

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**

### **Naval Station Newport PWS#1000016**

#### **Naval Station Newport Water Has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) Above Drinking Water Standards**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct the situation.

Naval Station Newport is receiving its water from the City of Newport public water system. The Naval Station Newport routinely tests at various sites within the distribution system for disinfectant by products (DBPs). EPA sets standards for controlling the levels of disinfectants and DBPs in drinking water, including total trihalomethanes (TTHMs). The average results of tests taken during the last four quarters show that our system exceeded the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for TTHMs. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard for TTHMs is 80 parts per billion (ppb) for a running annual average. Naval Station Newport's average level of TTHMs for the last four quarters (October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014) is 108 ppb.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO?** There are no actions that you need to take at this time. You do not need to use an alternate (i.e., bottled) water supply. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective action. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?** This is not an emergency or immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Many water systems treat water with a chemical disinfectant, such as chlorine, in order to inactivate pathogens that cause disease. While disinfectants are effective in controlling many harmful microorganisms, they react with organic and inorganic matter in the water to form DBPs, some of which pose health risks at certain levels. Some people who drink water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer. The public health benefits of chlorine disinfection practices are significant and well recognized. Consequently, one of the most complex questions facing water supply professionals is how to reduce risks from disinfectants and DBPs while providing increased protection against microbial contaminants.

**WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS BEING DONE?** TTHMs are a group of volatile organic compounds (Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Dibromochloromethane and Bromoform) that form with time when the natural organics in water react with chlorine. Because of the source water quality in Newport's reservoirs, removing the level of organics necessary to meet the TTHM standard, particularly during the warm weather months, is a challenge. The length of time water remains in the distribution system, commonly referred to as "water age", is also known to produce higher TTHM levels as the water gets older. The City of Newport has taken steps to lower TTHMs in our drinking water by modernizing their water treatment plants. Newport Water upgraded their Station No. 1 Water Treatment Plant and constructed a new Lawton Valley Water Treatment Plant. These improvements included advanced water treatment to lower the organic content of drinking water to prevent TTHMs from forming. The final upgrade to the Station 1 Treatment Plant went online at the end of July 2014 and the new Lawton Valley Treatment Plant came online September 17, 2014. The Navy has also taken steps to lower TTHMs. The Navy completed modeling of the water system to get an understanding of the water ages and resultant impact on TTHM levels, and to develop a 3 Phase Rehabilitation Plan to improve water quality. The plan consists of 3 phases of capital improvements to our water distribution system with construction beginning in 2015 and extending through 2017. Furthermore, the Navy has 2 additional major construction projects to improve water quality. The first is a project to replace the water line currently under construction on Defense Highway. The second is a project to replace the water line in Greene Lane Housing planned for construction in 2017.

**HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE PROBLEM?** For more information, please contact Darlene Ward at (401) 841-6376 or in writing to, Naval Station Newport, Environmental Office, 1 Simonpietri Drive, Newport, RI 02841. For general information on TTHMs, you may also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791 or visit the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater>.

*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 apartments, nursing homes, schools and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*