



Why Is the Navy Sampling Drinking Water Wells Nationwide?

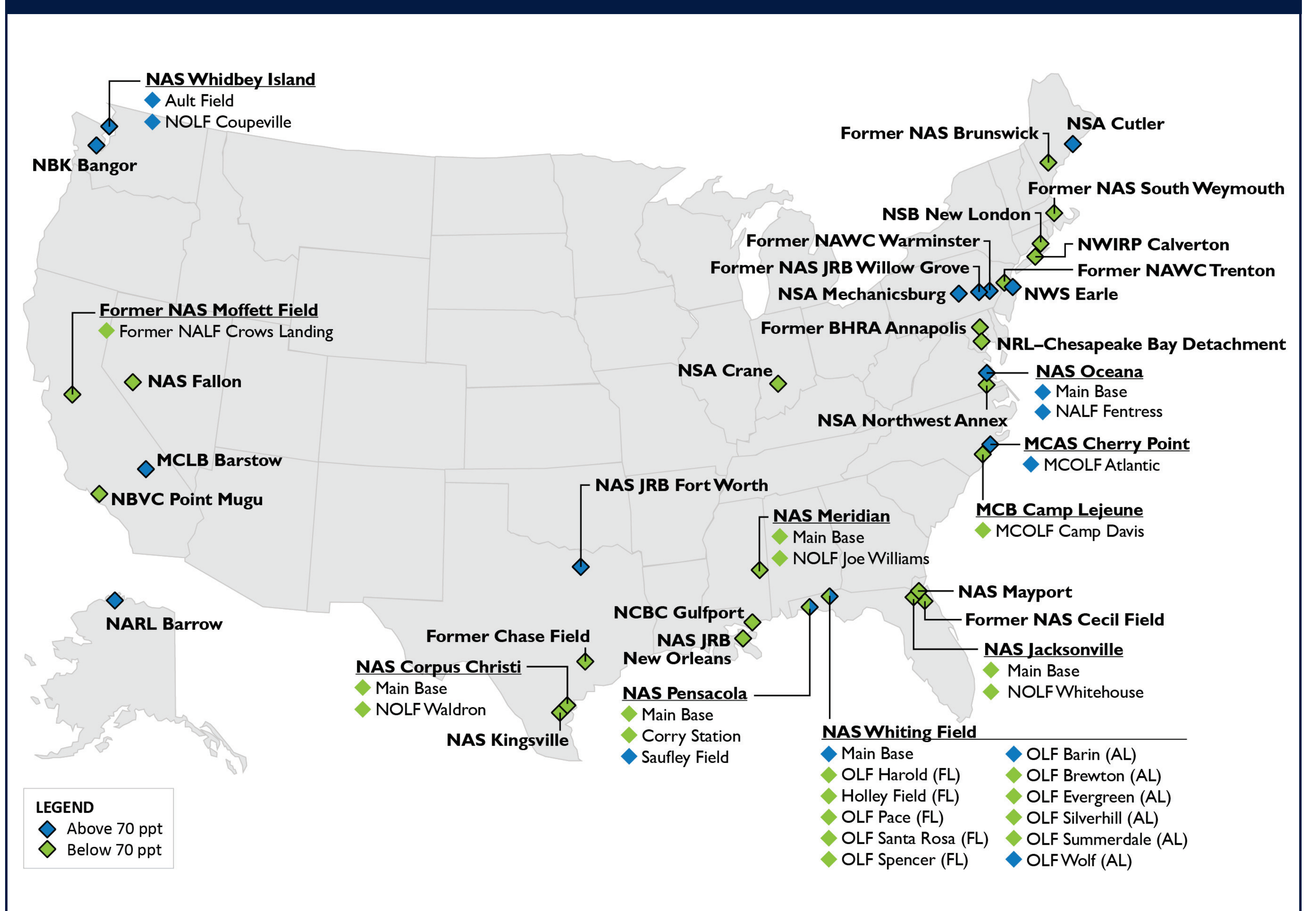
The Navy is addressing potential exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water near Naval Support Facility Thurmont.

- In May 2016, the EPA established drinking water lifetime health advisories* (70 ppt) for two PFAS (PFOA and PFOS).
- In response, the Navy issued a policy in June 2016 to address PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.
- The Navy's main historical source of PFOA and PFOS was firefighting foam.
 - No longer used for firefighting training.
 - Currently only used for lifesaving emergency measures.
- The Navy is investigating all of our installations to identify PFOA and PFOS exposure.



