



Former Grumman/Calverton Property Calverton, New York PFAS Drinking Water Investigation Fact Sheet

September 2018

**DRINKING WATER PROVIDED BY RIVERHEAD WATER DISTRICT HAS BEEN TESTED AND
PFOA AND PFOS WERE NOT DETECTED.**

SAMPLING OF PROPERTIES RECEIVING WATER SUPPLIED BY RIVERHEAD WATER DISTRICT IS NOT NECESSARY.

INTRODUCTION

The Navy is requesting permission to sample drinking water obtained from private wells within designated areas near the former Grumman/Calverton Property, Calverton, New York (designated areas shown in Figure 2). The Navy has developed a protective policy to address past releases of per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. These substances may be present in the soil and/or groundwater at Navy sites as a result of historical firefighting activities using aqueous film forming foam (AFFF), including response to crashes, equipment testing, and training. Since PFAS were detected in portions of the groundwater, there is the potential for these substances to also be present in private drinking water wells in the designated areas because of their proximity to the former Grumman/Calverton Property (Figures 1 and 2). Although available records indicate the majority of drinking water in the designated areas is supplied by the Riverhead Water District, the Navy has identified several private drinking water wells (Figure 2). We are seeking the public's assistance to identify any additional drinking water wells located in the shaded areas depicted on Figure 2. Drinking water provided by Riverhead Water District has been tested, and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) were not detected. Therefore, sampling of properties receiving water supplied by the Riverhead Water District is not necessary.

PFOA and PFOS have been detected in certain groundwater locations at the former Grumman/Calverton Property. **In an abundance of caution, before the ongoing investigation and delineation of PFAS in groundwater at the former Grumman/Calverton Property is complete, the Navy is initiating an investigation of off-property drinking water wells within these designated areas to identify and address possible current exposure to PFAS in drinking water.** There is no

