



## City of Dayton demands Wright-Patterson Air Force Base stop contaminating water source

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Recent testing data from the City of Dayton's early warning monitoring wells network shows chemical contaminants are migrating from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base toward Dayton's Huffman Dam wells. The City's monitoring network sampling strongly indicates that the potential contamination threat is the direct result of base activities.

The specific contaminants are man-made chemicals known as PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). These chemicals have been used in industrial and consumer products since the 1950s and are often found in the environment because of their widespread use in products such as coatings for textiles, paper products and cookware. They also are used to formulate some firefighting foams and in the aerospace and aviation industries, such as at military installations nationwide. More information about PFAS can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas> and <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) has established a limit for PFAS as it relates to health impacts at 70 parts per trillion (ppt). The City's monitoring network samples indicated low levels of PFAS – less than 10 ppt, significantly below the level the U.S. EPA considers to be a health issue. And, at no point has the City found PFAS in the water that is provided to residents and customers. Dayton's drinking water has been and remains safe for consumption.

Although the City is not the cause of this problem, and the contaminant is not at a level that is considered unsafe, the City is nonetheless taking steps to prevent its water system from being further affected. The City is working in conjunction with Ohio EPA and the U.S. EPA to devise a quick resolution from the base. Those steps include shutting down wells in the vicinity where the City found PFAS.

"Shutting down production wells is a great short-term solution, but won't solve this problem in the long run," said Dayton Director of Water Mike Powell. "We are working with both the Ohio EPA and the U.S. EPA to devise a more permanent

solution, which will require the Air Force to either stop the flow of PFAS from its property or treat the contaminated raw water before it becomes part of the drinking water. Unfortunately, the Air Force has not acted."

In a tersely worded letter to Col. Bradley W. McDonald, base commander at Wright-Patterson, the City demanded that WPAFB act immediately to ensure that PFAS contamination does not further impact the City's production wells.

"Our primary responsibility is to protect the integrity of our water supply, and the health and welfare of our citizens. For that reason, we have joined with Ohio EPA in demanding that the Air Force take action to stop the ongoing contamination," said Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley.

"We are monitoring this situation closely to track the amount of PFAS being released by WPAFB, and will keep our residents and customers updated when there are new developments. Until that time, rest assured that we are on top of the situation and will continue to deliver safe water to you," said Powell.

For additional information, go to <http://daytonohio.gov/PFAS>.

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