



# East Basin Road Groundwater Site

## Fact Sheet

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has added the East Basin Road Groundwater Site to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is EPA's list of priority sites requiring evaluation for possible remediation from releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants. EPA provided public notice of the proposed listing in the Federal Register in September 2022 and accepted public comments from Sept. 9 to Nov. 8, 2022.

The listing of the East Basin Road Groundwater Site is due to the identification of groundwater plumes containing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and metals impacting public drinking water supply wells in the City of New Castle and surrounding area. Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have also been found in groundwater and public supply wells, and PFAS chemicals perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) are regulated hazardous substances under Delaware's Hazardous Substance Cleanup Act (HSCA).



### Drinking Water Meets Standards

Public drinking water provided by Artesian Water Company and the City of New Castle's Municipal Services Commission (MSC) is treated to remove contamination, including VOCs and the PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS. The finished drinking water meets all applicable federal and state Safe Drinking Water Act standards, also known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). The finished drinking water does not exceed the proposed State of Delaware MCLs for PFOA and PFOS\*.

### The National Priorities List (NPL)

An NPL listing makes a site eligible for remedial action financed under the federal Superfund program. An NPL listing for the East Basin Road Groundwater Site will allow EPA to use Superfund authority and resources to further investigate and remediate the contamination and protect human health and the environment in New Castle.

### Background

In 2013 and 2014, in association with the federal Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 3), drinking water samples were collected from multiple public supply wells in New Castle. Concentrations of PFOA and PFOS exceeded the EPA provisional health advisory levels (HALs) of 200 nanograms per liter (ng/L) and 400 ng/L, respectively, in five of the public supply wells operated by Artesian and MSC. In 2014, these wells were temporarily removed from service and/or treatment was installed to ensure the water met the drinking water standard. In 2016, EPA issued a lifetime HAL of 70 ng/L in drinking water for PFOA, PFOS, and combined PFOA and PFOS when both compounds are detected. In June 2022, EPA issued interim, updated HALs for PFOA and PFOS of 0.004 ng/L and 0.02 ng/L, respectively.

\*Proposed State of Delaware MCLs are 21 ng/L for PFOA, 14 ng/L for PFOS, and 17 ng/L for combined PFOA and PFOS.

According to EPA, eleven public wells in the area surrounding the Site are now impacted by PFOA and/or PFOS at concentrations above EPA's HAL. At least one public supply well is also impacted by VOCs, including tetrachloroethene (PCE) above the state and federal MCL. VOCs have been detected in the well for several decades.

## Current Conditions

**Drinking water supplied by Artesian and MSC meet federal and state Safe Drinking Water Act Standards.** The finished drinking water does not exceed the proposed state of Delaware MCLs of 21 ng/L for PFOA, 14 ng/L for PFOS, or 17 ng/L for combined PFOA and PFOS.

In cooperation with EPA, DNREC has conducted investigations in the New Castle area since March 2015. During the investigation, groundwater from site monitoring wells was found to be impacted with PFOA, PFOS, PCE, trichloroethene (TCE), benzene, methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), and other contaminants. Most recently, DNREC and EPA concluded that further investigation was needed.

To address the impacted groundwater, DNREC continues to work with US EPA to conduct further investigations, including supporting listing the site on the National Priorities list. This listing will provide additional technical and financial resources to this site, ensuring it is protective of human health and the environment.

## More Information

To find out more about what the State of Delaware is doing to address PFAS contamination throughout the state, visit [de.gov/pfas](http://de.gov/pfas).

## Contact Information

**For more information on the NPL listing for the East Basin Road Groundwater Site and EPA's Superfund Program, contact:**

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