

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

TOWN OF COUPEVILLE PRESS RELEASE – 11-7-16

Town of Coupeville Wells

The Town of Coupeville will be conducting tests on four town water supply wells located in the Keystone and Fort Casey well fields. These tests will be conducted as a result of the EPA recently setting lifetime health advisory levels for two compounds, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). These compounds are found in firefighting foam. NASWI has no records of this foam being used at OLF Coupeville, however, a trace amount of these compounds were found in a Navy well, tested on the airfield earlier this fall. The Town of Coupeville has determined it prudent to conduct independent testing on its own wells. At this time we have no reason to be concerned for the safety of the town's water, but we must be deliberate and vigilant in obtaining all the information we can to confirm that the Town's water supply meets or exceeds all applicable public drinking water supply standards.

The PFOA and PFOS compounds are tested in parts per trillion, requiring specific sampling and testing protocol. Staff from the State Department of Health regional office will be helping us to collect the water samples. A lab in Spokane will be conducting the actual tests. All tests will be conducted under strict quality control procedures. Samples will be taken this week and results are expected in early December.

The Navy will also be testing the Town wells later in November when they conduct other testing of private wells around the OLF. The Town looks forward to getting the Navy's results. This redundancy in testing of the Town wells, will help us all feel confident in the final results. When completed both the Town and the Navy test results will be made available to the public.

Drinking water is highly regulated by the Washington State Department of Health and US Environmental Protection Agency and is tested regularly. The water for Coupeville comes from aquifers. Well water at the Ft. Casey Water Treatment Plant is treated for the removal of iron and manganese, components often found in the Whidbey Island source waters. It is chlorinated before entering the Town's distribution system. The entire treatment process is regularly monitored by state certified operators through daily, routine testing. You can view our annual Water Quality Monitoring Results on the town website. Go to:

www.townofcoupeville.org – Documents & Info – Water Quality Reports – nine years of reports

If you have questions about the testing, please call Mayor Molly Hughes at Town Hall. 360-678-4461