



Douglas A. Ducey
Governor

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Misael Cabrera
Director

March 8, 2021

Greg Hardesty
Western Hills Baptist Church
12301 W. Glendale Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85307

Public Water System Name: Western Hills Baptist Church
Public Water System Identification Number: AZ0407187

Re: Request for Historic PFAS Data and Access to Sample for PFAS

Dear Mr. Hardesty:

On February 18, 2021, Luke Air Force Base (Luke AFB) notified Valley Utilities Water Company (VUWCO) and its customers that the supply wells for the utility had levels of certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that exceeded the 2016 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory level. Ensuring Arizonans are receiving healthy drinking water from water systems is our top priority and we share the concerns of residents in the area. We appreciate the voluntary, swift short-term actions Luke AFB is taking to provide an alternate drinking water source for VUWCO customers.

PFAS are a group of man-made substances that have been used since the 1940s in the manufacturing of carpets, clothing, furniture fabric, food packaging, firefighting foams and other industrial processes. Some studies have shown that exposure to certain PFAS may increase the risk of cancer, affect the immune system and impact children's development and EPA has recently determined that a federal Safe Drinking Water Act standard should be developed for certain PFAS. The most significant human exposure pathway related to PFAS is drinking water in communities near industrial facilities where PFAS were produced or used to manufacture other products, facilities used for the disposal of PFAS containing water, or near oil refineries, airfields, or locations where PFAS-containing products were used for firefighting.

ADEQ has been actively working statewide to identify water systems with PFAS and assisting them with voluntarily addressing this drinking water quality issue of concern since 2013 - including water systems near Luke AFB. Our work to protect Arizonans and our drinking water supply and to ensure customers receive timely information is continuing in collaboration with the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) and other federal, state and local partners. To this end, ADEQ has identified 10 public water systems within a four-mile radius of Luke AFB that provide drinking water to more than 50,000 people and which could potentially be impacted by PFAS:

- Valley Utilities Water CO Glendale
- Adaman Mutual Water CO
- Hacienda Del Sol MHP
- Western Hill Baptist Church

Phoenix Office

1110 W. Washington St. | Phoenix, AZ 85007
602-771-2300

Southern Regional Office

400 W. Congress St. | Suite 433 | Tucson, AZ 85701
520-628-6733

azdeq.gov

- Liberty Water - LPSCO
- Olive Avenue HOA
- City of Glendale
- City of Goodyear
- EPCOR Agua Fria
- Tierra Buena Water Company

To assist the state in determining the risk to public health from PFAS exposure through drinking water, ADEQ is requesting the laboratory analytical reports from any sampling your public water system has conducted for any PFAS compounds. Reports must include the sampling date, time, location, analytes, and concentration. Please note that the federal Safe Drinking Water Act provides EPA with the authority to require that you provide these data.

ADEQ is also requesting to sample your well(s) for PFAS compounds using EPA Test Method 537.1 at no cost to you. ADEQ will pay for all sampling and analytical costs. Field technicians from ADEQ would visit your well site, make an assessment and collect the samples if appropriate. ADEQ field technicians will be available to answer questions about the sampling.

ADEQ further advises you to review EPA's recommended actions for drinking water systems related to PFAS, as well as the Guidance for Utilities chapter in the 2016 final report on Emerging Contaminants in Arizona Water produced by the Arizona Panel on Emerging Contaminants, and take the appropriate actions for your water system:

- <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos-questions-and-answers>
- https://static.azdeq.gov/wqd/apec_emerging_cont_final.pdf

ADEQ strongly encourages your participation in both providing any PFAS sampling results you have as well as allowing ADEQ to conduct additional sampling and testing to help inform our ongoing efforts to identify and assist public water systems that are impacted by PFAS and to protect the people they serve. An ADEQ representative will be reaching out to you shortly to arrange sampling.

Sincerely,



Misael Cabrera, P.E.
Director

cc: Brigadier General Gregory Kreuder, Commander, 56th Fighter Wing, Luke AFB
Thomas Torres, Water Division Director, U.S. EPA Region 9
Amy Miller, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Director, U.S. EPA Region 9
Lea Marquez-Peterson, Chairwoman, Arizona Corporation Commission
Darcy Kober, Director, Maricopa County Environmental Services Division