

It was great seeing everyone at the Wyoming Groundwater Association Convention in Casper last month. Seeing everyone in one room really puts into perspective how many of you there are and how many more I need to meet! Now that I have finished processing all the renewals that were due at the end of 2019, I am going to be back on the road and hope to make as many trips to see everyone as I can. With that being said, it seems like winter has finally arrived in my part of the state and from the looks of the WYDOT travel map it is wreaking havoc on the roads.

Everyone be safe and have a great start to 2020.
Jimmy Gordon

Study Shows PFAS Contamination of Drinking Water More Prevalent Than Previously Reported (Water Well Journal)

New laboratory tests commissioned by the Environmental Working Group have for the first time found per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the drinking water of dozens of U.S. cities, including major metropolitan areas. The results confirm the number of Americans exposed to PFAS from contaminated tap water has been underestimated by previous studies, both from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and EWG's own research.

Based on EWG's tests and new academic research that found PFAS widespread in rainwater, EWG scientists now believe PFAS are likely detectable in all major water supplies in the United States, almost certainly in all that use surface water. EWG's tests also found chemicals from the PFAS family that are not commonly tested for in drinking water. Of tap water samples from 44 places in 31 states and the District of Columbia, only one location had no detectable PFAS, and only two other locations had PFAS below the level that independent studies show pose risks to human health. Some of the highest PFAS levels detected were in samples from major metropolitan areas, including Miami, Philadelphia, New Orleans, and the northern New Jersey suburbs of New York City.

In 34 places where EWG's tests found PFAS, contamination has not been publicly reported by the EPA or state environmental agencies. Because PFAS are not regulated, utilities that have chosen to test independently are not required to make their results public or report them to state drinking water agencies or the EPA.

EWG's samples—collected by staff or volunteers between May and December 2019 — were analyzed by an accredited independent laboratory for 30 different PFAS, a tiny fraction of the thousands of compounds in the PFAS family.

An EPA-mandated sampling program that ended in 2015 tested for a few types of PFAS and required utilities to report only detections of a higher minimal level. The EPA also only mandated testing for systems serving more than 10,000 people, whereas EWG's project included a sample from a smaller system excluded from the EPA program. Because of those limitations, the EPA reported finding PFAS at only seven of the locations where EWG's tests found contamination.

In the 43 samples where PFAS were detected, the total level varied from less than 1 part per trillion (ppt) in Seattle, Washington, and Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to almost 186 ppt in Brunswick County, North Carolina. The only sample without detectable PFAS was from Meridian, Mississippi, which draws its drinking water from wells more than 700 feet deep.

State Board of Examining Water Well Drilling Contractors and Water Well Pump Installation Contractors

Website:
wwcb.state.wy.us
email:wwcb@wyo.gov

Jimmy Gordon
Executive Director
1201 E 7th Street,
Suite 103
Powell, WY 82435

Cell:
(307) 851-7770

Fax:
(888) 988-1322

E-Mail:
jimmy.gordon@wyo.gov

NGWA Past President Writes Op-Ed Encouraging Private Water Well Filtration to Combat PFAS (Water Well Journal)

NGWA Past President David Henrich, CWD/PI, CVCLD, wrote an op-ed in the *Star Tribune* in Minnesota on January 21 calling for private well filtration systems to prevent water contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

PFAS contamination is countywide in Washington County, which led to the manufacturer responsible — 3M — agreeing to pay an \$850 million settlement with the state. Washington County is receiving a large amount of funds to deal with the issue.

While plans are underway to help supply citizens with clean drinking water from municipal systems, Henrich argues that not enough attention is being paid to private well owners.

Henrich, president of Bergerson-Caswell Inc. in Maple Plains, Minnesota, details how whole-house filtration systems can effectively eliminate or reduce PFAS in drinking water. Henrich writes, “The filter media can even be regenerated and reused, creating minimal waste. Compared with other solutions, they are very inexpensive and ready to be installed right now. As an added benefit, this process would actually help clean up the groundwater over time, because the PFAS is absorbed by the filter media and destroyed through the media regeneration process.”

Regarding costs alone, Henrich cites one of the expedited projects in Cottage Grove that was funded through the 3M settlement. The project will convert 139 homes from private water well systems to public water supply and is estimated to cost at least \$9.1 million. Henrich states the whole-house water treatment systems could have been installed for less than \$300,000. The systems would then need to be serviced annually at around \$800 per system, or around \$111,000 per year.

In looking at the future, Henrich argues that in raw dollars alone, treatment could have been provided for almost 80 years, far longer than the infrastructure itself will last. The money saved could be used for other projects such as “remediating the groundwater and restoring the natural resource instead of perpetuating the problem and potentially impacting others as the contaminant continues to migrate through the aquifer,” Henrich writes.

Henrich, who served as president of NGWA in 2018, is currently president of the Minnesota Water Well Association. He concludes that organizations such as his and the Minnesota Water Quality Association are ready to help public leaders see the value in his plan for Washington County.

NDA	On-Line Certification Exams	Website	https://nda4u.com
AGWT	Educational Videos and Books	Website	www.AGWT.org
ISWD	International School of Well Drilling Online Courses	Website	welldrillingschool.com
NGWA	Selection of Meters for Water Well Pumps (7132-1)	Website	Online self-paced course
TLC	Technical Learning College	Website	Self-paced courses
WWWCB	Water Well Contractors Licensing Board Meeting	Ramkota Casper, WY	April 8, 2020 10am



KEY

WGWA – Wyoming Ground Water Association

NDA – National Drilling Association

NGWA – National Ground Water Association

NWDA – Nebraska Well Drillers Association

CWWCA – Colorado Water Well Contractors Association

WARWS – Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems

WWA- Wyoming Water Association

WWQ & PCA – Wyoming Water Quality & Pollution Control Association

WWWCB – Wyoming Water Well Contractors Licensing Board

BIDP – Baroid Industrial Drilling Products

AGWT – American Ground Water Trust

SEDC – Shallow Exploration Drillers Clinic

IGWA – Idaho Ground Water Ass. Inc.

ISWD – International School of Well Drilling
www.welldrillingschool.com

CPS - CPS Distributors

Goulds - Goulds Water Technology Factory

School WebEx Training

Technical Learning College

www.abctlc.com

For continuing education opportunities please refer to each respective association's website for additional information.