

## MEMORANDUM

**To: NWWA Board of Directors  
NWWA Staff and Professionals  
All NWWA Water Customers – Bulk and Retail**

**From: Robert C. Bender, Executive Director**

**Re: Recent Newspaper Article on Chromium 6 – NWWA Response**

First, please allow me to unequivocally assure all interested parties that the water provided by the North Wales Water Authority (NWWA) is completely safe to drink. Our water quality is consistently monitored and has always passed every Federal, State and Local standard, is of excellent quality, has been for years, and is now in compliance with all guidelines.

Please do not be swayed by the fear generated by self-serving groups, many hoping to obtain legal clients, or to sell unneeded “water filtering” systems to unsuspecting consumers. Many of these people are sincere, but others appear to be nothing more than carpetbaggers, making bold, sweeping, and perhaps even dangerous claims - as they pursue their own agenda, and profits. It is unfortunate that these erroneous claims do nothing more than create fear in the general public, and undermines confidence in public drinking water supplies and systems.

Please consider the following facts:

Chromium, (including Chromium 6), has been present and detected in water supplies at extremely low levels all across the nation for many years. In fact one of the most recent articles being circulated admits that this element has been detected in water supplies in all 50 states.

What has occurred is that the media has recently reported upon old news – essentially using data submitted over a year ago by the NWWA. This information was sent directly to the EPA showing test results at various locations – all of which are well below the allowable limits of not only the EPA, but lower than every permitted level - even when measured in PARTS PER BILLION!

For reference purposes, let’s compare our test results to the California standards as cited in the most recent article. California has established the strictest limitations for Chromium 6 in the nation – at a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10.0 ppb. We are even lower.

*Anything less than 10.0 ppb is clearly considered acceptable – even in California!*

The facts are that even using the most restrictive “California standard”, (*rather than the EPA standard of 100 ppb which applies to our system*) *our highest measurement was only a fraction of the most restrictive maximum allowable levels - even in California.*

*And, all of our other testing results were even LOWER.*

One additional point is that all public drinking water originates in the form of rain or snow, from rivers or streams, or is pumped from the ground - typically hundreds of feet below the surface. As such, and in every case, in addition to what we know as “H<sub>2</sub>O”, actually provides many minerals and naturally occurring trace elements, many of which are deemed by the medical profession as not only safe, but essential to human health and nutrition.

The point is that just because an element is detected in drinking water, it is not automatically bad, and in fact, most are natural, safe, and even healthy for human consumption.

We need not panic, or overreact. It’s simply not enough to just say we found a certain trace of a chemical or mineral in the water, so it must be bad. The amount of Chromium that was detected in the NWWA system is so infinitesimally small that it should not be a health concern to anyone - as it has been referenced as being “*less than a single drop of water in an Olympic sized swimming pool*”.

Our public water system is operated by a team of professionals, including a team of highly trained and experienced individuals who are individually and collectively responsible for water quality monitoring and testing on a 24 hour per day, seven day per week basis. We have one of the most sophisticated water purification plants in the entire world at Forest Park, which we are constantly improving. As a result, the amount of Chromium detected in the NWWA system is so infinitesimally small that it should not be a health concern to any reasonable individual.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further.

Or better yet, visit our website at [www.nwwater.com](http://www.nwwater.com) for links to our water quality information.

Sincerely

North Wales Water Authority

***Robert C. Bender***

Executive Director.

**North Wales Water Authority**  
**Chromium-6 testing from 2013-2015**

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***U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE  
LEVEL FOR TOTAL CHROMIUM IS 100 PARTS PER BILLION. (ppb)***

<b>Sample Date</b>	<b>Sample Facility</b>	<b>Sample Point</b>	<b>TESTING RESULT</b>	<b>TEST PASSED OR FAILED</b>
2014-02-04	Well #25	EPTDS from Well #25	0.05 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Well #22	EPTDS from Well #22	<0.03 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Forest Park	EPTDS from Forest Part	<0.02 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Well #34	EPTDS from Well #34	0.16 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Distribution System	Philadelphia Sports Club, N. Britain	0.35 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Well #1	EPTDS from Well #1	0.04 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Distribution System	Nash Printing	<0.03 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Distribution System	1075 Virginia Drive, Ft. Washington	0.09 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Distribution System	American Management Company	0.09 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Distribution System	Wissahickon Public Library	0.06 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Distribution System	Lower Gwynedd Township Office	0.06 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>
2014-02-04	Wells 8, 9, 10, 11, 14	EPTDS from Wells #8, 9, 10, 11 & 14	0.05 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>

2014-02-04	Well #31	EPTDS from Well #31	0.41 ppb	PASSED	
2014-02-04	Well #4	EPTDS from Well #4	0.07 ppb	PASSED	
2014-02-04	Well #17	EPTDS from Well #17	<0.03 ppb	PASSED	
2014-02-04	Distribution System	William Penn Inn, Lower Gwynedd	0.07 ppb	PASSED	
2014-02-04	Well #21	EPTDS from Well #21	0.15 ppb	PASSED	
2014-02-04	Distribution System	NWWA Office, North Wales	0.08 ppb	PASSED	
2014-05-05	Distribution System	Philadelphia Sports Club, N. Britain	0.11 ppb	PASSED	
2014-05-06	Forest Part	EPTDS from Forest Part	0.04 ppb	PASSED	
2014-08-11	Well #22	EPTDS from Well #22	<0.03 ppb	PASSED	
2014-08-11	Well #31	EPTDS from Well #31	0.33 ppb	PASSED	
2014-08-11	Forest Park	EPTDS from Forest Park	<0.03 ppb	PASSED	
2014-08-11	Well #25	EPTDS from Well #25	<0.03 ppb	PASSED	
2014-08-11	Well #34	EPTDS from Well #34	0.14 ppb	PASSED	
2014-08-11	Well #1	EPTDS from Well #1	0.05 ppb	PASSED	
2014-08-11	Distribution System	Philadelphia Sports Club, N. Britain	0.05 ppb	PASSED	
2014-08-11	Well #4	EPTDS from Well #4	0.05 ppb	PASSED	
2014-08-11	Well #17	EPTDS from Well #17	<0.03 ppb	PASSED	
2014-08-11	Distribution System	Wissahickon Public Library	0.08 ppb	PASSED	

2014-08-11	Distribution System	NWWA Office, North Wales	0.09 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>	
2014-08-11	Distribution System	1075 Virginia Drive, Ft. Washington	0.14 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>	
2014-08-11	Distribution System	Lower Gwynedd Township Office	0.08 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>	
2014-08-11	Distribution System	William Penn Inn, Lower Gwynedd	0.06 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>	
2014-08-11	Well #21	EPTDS from Well #21	0.15 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>	
2014-08-11	Distribution System	Nash Printing	<0.03 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>	
2014-08-11	Distribution System	American Management Company	0.20 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>	
2014-08-11	Well 8, 9, 10, 11, 14	EPTDS from Wells #8, 9, 10, 11 & 14	<0.03 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>	
2014-11-10	Forest Park	EPTDS from Forest Park	0.0 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>	
2014-11-10	Distribution System	Philadelphia Sports Club, N. Britain	0.14 ppb	<b>PASSED</b>	

**< = LESS THAN DETECTABLE LEVEL - (NON-DETECT)**