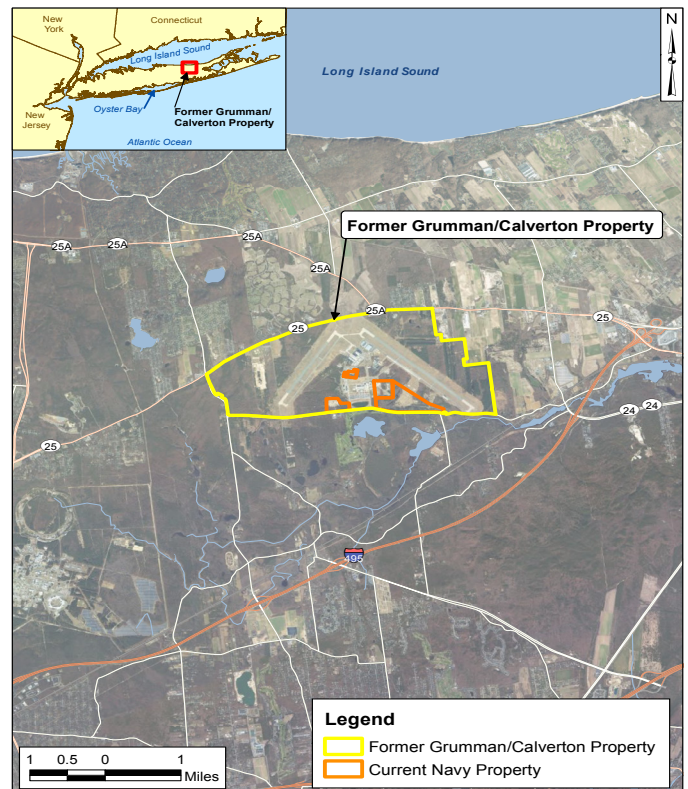


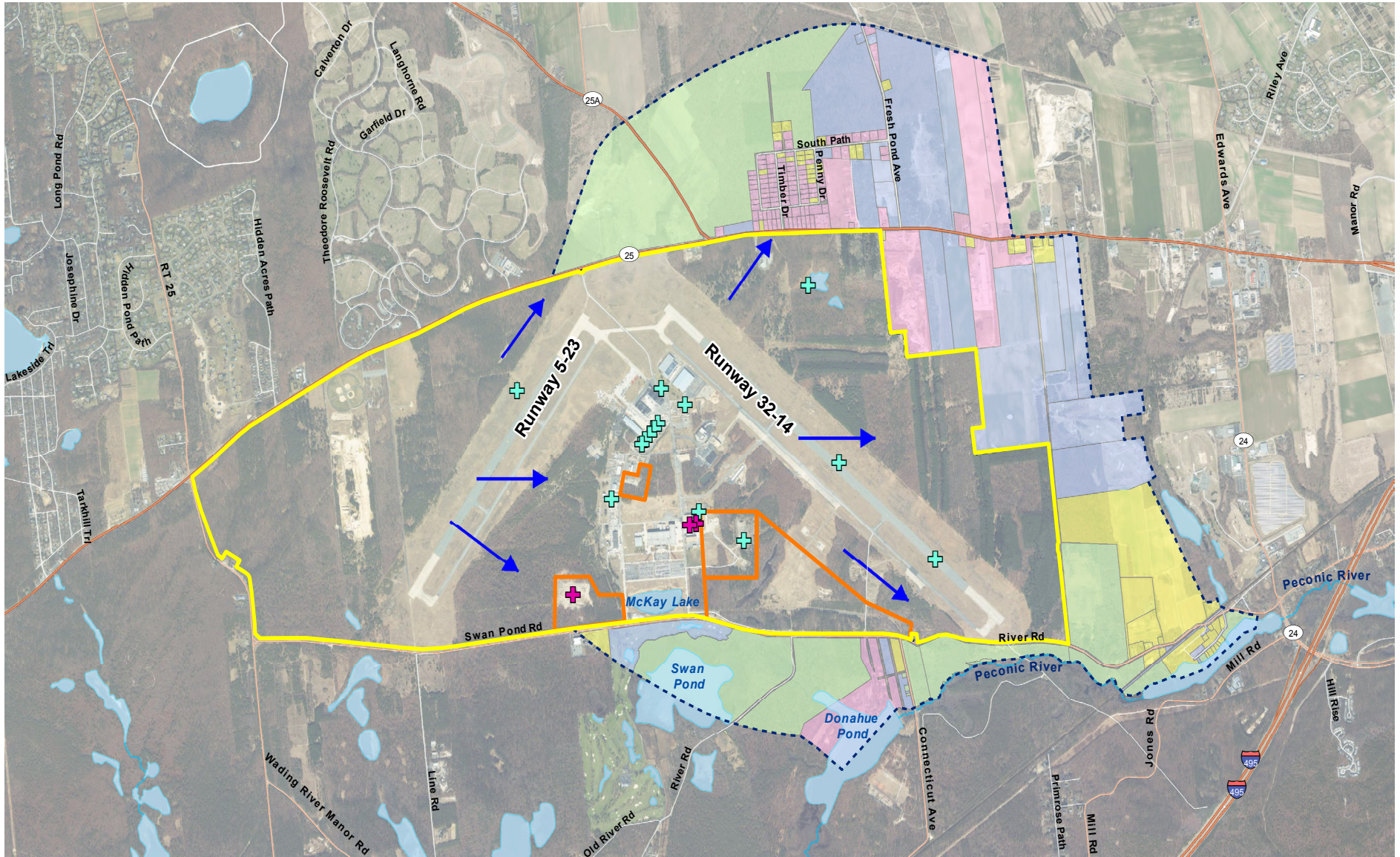
Figure 1 - Former Grumman/Calverton Property legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. It is a voluntary measure because water quality for our off-property neighbors is a priority for the Navy. The Navy is performing this drinking water sampling in coordination with its partners, including U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Region 2, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and the Riverhead Water District.

