

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

SAMPLE RESULTS FOR NAS 1 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, NAS 2, Marinai and Niscemi water systems; results from one of the NAS 1 samples "Connections" (Bldg. 157) indicated bromate levels above 10 micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb), 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 April 2, 2015 showed bromate at 25 ppb for Building 157. Bromate levels were below the MCL at the six other sample locations on NAS 1; seven sample locations on NAS 2; two sample locations on Marinai; as well as 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. You were previously notified of the results from the first round of samples on January 27, 2015 on Facebook and in the January 30, 2015 issue of "The Signature". During the first quarterly sampling event the sample taken at Building 157 tested at 34 ppb. Additionally, Building 452 (DLA Warehouse) on NAS 2 tested at 24 ppb last quarter. During this round of sampling Building 452 tested at 2 micrograms per liter, well below the 10 ppb MCL. The next round of samples will be taken mid- April 2015. We continue to seek the root cause for the presence of bromate in the water. We are taking the following steps to further investigate the issue:

- Conducting flushing of the water systems
- 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 Building 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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