

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DRINKING WATER

SAMPLE RESULTS FOR MARINAI FAMILY HOUSING HAVE LEVELS OF CHLORIDE 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 a sample collected at the Marinai Water Treatment Plant indicated chloride levels above 250 milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm), which is the maximum contaminant level (MCL) allowed by the DoD Final Governing Standards (FGS) for Italy. No other locations on any NAS Sigonella site exceeded these standards. It is important to note that this limit is in place because water with chloride levels above 250 ppm may have a salty taste which is unpleasant to consumers and is an indication that the water may be able to damage metal pipes. It is not an immediate or long term health concern.

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.

What happened?

Sample results received on 16 June 2016 stated that the Marinai ion sample contained 270 ppm of chloride, which is higher than the FGS MCL of 250 ppm. These samples were collected as part of the annual inorganic compliance sampling event. Samples were collected at the first tap of each of NAS Sigonella's water distribution systems. No other site exceeded the chloride MCL.

What is being done?

Your Installation Water Quality Board continually monitors the water at all of NAS Sigonella's sites, not only for compliance with water quality requirements but also for water treatment system performance indicators. The root cause of the elevated chloride was determined to be the need to replace one of the two reverse osmosis (RO) membrane systems at the water treatment plant. Pizzarotti was already planning this work and was able to accelerate their maintenance timeline. The membranes were replaced on 28 June. A new water sample was analyzed at a local lab which is certified in the relevant EPA method. The water contained 92 ppm of chloride, which is lower than the FGS MCL of 250 ppm. Chloride has been placed on an increased monitoring schedule for Marinai to ensure the value stays below the MCL. You will be notified if there are any further issues with this parameter, but none are expected.

What does this mean?

In the U.S. chloride is regulated under the National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations, which are non-mandatory water quality standards. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) does not enforce these Secondary Maximum Contamination Levels (SMCLs). They are established only as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color, and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health at the SMCL. For more information, visit the EPA National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations website at <https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/secondary-drinking-water-standards-guidance-nuisance-chemicals>.

What should I do?

The level of chloride does not pose a health risk. At this time, you can continue to drink the water. If the situation changes, you will be notified. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor or the U.S. Naval Hospital Sigonella Medical Home Port at +39-095-56-4622.

For more information, please contact:

Rachel Methvin, P.E.
NAS Sigonella Drinking Water Program Manager
NAVFAC PWD Sigonella, Environmental Division
DSN 624-7220
Commercial: +39-095-86-7220
rachel.methvin@eu.navy.mil

Violation Awareness Date: 16 June 2016

Date Notice Distributed: 30 June 2016

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.