BACKGROUND











PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used

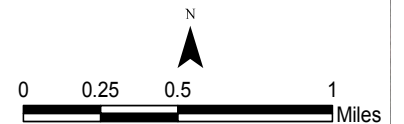
If your preliminary results show that your drinking water contains PFOS and/or PFOA above the EPA lifetime health advisory, then the Navy will provide bottled water or an alternate water supply until a long-term solution is implemented.

Figure 2- Proposed Sampling Areas



Legend

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|--|---|--|---|--|
|  Location of Known PFAS Release |  Former Grumman/Calverton Property |  Government Parcels |  Parcels Serviced by Riverhead Water District |  Designated Area for Sampling |
|  Location of Potential PFAS Release |  Current Navy Property |  Other Parcels |  Suspected Vacant or Unknown Parcels |  Groundwater Flow Direction |



since the 1950s in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellant properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. Once these compounds are released to the environment, they break down very slowly.

PFAS are “emerging” contaminants, which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. The EPA is currently studying certain PFAS to determine if regulation is needed. In May 2016, the EPA released lifetime health advisory (LHA) levels for two PFAS, specifically PFOS and PFOA.

Health advisory levels are not regulatory standards. They are health-based concentrations which EPA states offer a margin of protection for all Americans from adverse health effects resulting from exposure throughout their life to PFOS and PFOA in drinking water. The EPA’s health advisory level for lifetime exposure is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOS and 70 ppt for PFOA. When both PFOS and PFOA are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations should not exceed 70 ppt.

NAVY POLICY

“Until a decision for regulating PFAS is made, the Navy has proactively developed a policy to ensure drinking water is not impacted by PFOS and/or PFOA near installations where there has been a nearby known or suspected release of PFAS to the environment. Navy policy is to sample drinking water sources downgradient (in the direction of groundwater flow) from a known or suspected release of PFAS.” To ensure protectiveness, the Navy will offer this drinking water sampling to all residents in the designated area (Figure 2), regardless of the depth of their drinking water well. The Navy is requesting permission to sample to ensure our neighbors are not being exposed to PFAS in their drinking water at concentrations exceeding the EPA’s LHA.

Because of the actual and potential release of AFFF at former Grumman/Calverton Property, it is possible that it has reached the groundwater off-property. Our first priority is determining if PFOS and/or PFOA are present in the drinking water of nearby residents and, if so, also taking appropriate action. Once any potential exposures

from drinking water have been addressed, the Navy will complete an investigation to determine the presence of these compounds at the former Grumman/Calverton Property.

ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS

The preliminary results from the off-property drinking water sampling are expected approximately 30 days after collecting the samples. We will provide notification to the property owners of their personal drinking water results and follow-up actions if needed. The Navy will do its best to keep the results confidential to the extent permitted by law.

The Navy will provide an alternate water source, likely bottled water, for drinking and cooking to any residents in the sampling area whose water contains PFOS and/or PFOA above the EPA’s health advisory levels. The Navy will continue to provide the alternate water until a permanent solution is implemented.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Exposure to PFOS and PFOA appears to be global. Studies have found both compounds in the blood samples of the general population. Studies on exposed populations indicate that PFOS and/or PFOA may have caused elevated cholesterol levels and possibly low infant birth weight. In studies conducted using laboratory animals, effects on developmental, neurological, immune, thyroid, and liver function were observed.

Health effects from exposure to low levels of PFAS are not well known and studies are continuing. At this time, it is not possible to link exposures to PFOS and/or PFOA to a person’s individual health issues. Blood tests are available to measure these chemicals, but they are not routinely done because the results can be inconclusive and test results do not predict health effects. Long-term exposure effects are still being investigated by the EPA.

Based on what is known and still unknown about PFOS and PFOA, EPA recommends people not drink or cook with water that contains these compounds above the EPA’s lifetime health advisory.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://go.usa.gov/xPCpj>

If you have specific questions: contact the Navy Public Affairs office at: (757) 341-1410 or NAVFAC_ML_PAO@navy.mil