



Saufley Field Pensacola, Florida Results from Off-Base Drinking Water Investigation

August 19, 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Navy has developed a protective policy to address past releases of a class of compounds called per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. These substances may be present in the soil and/or groundwater at Navy sites as a result of historical activities using firefighting foam (AFFF or aqueous film forming foam), including response to crashes, equipment testing, training, etc.

Since firefighting foam was historically used at Saufley Field and because these compounds have the potential to enter into and migrate with groundwater, the Navy initiated an investigation of private drinking water wells in areas in close proximity to Saufley Field in February–June 2019. Initial results from this investigation indicate PFAS have moved off Saufley Field in the groundwater and impacted some nearby private drinking water wells at levels requiring action. Although this fact sheet focuses on Saufley Field, similar investigations have been initiated near NAS Pensacola and Corry Station with no action needed at this time for any private wells sampled near these facilities.

INITIAL INVESTIGATION

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are the only PFAS that have lifetime health advisories for drinking water set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA health advisory level for lifetime exposure is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 70 ppt for PFOS. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations should not exceed 70 ppt. The Navy uses these levels to evaluate the drinking water results to determine if exposure to PFAS in drinking water needs to be addressed.

The Navy has detected PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS in some shallow groundwater monitoring wells at Saufley Field. The Navy performed the initial round of off-base private drinking water sampling in February–June 2019. The table above summarizes the results of the sampling already conducted near Saufley Field.

Most of the wells sampled did not contain PFOA and PFOS above the EPA health advisory, so no immediate action was required for these wells to reduce exposure. However, there have been some exceedances of the EPA's lifetime health advisory, which have resulted in the Navy providing bottled water for drinking and cooking to these residents. As such, the Navy wants to continue to sample any private drinking water wells

If preliminary results show that drinking water from your private well contains PFOS and/or PFOA above the EPA lifetime health advisory, then the Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking until a long-term solution is implemented.



Figure 1- Saufley Field

Initial Results from Off-Base Drinking Water Investigation at Saufley Field (as of August 19, 2019)

Samples Collected	PFOA and/or PFOS Not Detected	PFOA and/or PFOS Detected Below EPA Health Advisory	PFOA and/or PFOS Detected Above EPA Health Advisory
54	9	32	13

not previously sampled in the designated area near Saufley Field to ensure additional exposure is not occurring.

Figure 2 shows the designated sampling area and a summary of the off-base drinking water results available to date. Although available records indicate the majority of drinking water in the designated area is supplied by Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA), the Navy is seeking the public's assistance to identify additional private drinking water wells located in the shaded area depicted on Figure 2. The Navy is testing only private drinking water wells, not water supplied by public utilities like ECUA.

BACKGROUND

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellant properties. The term PFAS refers to a large group of thousands of chemicals. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. PFAS has been found in non-stick cookware, food wrappers, and stain resistant fabrics. Once these compounds are released to the environment, they break down very slowly.

PFAS are "emerging" contaminants, which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. The EPA is currently studying certain PFAS to determine if regulation is needed. In May 2016, the EPA released lifetime health advisory levels for two PFAS, specifically PFOA and PFOS. Health advisory levels are not regulatory standards. They are health-based concentrations which EPA states offer a margin of protection for all Americans throughout their life from exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. It is a voluntary measure because water quality for our off-base neighbors is a priority for the Navy. The Navy is performing this drinking water sampling in coordination with partners, including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Region 4, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and the Escambia County Natural Resources Management Department.

ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS

The Navy is working with our partner agencies to identify long term solutions. The Navy will provide an alternate water source, likely bottled water, for drinking and cooking to any property owner in the sampling area whose water contains PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA health advisory levels. The Navy will continue to provide the alternate water until a permanent solution is implemented.

The Navy would like to sample any additional drinking water wells in the designated sampling area (Figure 2). If your property is within the designated sampling area and you have a drinking water well on your property that has not been sampled yet as part of this project, you may schedule sampling of your well by calling 850-452-8715, or by emailing the NAS Pensacola Community Planning and Liaison Officer at: stephen.j.opalenik@navy.mil.

The preliminary results from off-base drinking water sampling are expected approximately 30 days after the samples are collected. The Navy will do its best to keep personally identifiable information related to sampling results confidential, to the extent permitted by law. We will provide notification to the property owners of their personal drinking water results and follow-up actions if needed.