On June 15, 2022, the EPA issued new interim drinking water health advisories for PFOA and PFOS. Because these interim health advisories are non-regulatory and are below detectable limits for certain PFAS, the Department of Defense (DOD) is instead looking to EPA to propose a regulatory drinking water standard, which is anticipated in 2023. DOD is currently evaluating its efforts to address PFAS in drinking water, and what actions it can take to be prepared to incorporate this standard.

Locations of Completed Off-Base Drinking Water Sampling for PFOA and PFOS



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ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

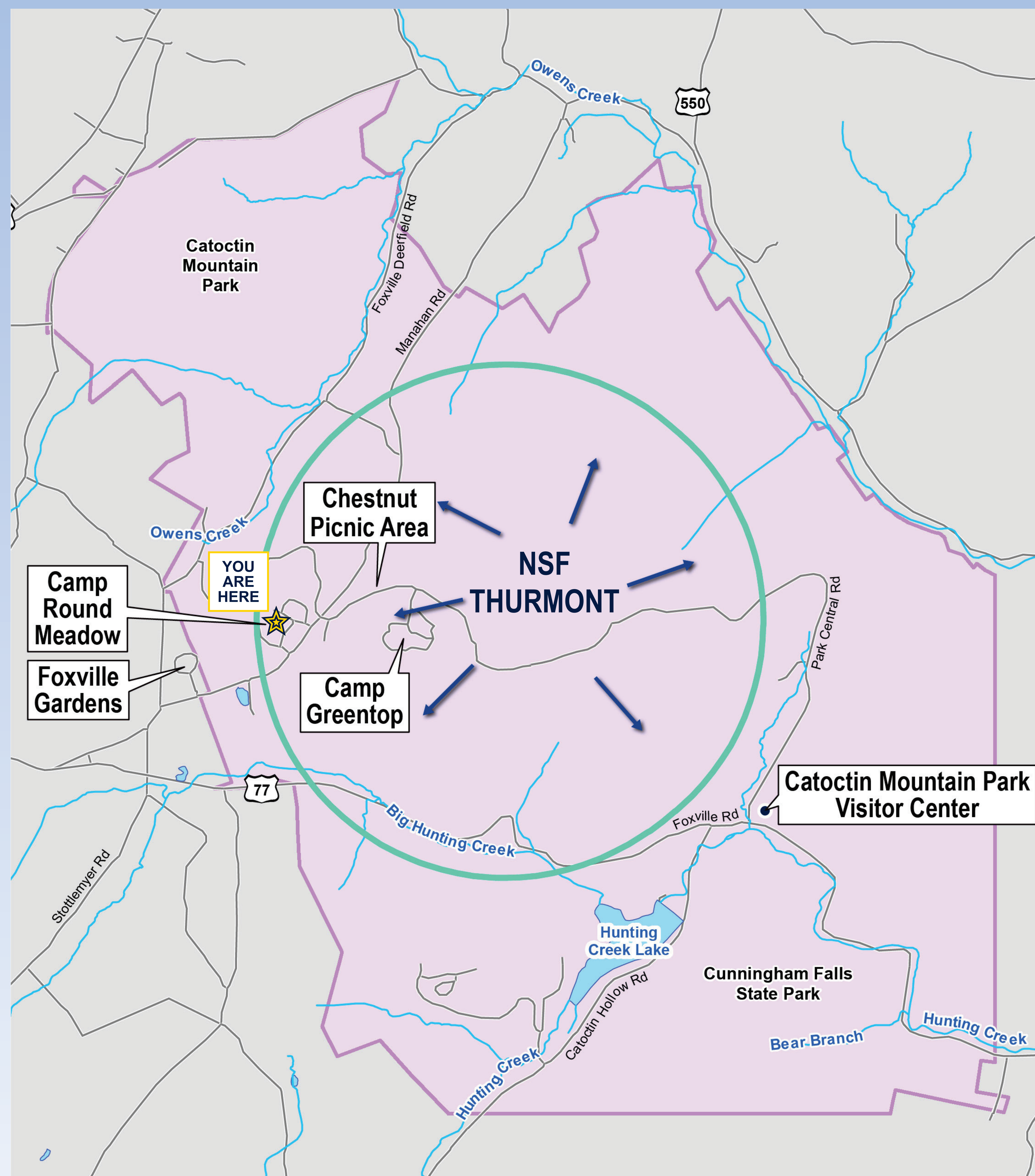
| | | | |
|------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|
| EPA | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | PFOA | perfluorooctanoic acid |
| NSF | Naval Support Facility | PFOS | perfluorooctane sulfonate |
| PFAS | per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances | ppt | part(s) per trillion |



Off-Base PFAS Drinking Water Sampling

The Navy needs your help to sample your drinking water.

