



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER



SAMPLE RESULTS FOR NAS 1 AND NAS 2 HAVE LEVELS OF BROMATE ABOVE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

We routinely monitor our water systems for the presence of contaminants. Recently, samples were taken from the NAS 1 and NAS 2 water systems; results from one of the NAS 1 samples "Connections" (Bldg. 157) and one of the NAS 2 samples "DLA Warehouse" (Bldg. 452) indicated bromate levels above 10 micrograms per liter (parts per billion), the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed by Italian legislation and the DoD Final Governing Standards (FGS) for Italy. No other locations on any NASSIG site exceeded these standards.

Our intention is to keep the NAS Sigonella community informed about what happens and what we are doing to fix problems related to the water system.

Test results received 22 January 2015 showed bromate at **34 micrograms per liter** for Bldg. 157 and **24 micrograms per liter** for Bldg. 452. Bromate levels were below the MCL at the six other sample locations on NAS 1; the five other sample locations on NAS 2; two sample locations on Marinai; as well as the two samples taken at Niscemi.

Note: This public notification was delayed due to questions about the test samples authenticity as they arrived at the lab beyond shipping temperature tolerances. After consulting with the test lab and other scientific experts it was decided to accept the samples as valid out of an abundance of caution.

What happened? What is being done?

We continue to seek the root cause for the presence of bromate in the water. The suspected source could be the chemicals used by water operators to disinfect and treat the water. The source could also be deposits that may accumulate inside building pipes. We are taking the following steps to further investigate the issue:

- Conducting laboratory analysis of our water treatment chemicals
- Reviewing our operational procedures for water treatment
- Performing additional testing to ensure bromate levels are reduced and, ultimately, remain below the MCL
- Performing additional testing to determine if the piping within these buildings could be contributing to bromate levels
- Reviewing laboratory procedures to make sure all possible sources of laboratory error are eliminated

We intend to keep our community members informed about developments related to this issue and how we are fixing problems related to the water systems. As additional information becomes available, updates will be provided to you via All Hands Messages, Facebook updates, the base newspaper, and other media.

What does this mean?

Some people who drink water containing bromate in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Bromate at the levels measured in the drinking water does not cause any acute symptoms (i.e., stomach cramps, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea). However, bromate is classified by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a probable human carcinogen.

What should I do?

The levels of bromate found at Bldg. 157 and Bldg. 452 do not pose an immediate health risk. At this time, you can continue drinking the water. If the situation changes, you will be notified. Of note, filtration systems will not remove bromate from the water. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor, or the US Naval Hospital Sigonella Medical Home Port at 335-578-8077.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in housing, schools, and other service centers). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information, please contact:

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