

**Valley Utilities Water Company, Inc.**  
**Customer Notice Regarding United States Air Force PFOS/PFOA Issue**  
**March 8, 2021**

Recently, the United States Air Force (“*Air Force*”) mailed you a letter stating polyfluoroalkyl substances (“*PFAS*”), including perfluorooctane sulfonate (“*PFOS*”) and perfluorooctanoic acid (“*PFOA*”), may be present in the water supply provided to your home. If you did not receive this letter, you may download a copy at [www.VUWCO.com](http://www.VUWCO.com) or call our office to request a copy. PFOS and PFOA are components present in a variety of commonly used products, and were also present in fire suppression foam used at Luke Air Force Base (“*LAFB*”).

The Environmental Protection Agency (“*EPA*”) has not chosen to regulate PFOS/PFOA to date, but the agency has developed a Lifetime Health Advisory (“*LHA*”) for PFOS/PFOA in drinking water. Health advisories provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. A health advisory is a non-enforceable advisory that serves to provide information for federal, state, and local officials and drinking water providers on the potential health risks of these chemicals if consumed above specific concentrations throughout one’s lifetime. The EPA’s current LHA regarding PFOS/PFOA is 70 parts per trillion (“*ppt*”). For reference, 1 ppt is the equivalent of one drop of water in twenty Olympic size swimming pools. According to the EPA, its LHA for PFOS/PFOA is based on estimated exposure from drinking water ingestion, not from skin contact or breathing.

As stated in the letter from the Air Force, its representatives, in cooperation with Valley Utilities Water Company, Inc. (“*Valley*”), collected water samples from Valley’s wells that provide water to your residence. The water samples were submitted for PFOS/PFOA analysis. The Air Force has not yet provided Valley with the actual testing results but it has informed Valley that three of its five wells tested contain PFOS/PFOA levels in excess of the EPA’s LHA level. Based on the results of its testing, the Air Force is now working with Valley to install treatment equipment at Valley’s Bethany Hills West well site at the Air Force’s expense. Valley’s sixth well was not sampled due to routine maintenance, but previous testing did not detect any PFOS/PFOA at this well. Valley intends to sample this well and report the results to the Air Force as soon as the maintenance is complete.

The Air Force has taken responsibility for the contamination and has pledged to install treatment facilities to remove all or the majority of the PFOS/PFOA before water enters Valley’s water distribution system. The Air Force expects the treatment equipment to be installed and operational by the end of May 2021. The Air Force has also committed to provide bottled water service to Valley customers free of charge until the treatment equipment is fully operational. After the treatment equipment is installed, Valley will perform quarterly PFOS/PFOA testing over a 12 month period to verify the effectiveness of the treatment equipment and will notify customers if PFOS/PFOA levels exceed the EPA’s lifetime health advisory.

The Air Force and/or Valley will provide updates periodically when important additional information becomes available. Customers with questions or concerns may contact Valley by email at [valleyutilities@vuwco.com](mailto:valleyutilities@vuwco.com) or by telephone at 623-935-1100.