

# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DRINKING WATER

### SAMPLE RESULTS FOR NAS I, BLDG. 157, HAVE LEVELS OF BROMATE ABOVE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella routinely monitors its water systems for the presence of contaminants. Recently, samples were taken from the NAS I, NAS II, Marinai, and Niscemi water systems. Results from the NAS I "Connections" building (Bldg. 157) indicated bromate levels above 10 micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb), which is the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed by Italian legislation and the DoD Final Governing Standards (FGS) for Italy. No other locations on any NAS Sigonella site exceeded these standards.

100% transparency and accountability to our public remains our commitment to you. As such, we keep the NAS Sigonella community informed of our water system status and actions to be taken to correct problems when they occur.

**Bldg. 157** test results received August 21, 2015, showed a range between 1.14 and 40.5 µg/L and an average bromate exceedance of 20 ppb. Bromate levels were below the MCL at the six other sample locations on NAS I; all seven sample locations on NAS II; both sample locations on Marinai; and the single sample location at Niscemi.

#### What happened?

**This quarterly sampling event is a continuation of an investigative study into the root cause of bromate in the drinking water at Bldg. 157.** Samples were collected at each cold water tap in the building in an attempt to identify affected locations. The results show that, while most of the sinks and fountains inside the building have elevated bromate levels, the treated water (coming in to the building from the distribution system) does not contain bromate. This is a positive step forward in our investigation, because it isolates the issue to the interior piping of Bldg. 157. Since our last public notice, in addition to this sampling event, the water lines of Bldg. 157 were pressure tested for leaks, and there was no evidence of gaps in the piping that could allow contaminants access into the system. NAS Sigonella also worked with lab chemists at NAVSEA and validated that all of the work done by the lab has been done correctly.

The Sigonella community was previously notified of sampling results from the first round of samples where the bromate MCL was exceeded on Jan. 27, 2015, on Facebook and in the Jan. 30, 2015, issue of *The Signature*. During this first quarterly sampling event, the sample taken at Bldg. 157 tested at 34 ppb. In March samples were collected for NAS I, NAS II, Marinai, and Niscemi. Test results received April 2, 2014 showed bromate at 25 ppb for Bldg. 157, which again exceeded the MCL. Test results received June 11, 2015, showed bromate at 43.9 ppb in Bldg. 157. Consistently, no other sample across NAS I or any other NASSIG location has exceeded the MCL for bromate during this period of observation.

#### What is being done?

Base leadership and water-quality engineers continue to seek the root cause for the presence of bromate in the water and are taking the following steps to further investigate the issue:

- Performing additional testing to identify bromate cause and, once identified, ensure corrections achieve bromate level reductions below the MCL.
- Perform an in-depth building pipe material and cross-connection survey to determine if structural changes are responsible.

At present, bromate exceedances are limited to Bldg. 157 where they are expected to continue until the precise problem can be located. Signs have been posted in Bldg. 157 as a continuing reminder of this ongoing issue. The community will continue to be notified with compliance sampling results that exceed maximum contaminant levels. Moreover, we will keep the community informed about the latest developments in our efforts to identify and correct our Bldg. 157 bromate issue. For those interested in learning more about this ongoing issue, NAS Sigonella has a detailed water webpage, which can be found at:

[http://www.cnric.navy.mil/regions/cnreurafswa/installations/nas\\_sigonella/om/environmental\\_support/bromate.html](http://www.cnric.navy.mil/regions/cnreurafswa/installations/nas_sigonella/om/environmental_support/bromate.html).

### **What does this mean?**

Some 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 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 do not pose an immediate health risk. At this time, you can continue to drink 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 U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella Medical Home Port at 095-56-4622.

For more information, please contact:

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**Public Notification Certification:** This public notification has been provided to our community in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements per DoD FGS for Italy and OPNAVINST 5090.1D.