



PRESS

RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 25, 2019

Navy to Begin Testing Private Drinking Water Wells

PENSACOLA, Fla. – The Navy will begin testing private drinking water wells the end of this month in and around Saufley Field as part of our commitment to ensuring our neighbors have safe and clean drinking water.

This is part of the Navy's ongoing testing of drinking water, conducted at no cost to the well owners, that is currently taking place at and near Navy installations across the nation.

A public open house is scheduled for residents residing near Saufley Field on Jan. 30 from 4-7 pm at the St. Anne Catholic Church (5200 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, Fl., 32526), to discuss the Navy's drinking water investigation.

The event will include informational displays specific to each location and will have representatives present from the Navy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Florida Department of Health and other representatives. The Media are invited to attend the Jan. 30 event at St. Anne Catholic Church at 3 p.m. for on camera interviews.

Navy officials have informed members of the staff at the Florida congressional offices on Capitol Hill regarding the Navy's current plan to test private drinking water wells in designated areas near Saufley Field for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Additionally, we are conducting door-to-door notification of potentially impacted residences. Navy leadership has also informed local officials in Pensacola and Escambia County, Florida.

PFAS are man-made chemicals persistent in the environment that are not absorbed well in soil and could migrate to groundwater. PFAS have been used for many years to make products that resist heat, stains, grease and water, and have been used in a variety of products and substances, such as non-stick pans; water resistant textiles and sprays with water resistant properties.

The most common historical Navy use of these chemicals has been as firefighting foam used on Navy installations.

MORE

In May 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued lifetime health advisory levels for two PFAS, specifically perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), at 70 parts per trillion, individually and combined if both are present.

While there are no EPA regulations for these compounds, the EPA established these lifetime health advisory levels to offer a margin of protection for all Americans throughout their life from potential adverse health effects resulting from exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.

In June 2016, the Navy issued a policy to identify areas of potential release of these materials to the environment. As part of this policy, the Navy is testing for PFOS and PFOA in and around Saufley Field.

The Navy will provide alternate drinking water (typically bottled water) for residents if their private drinking water concentrations exceed the EPA lifetime health advisory levels for PFOA and/or PFOS. This will continue until a permanent solution is implemented.

The Navy is committed to sharing additional information as it becomes available throughout the testing process.

More information about the Navy's PFAS initiative and drinking water testing program may be found at: <http://www.secnav.navy.mil/eie/pages/pfc-pfas.aspx>.

---USN---