Once any potential exposures from drinking water have been addressed, the Navy will complete the investigation at Saufley Field to better determine the presence of these compounds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_pensacola.html

If you have specific questions contact the NAS Pensacola Community Planning and Liaison Officer at:
850-452-8715 or stephen.j.opalenik@navy.mil

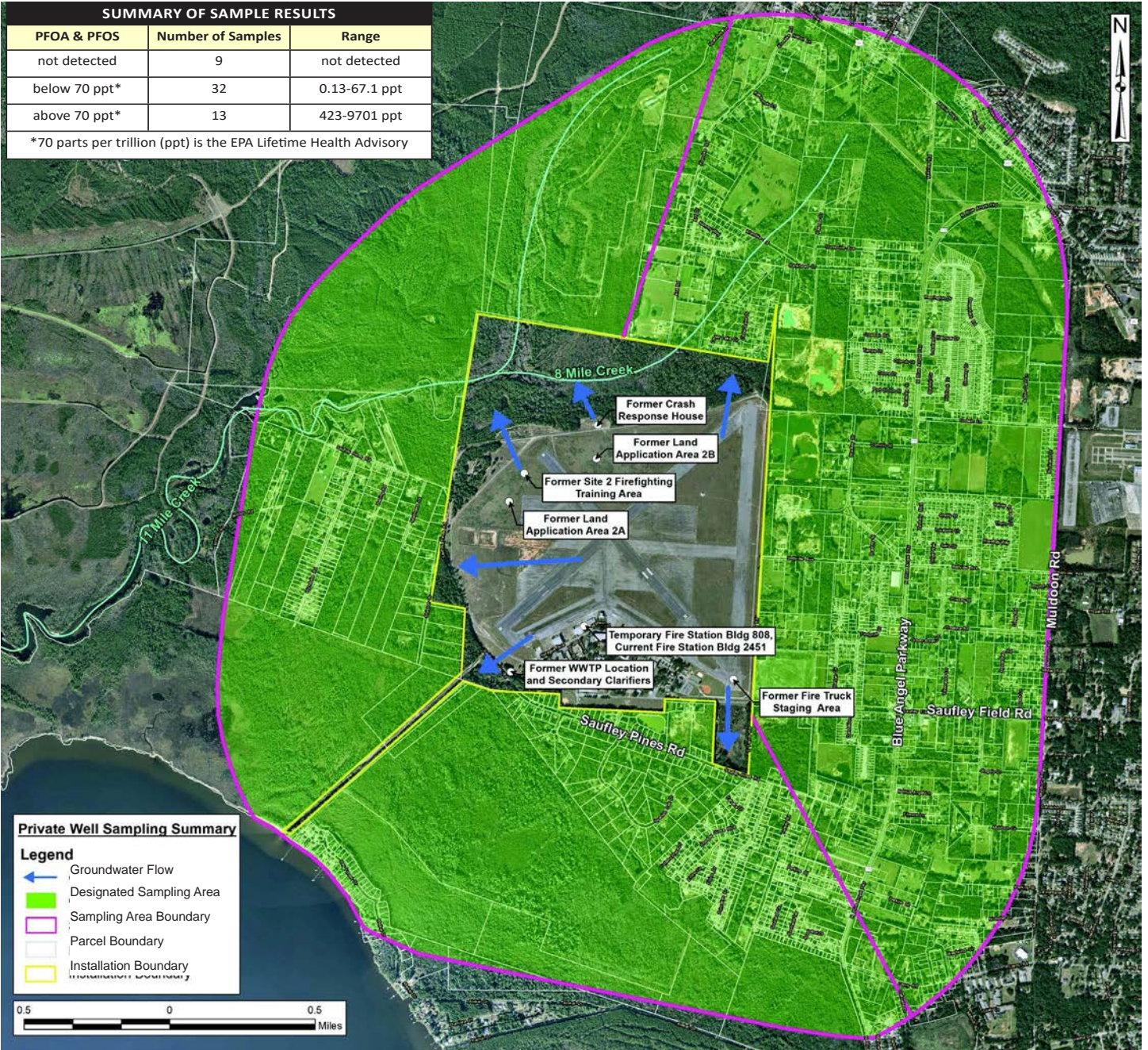


Figure 2- Designated Private Well Sampling Area