



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building
P. O. Box 501220
Saipan, MP 96950

Gary P. Camacho, Executive Director
Telephone No.: (670) 664-4282
Fax No.: (670) 235-5131

Notice of Public Hearing on GAC Filter System for Handling PFOA/PFOS Contaminant Removal

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at the CUC Conference Room, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building.** The purpose of the public hearing is to explain the proposed solution, which is the granular activated carbon (“GAC”) filtration system that will eliminate or remove the Perfluorooctanoic acid (“PFOA”) and Perfluorooctane sulfonate (“PFOS”) contaminants from the nine (9) contaminated water wells at the Obyan and Isley Field. These wells are presently not in service; however, the water supply would be beneficial to our system.

PFOS and PFOA are human-made substances and are not naturally found in the environment. They have been used extensively in commercial goods (carpets, clothing, furniture, paper packaging for food) and in materials that are resistant to water, grease or stains such as cookware. They are also used in firefighting foams at airfields and in a number of industrial processes. Between 2000 and 2002, PFOS was voluntarily phased out of production in the U.S. by its primary manufacturer.

While consumer products are a large source of human exposure to these chemicals, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have entered and contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an airfield at which they were used for firefighting.

EPA has established lifetime health advisories of **70 parts per trillion** for combined concentrations of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. EPA health advisories include a margin of protection from adverse health effects when consumed at these levels over a lifetime.

The public is welcome to attend this hearing to learn more about these contaminants and CUC’s proposed plan for a GAC filtration system to control the release of these chemicals into the Saipan water system.