

Expansion of Drinking Water Sampling at Navy Region Northwest (NRNW) Installations for Specific Perfluorinated Compounds

In June 2016, the Department of Navy (DON) directed an initiative to expand drinking water sampling to test for specific chemical compounds. The safety and health of our on and off-base citizens is important to the Navy, and we continue to take this responsibility seriously.

The two compounds we are testing for are perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). In May 2016, EPA issued a lifetime health advisory of 70 parts per trillion on PFOS/PFOA although there are currently no regulatory standards governing safe concentrations of PFOS/PFOA in drinking water. PFOS and PFOA were previously used in manufacture of many things including paints, cleaning products, food packaging and others. It was also used in a previous version of a firefighting agent called Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) use by the Navy, other military services, commercial airfields and other firefighting units in the U.S..

Previous testing of drinking water at most DON properties took place from 2013-2015 and included any location where there was a known or suspected release of AFFF. This expanded initiative includes all remaining DON locations that weren't previously tested and is being done out of an abundance of caution.

All results received to date of *drinking water systems* on DON properties show either no detection or detections *below* the EPA's new health advisory of 70 parts per trillion. (One ppt like one drop in 1,000 Olympic sized swimming pools.)

Results of *drinking water* testing on DON properties in WA state are in. All results will be posted on the NRNW Installation web pages as we do with other routine drinking water tests (link provided below). Sampling and results are pending on 3 remaining Northwest Region properties (Bayview ID, LaMoure ND, Back Island, AK).

Since PFOS/PFOA has been detected in *ground water* at some DON properties, DON has also been proactively identifying locations where PFOS/PFOA may have migrated to off installation drinking water sources. Efforts are underway to efficiently identify, validate, and prioritize areas of concern (AOCs) with known, or potential, PFOS/PFOA releases. DON is validating site information and accelerating sampling to include offsite wells one mile downgradient from potential AOCs regardless if a release has been confirmed on site. If EPA lifetime health advisory levels have been exceeded, DON will provide alternative drinking water.

Additional information regarding this ongoing initiative, as well as sampling results and general PFOS/PFOA information, is available to the public at the following resources:

Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment):

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

Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center: <http://www.med.navy.mil/sites/nmcphc/Pages/Home.aspx>

EPA PFAS Fact Sheet: www.epa.gov/pfas