- There is a confirmed PFAS release area at the aircraft hangar on NSF Thurmont.
- The sampling area is in the direction of groundwater flow from the confirmed PFAS release area.
- Properties with water supplied by the Town of Thurmont are not located within the sampling area.
- The Navy may expand the sampling area based on the results of the off-base drinking water sampling.



LEGEND

- ➔ Estimated groundwater flow direction
- 1 mile from PFAS release area
- Sampling area: parcels intersecting 1-mile radius
- Surface water



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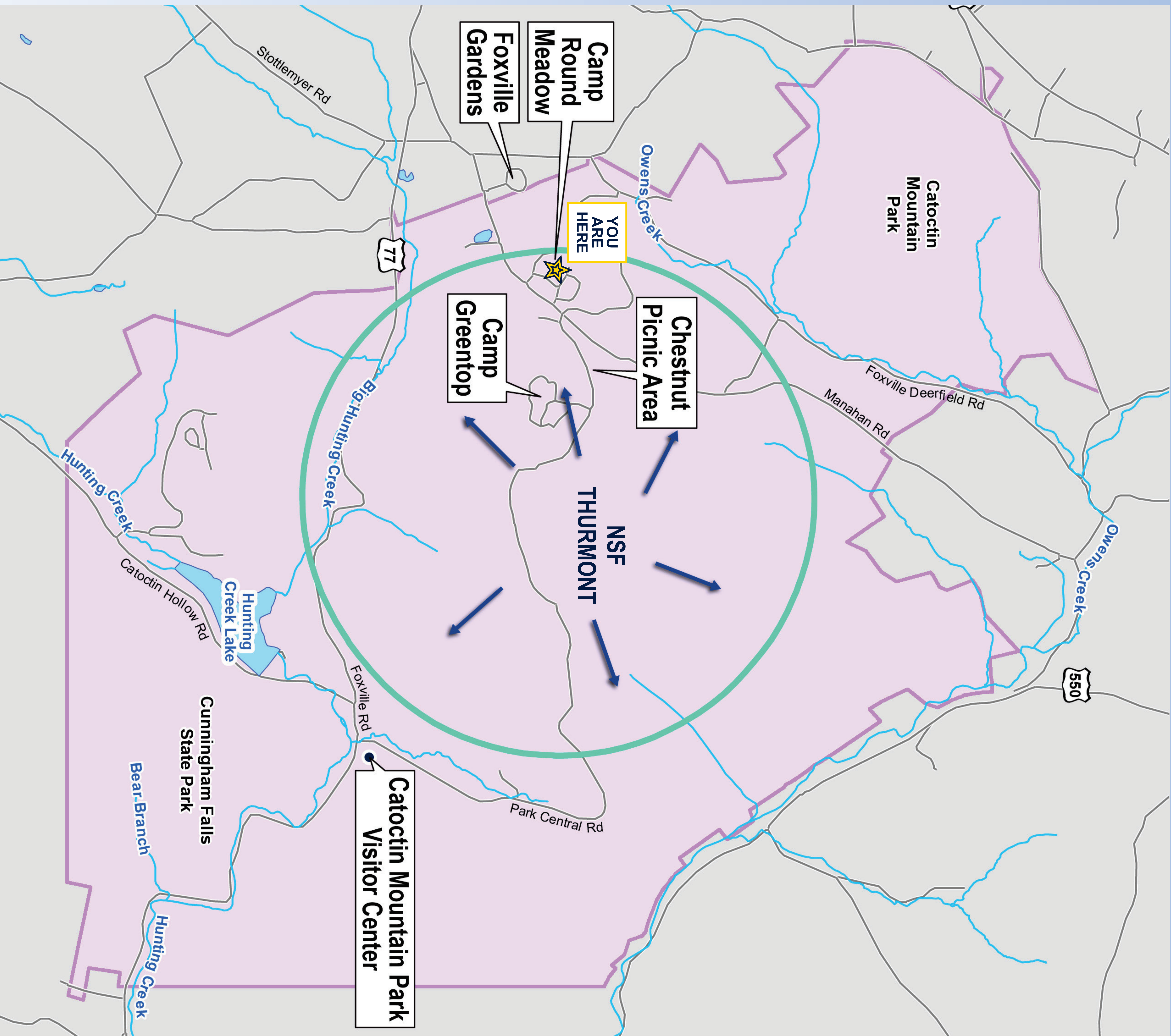
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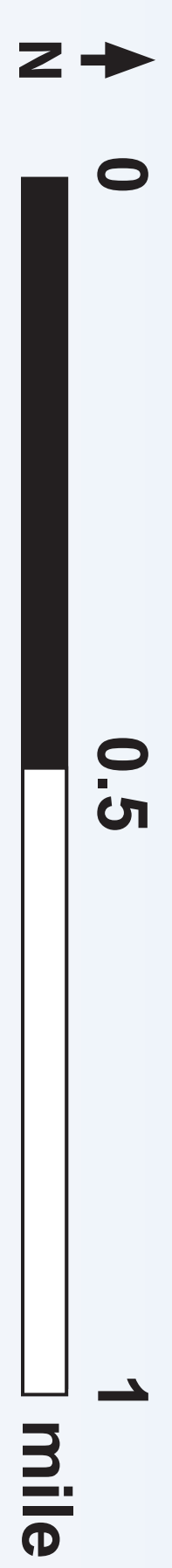
Off-Base PFAS

