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Subject: Status Update - March 30, 2022: Navy Ongoing Actions Regarding the PFAS Drinking Water Investigation Near NSA Cutler Fire Station

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Good Afternoon,

We are providing you with a status update regarding the Navy's investigations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), near the NSA Cutler Fire Station.

NSA Cutler's Drinking Water Investigation Results Summary:

The sampling results through March 22, 2022, are summarized and posted on the NSA Cutler Environmental Restoration website at <https://go.usa.gov/xwfdW>. Currently, one additional sampling request has been made and sample collection is scheduled for Spring 2022 as the well is currently winterized.

CERCLA Investigation:

The Navy has initiated a PFAS Remedial Investigation, under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), for areas on and near the NSA Cutler Fire Station (Installation Restoration [IR] Site 10). Fieldwork began in January 2022 with a geophysical survey performed on and near the NSA Cutler Fire Station to better understand both the subsurface geology and the flow of groundwater near the NSA Cutler Fire Station. A "Community Outreach & Information" notice with additional information regarding the geophysical survey was attached to the December 29, 2021 update. The remaining fieldwork activities are scheduled for Spring/Summer 2022.

Current Navy Actions:

The Navy continues to collect performance monitoring samples of Navy-installed point of entry treatment (POET) systems that were installed at properties near the NSA Cutler Fire Station where PFOA and/or PFOS concentrations in the drinking water samples were detected above the EPA lifetime drinking water health advisory of 70 parts per trillion (ppt). In addition, the Navy has been resampling some drinking water wells where PFOA and/or PFOS were detected below the EPA lifetime health advisory. Validated results continue to be provided to each property owner via email or mail. The following provides results of these sampling efforts:

- ***POET System Performance Monitoring*** - The ongoing performance monitoring confirms that the POET systems are reliably providing treated water below the EPA lifetime health advisory for PFOA and PFOS. To date, the Navy has completed twelve performance sampling events between April 2021 and March 2022 for 14 POET systems. Please note, not every POET system is sampled during each performance sampling event; while twelve sampling events have been completed, each system has been sampled seven or eight times. The Navy is in the process of evaluating the first year of POET performance monitoring data and will work with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) to determine the monitoring and maintenance schedule for the second year of operation.
- ***Quarterly Resampling of Drinking Water Wells*** - The Navy conducted quarterly resampling of off-base drinking water wells near the NSA Cutler Fire Station where PFOA and/or PFOS were initially detected above 40 ppt, but below 70 ppt (the EPA lifetime health advisory).

- ▶ **May 2021 – Completed.** PFOA and/or PFOS in one additional well were above 70 ppt, residents were provided bottled water immediately, and a POET system has been installed.
- ▶ **July 2021 – Completed.** PFOA and/or PFOS in two additional wells were above 70 ppt, residents were provided bottled water immediately, and a POET system has been installed for each well.
- ▶ **October 2021 – Completed.** PFOA and/or PFOS in two additional wells were above 70 ppt, residents were provided bottled water immediately, and installation of a POET system for each well is scheduled for Spring 2022.
- ▶ **December 2021 – Completed.** PFOA and/or PFOS for the remaining quarterly resampling wells were below 70 ppt.

Note: All of the drinking water wells included in the quarterly resampling program have POET systems installed by either the Navy or MEDEP or will have a POET system installed in Spring 2022. Therefore, no additional quarterly resampling is planned at this time.

- **Annual Resampling of Drinking Water Wells** – The Navy is also conducting annual resampling of off-base drinking water wells near NSA Cutler Fire Station where PFOA and/or PFOS were detected below 40 ppt.
 - ▶ **June 2021 – Completed.** PFOA and/or PFOS were not detected above 70 ppt in any of the wells resampled; three wells had PFOA and/or PFOS detected above 40 ppt but below 70 ppt and were included in the quarterly resampling program starting with the 2nd Quarter sampling event in July 2021.
 - ▶ **June 2022 – Upcoming.** *Note: Only wells near NSA Cutler Fire Station where PFOA and/or PFOS were detected below 40 ppt and do not have a POET system installed will be sampled during the 2022 annual sampling event.
- **POET System Installation** - The Navy installed POET systems on four of the five wells sampled during the quarterly resampling where PFOA and/or PFOS results were above 70 ppt. Installation of the four POET systems was completed in January 2022. The one remaining POET system will be installed in Spring 2022. The installation and maintenance of these treatment systems will be performed by Navy contractors and paid for by the Navy. The Navy is working with a local plumbing and heating contractor to address any leaks and/or repairs needed to the POET systems. The Navy has initiated the performance monitoring for the four POET systems installed in January 2022 to confirm that the POET systems are reliably providing treated water below the EPA lifetime health advisory for PFOA and PFOS. As in the past, bottled water will continue to be provided by the Navy for drinking and cooking until it is confirmed that the POET systems are operating properly.

Closing:

If you have questions about the NSA Cutler PFAS Drinking Water Investigation, please send an email to NAVFAC_ML_PAO@navy.mil or call the Navy Public Affairs Office at (800) 915-4705. The Navy continues to work with property owners, community leaders, and other federal, state, and local agencies, and will keep the community informed while respecting the privacy of individual residents.

NOTE: If you no longer want to receive these status updates, please send an email to: NAVFAC_ML_PAO@navy.mil, and we will update our list.

Thank you.

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