

# 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 own 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.

Our intention is to keep the NAS Sigonella community informed about our results and what actions will be taken to fix problems related to the water system.

Test results received June 11, 2015, showed one bromate exceedance of 43.9 ppb for Bldg. 157. Bromate levels were below the MCL at the six other sample locations on NAS I; seven sample locations on NAS II; two sample locations on Marinai; and the one sample location at Niscemi.

#### **What happened? What is being done?**

This quarterly sampling event is a continuation of an investigative study into the root cause of bromate in the drinking water. 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. No other samples at NAS I or at other sites exceeded the MCL. The community was notified on the NAS Sigonella Facebook page and in *The Signature*. 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:

- Reviewing laboratory procedures to make sure all possible sources of laboratory error are eliminated
- Performing additional testing to determine whether the piping or fixtures within these buildings or building feed piping is contributing to bromate levels
- Performing additional testing to identify bromate cause and, once identified, ensure that corrections achieve bromate level reductions ultimately below the MCL

At this time, bromate exceedances seem to be limited to Bldg. 157 where they are expected to continue until the precise problem can be located. The community will be notified quarterly with compliance sampling event results. Likewise, we intend to keep community members informed about the latest developments. For those interested in learning the results of ongoing sampling, NAS Sigonella is currently developing a webpage with that information and will update the community via the NASSIG Facebook page and *The Signature* once the page is active.

#### **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.

*Please share this information with all 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:

Rachel Methvin, P.E.  
NAS Sigonella Drinking Water Program Manager  
NAVFAC PWD Sigonella, Environmental Division  
DSN 624-7220  
Commercial: 095-86-7220  
[rachel.methvin@eu.navy.mil](mailto:rachel.methvin@eu.navy.mil)

**Violation Awareness Date: 11 June 2015**

**Date Notice Distributed: 12 June 2015**

**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.