

All hands:

The safety and health of our sailors and their families at NAS Whiting Field are our top priority. Accordingly, I am informing you of the results of the drinking water testing conducted for the NAS Whiting Field Water Treatment Plant on 9 November 2020, which I received 01 December 2020. This testing was done in response to the March 2020 Secretary of Defense Policy for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) sampling in Department of Defense owned water systems.

Based on the testing results, the total combined Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) / Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) parameter tested came back at 714 parts per trillion (ppt) which is above the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Health Advisory (HA) of 70 ppt. The HA is the health based concentration that advises when action should be taken to reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS.

While EPA does not enforce HA levels, Navy policy requires taking action with additional testing and corrective measures if a PFAS sample exceeds the HA in Navy drinking water systems. As our first immediate response, we will be providing alternative drinking water (bottled water) until these levels can be reduced below the HAs. With this action, I also ask that you not drink the water provided on base either through drinking fountains or faucets until further notice.

This issue will likely generate more questions than this letter can answer. If you have drinking water quality questions, we encourage you to call or email our Public Affairs Officer at 850-623-7341 or via e-mail whtg_naswf_pao.fct@navy.mil.

Below is a link to the EPA Drinking Water Health Advisories PFOS and PFOA that provides some additional resources you may find informative:

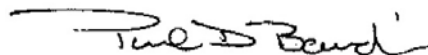
<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

If you have any health questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact your health care provider or our medical public health representative. If you are a TRICARE beneficiary, you may use the Appointment Center to schedule an appointment with your primary care provider at (850) 623-7551 or 7552.

Rest assured that my team and I are working diligently to find a way to address PFAS in our drinking water. The potable water on base is taken from multiple sources, and we are working to isolate the source of the contamination and will conduct additional drinking water sampling. In the interim, we are working on a distribution plan for an alternate drinking water source such as bottled water.

I am committed to the safety and health of all personnel using our facilities and will keep you updated on this issue.

Sincerely,



P.D. Bowdich
Captain, United States Navy