



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
PORTSMOUTH NAVAL SHIPYARD
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03804-5000

IN REPLY REFER TO:

11018

Ser 100/149

19 AUG 20

Dear Cutler Fire Department personnel:

The safety and health of Fire Department personal located at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Cutler, Maine, are our top priority. Accordingly, I am informing you of the results of the drinking water testing conducted for the Building 503 Fire Station in July 2020 in response to the March 2020 Secretary of Defense Policy for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) sampling in Department of Defense owned water systems. Based on the testing results, the total combined Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) / Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) parameter tested at 122 parts per trillion (ppt) which is above the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lifetime Health Advisory (HA) of 70 ppt. The HA is the health based concentration above which action should be taken to reduce exposure to PFOA and PFOS.

While EPA does not enforce HA levels, Navy policy requires taking action with additional testing and corrective measures if a PFAS sample exceeds the HA in Navy drinking water systems. As our first immediate response, we will be providing bottled water to use for drinking and cooking until these levels can be reduced below the HA. In addition, another drinking water sample was collected on Tuesday, 18 August, 2020 to confirm these testing results and to further assist in the evaluation process.

I know this issue will generate more questions than this letter can answer. Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS) will host a virtual Town Hall meeting on Friday, 21 August at 0900 to present this information and allow you to discuss your questions and concerns with our team. A meeting invite will be sent out by Robin Murphy, PNS Base Support Officer and she can be reached at (207)438-1933. If you have drinking water quality questions, we encourage you to call or e-mail our Public Works Department-Maine Environmental Drinking Water Compliance Manager, Matt Thyng, at (207)210-4530 or via e-mail at frederick.thyng@navy.mil.

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Below is a link to the EPA Drinking Water Health Advisories PFOS and PFOA that provides some additional resources you may find informative:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

If you have any health questions or concerns, I encourage you to contact your health care provider or our medical representative, CDR Timothy Burkhart, at timothy.m.burkhart.mil@mail.mil. If you are a TRICARE beneficiary, you may use the East Region Appointment Center to schedule an appointment with your primary care provider at (800) 444-5445.

Environmental investigation of PFOS and PFOA is on-going for NSA Cutler and includes the Fire Station area. To learn more about the NSA Cutler Environmental Restoration Program, please feel free to visit the following website:

https://www.navfac.navy.mil/products_and_services/ev/products_and_services/env_restoration/installation_map/navfac_atlantic/midlant/nctamslant_det_cutler.html

In addition, you can learn more about the Navy's PFAS comprehensive strategy at:

<https://www.secnav.navy.mil/eie/pages/pfc-pfas.aspx>

Rest assured that my team and I are working diligently to find a way to address PFAS in drinking water, and in the interim, we will continue to supply an alternate drinking water source and will conduct additional drinking water sampling. I am committed to the safety and health of all personnel using our facilities and will keep you updated on this issue.

Sincerely,



D. W. ETTLICH
Captain, U. S. Navy
Commanding Officer
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard