



April 4, 2020

Dear Woodmen Valley and Thunderbird Estates Well Owners,

I am writing to you as the Rocky Mountain Director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). PEER is a member-based organization which represents employees that works to protect the environment, including scientists, law enforcement officers, and land managers. We at PEER understand that the coronavirus pandemic is impacting you and your families. We also know that there are ongoing issues with contaminated drinking water in your neighborhood.

As you know the Air Force has tested 43 private drinking water wells in your neighborhood for the possible off-site migration of harmful chemicals used in training on the Academy. We have received the attached public test results from the Colorado Department of Health and the Environment. We are writing to inform you that one of the home drinking water wells in your neighborhood has tested at 110 ppt for PFHxS and another tested at 200 ppt. At these levels, this chemical has been found to be harmful to human health.¹

Though many states, including Colorado, have not yet set drinking water standards for PFAS chemicals, there are states that have. For instance, the state of Minnesota established PFHxS drinking water guidelines at 47 ppt.² New Hampshire has proposed to set the level for PFHxS at 18 ppt³ and Michigan has proposed a PFHxS drinking water standards of 51 ppt.⁴ As you can see, these states have determined that PFHxS is not safe to drink at the levels found at two of the wells in your neighborhood.

The Air Force tested each well for 18 different PFAS chemicals. There are other levels of other chemicals that are concerning to us. For example, a third well has the chemical of PPFA at a level of 210 ppt.

We understand that only drinking water wells were tested, yet many of you use well water for your livestock, pets, and gardens. You may wish to have your wells tested to understand the full consequences of using this water.

¹ Exposure to PFAS increases the risk of cancer, harms the development of the fetus, harms the immune system response, and reduces the effectiveness of vaccines. PFHxS is one type of PFAS that is found in fire-fighting foam and often used in military training exercises. See: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects.html>

² <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/risk/docs/guidance/gw/pfhxsinfo.pdf>

³ https://www.nhms.org/sites/default/files/Pdfs/PFAS_update_FAQs.pdf

⁴ <https://www.michigan.gov/som/0,4669,7-192-47796-509830--,00.html>

Please contact Britt Grunewald at the Peterson AFB if you would like to see the original test results from your well.

Britt Grunewald, Environmental Engineer

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Email: Britt.Grunewald@us.af.mil

Certainly, please contact me if you would like more information.

Sincerely,

Chandra Rosenthal

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cc: Director Patrick Pfaltzgraf
Water Quality Control Division
Colorado Department of Health and the Environment

President Richard Skorman
Colorado Spring City Council

Senator Pete Lee
Colorado Senate

3 Attachments: Air Force Aerostar lab results for homeowner wells