Drinking Water Sampling



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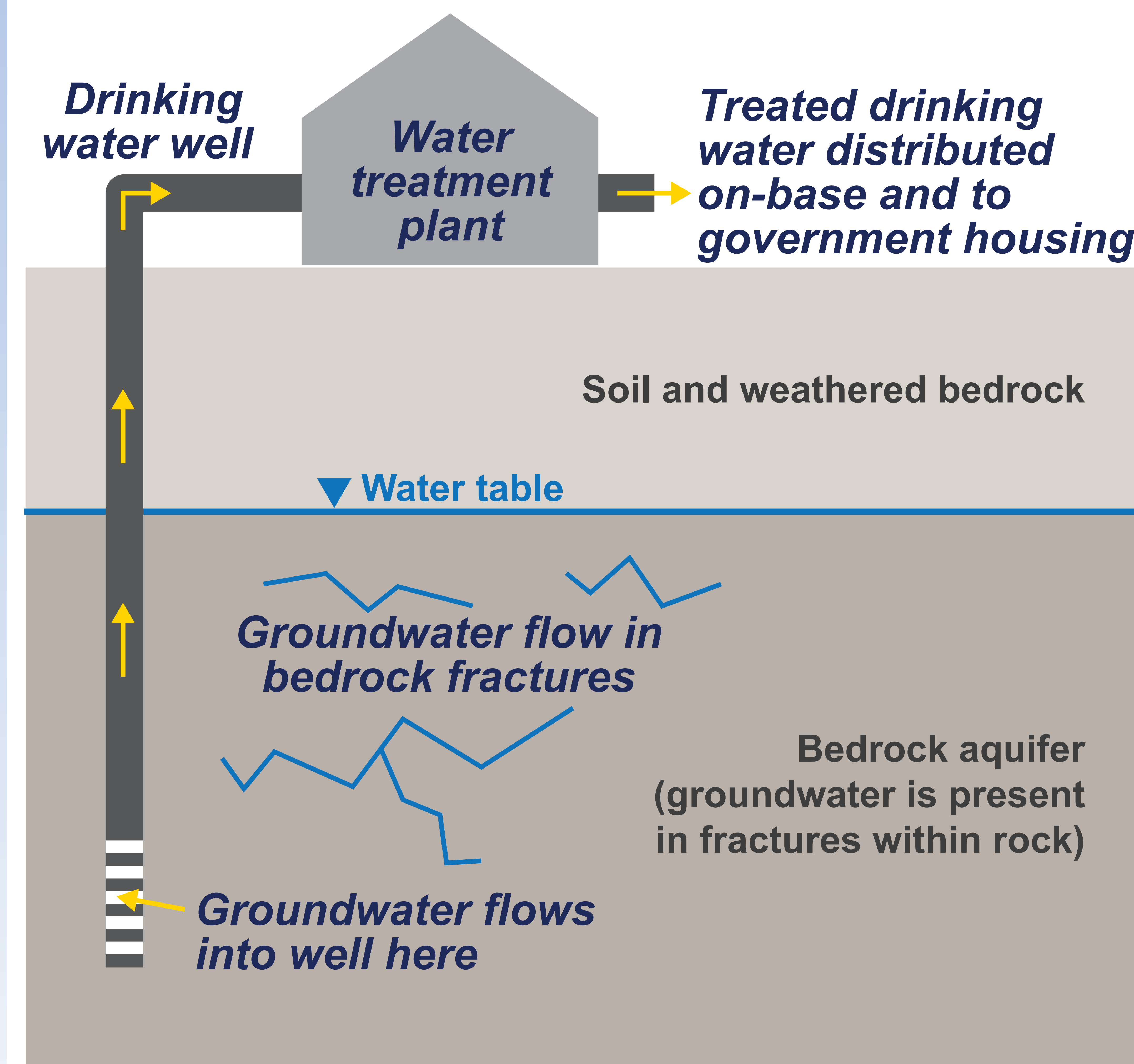
NSF Thurmont and Government Housing Drinking Water

On-base drinking water has been tested for PFOA and PFOS, and results are below 70 ppt.

- Drinking water for NSF Thurmont and government housing is treated and tested to ensure it meets federal and state standards and Department of Defense policy.
- Treated drinking water has been tested multiple times for PFOA and PFOS.
 - Highest detection of PFOA: 9.46 ppt
 - Highest detection of PFOS: 5.92 ppt
 - Testing conducted: May 2016, November 2020, and 2021 (January, April, July, and December)
- PFOA, PFOS, and other drinking water testing results are provided to on-base personnel and housing residents in the annual Consumer Confidence Report.

Multiple wells that provide groundwater to the NSF Thurmont Drinking Water Treatment Plant will be sampled in March 2023.

NSF Thurmont Drinking Water Supply



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Exposure to Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

What Are PFAS?

- Family of manufactured chemicals.
- PFOA and PFOS are the most studied and understood.
- Found in the environment around the world (in air, water, soil, animals, plants, as well as in people).
- Last a long time in the environment.
- Widely used since 1950s in many products, such as:



Image: U.S. Navy / Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Tommy Gilligan
firefighting foam



Image: freepik.com
stain-resistant carpets and fabrics



Image: Kyle Boone / unsplash
water-resistant fabrics



Image: freepik.com
personal care products



Image: Valeria_Aksakova / freepik
nonstick cookware



Image: freepik.com
food packaging

How Can People Be Exposed to PFAS?

- PFAS may be in drinking water, food, indoor dust, some consumer products, and workplaces.
- Most non-occupational exposures occur by drinking water or eating food that contain PFAS.
- Exposure is minor through skin contact when bathing, showering, or swimming.
- Mothers with PFAS in their bodies can transfer PFAS to their fetuses or nursing infants.
- Based on current science, the benefits of breastfeeding appear to outweigh the risks for infants exposed to PFAS in breastmilk.

How Can People Reduce Exposure to PFAS in Drinking Water?

- Use an alternative water source for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth, and making baby formula.
- Certain certified filters can reduce PFAS in drinking water.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
about PFAS filtration systems
certified by NSF International,
a public health organization,
visit <http://www.nsf.org>
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Health Effects

What Are the Potential Health Effects?

- Scientists are still learning about how exposure to PFAS affects people's health.
- Studies indicate possible health effects could include:
 - Increased cholesterol levels.
 - Changes in liver enzymes.
 - Increased risk of high blood pressure and preeclampsia in pregnant women.
 - Small decrease in infant birth weight and changes in growth.
 - Immune system effects.
 - Altered hormone function.
 - Increased risks of certain types of cancers (testicular and kidney).
- Levels of PFAS in drinking water do not predict health impacts.

Are Blood Tests Available for PFAS?

- Blood testing for PFAS is available but is not a regular test offered by a doctor.
- Blood test results can't tell you if PFAS exposure will cause current or future health problems.

Chemical exposures do not always lead to health effects.

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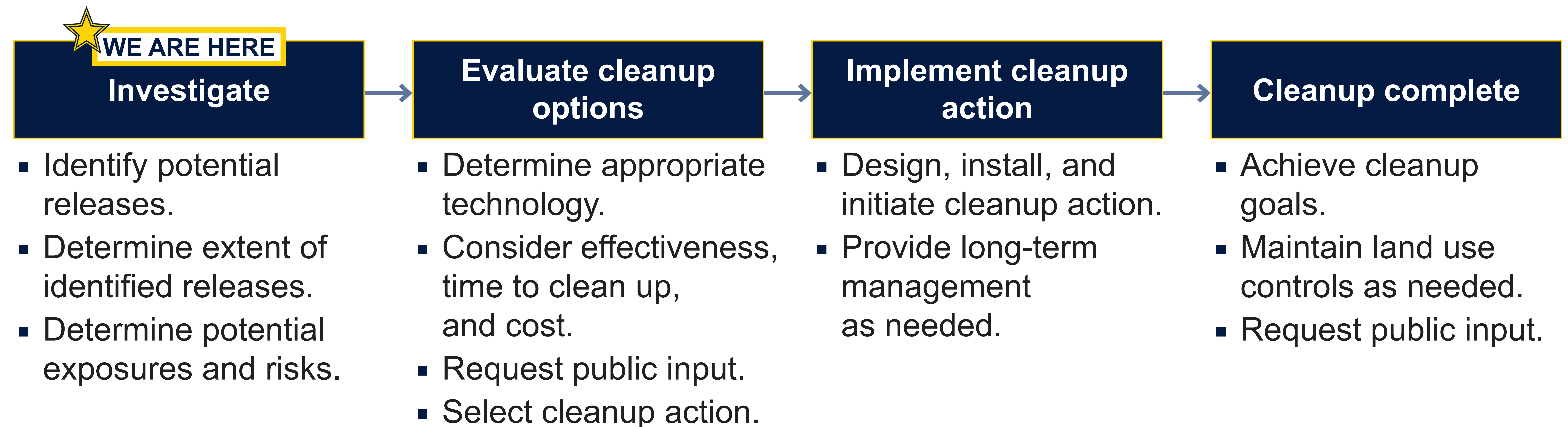


On-Base Environmental Cleanup Process

PRIORITY: Protect Human Health and the Environment

- We are using a structured regulatory process to identify and clean up past environmental releases at NSF Thurmont.
- The Maryland Department of the Environment is working closely with the Navy and providing oversight at every step of the process.
- Public input is welcome throughout the process and is formally requested at certain points.
- From beginning to end, this process may be lengthy.

Environmental Cleanup Process



★ **The on-base PFAS evaluation is in the early stages of the process.**

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Sampling and Results Timeline

Sequence of Events

Approximate Timeline

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Property owner or tenant signs up for drinking water sampling. | ■ Sign up now. |
| 2. Navy contractor samples well. | ■ March 2023. |
| 3. Navy receives preliminary results. | ■ Within 1 month of sample collection. |
| 4. Navy calls property owner and/or tenant with preliminary results. | ■ Within 24 hours of preliminary results received. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If PFOA and/or PFOS are above 70 ppt, bottled water is delivered. |
| 5. Lab data are verified and Navy mails final lab data to property owner and tenant. | ■ Within 3 months of sample collection. |

Bottled water will be provided to properties with PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 ppt in drinking water until a long-term solution can be implemented.

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Sign Up for Your Sampling Appointment

Sampling Appointment

- No cost to you.
- Available **Thursday, March 2** and **Friday, March 3, 2023** from **8 a.m. to 6 p.m.**

Additional times are available upon request

What We Need from You

- Signed access authorization form.
- An adult must be present at the property during sampling.

The Navy will provide bottled water to homes for cooking and drinking if PFOA and/or PFOS are above 70 ppt.

Well Sampling Process

- Samples will be collected by a team of two experienced contractors:
 - Sampling takes less than an hour.
 - Sample will be collected as close to the well as possible.
 - Water will run for 5 minutes prior to sample collection.
- Samples will be collected and analyzed according to EPA guidelines.
- Team will take COVID precautions if requested.

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