



NEWS RELEASE FROM NAVFAC MID-ATLANTIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS/COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

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Navy Completes Private Drinking Water Well Testing Near NSA Cutler, Maine

NORFOLK, Va. –The following update is provided as part of the Navy’s ongoing community drinking water well testing for the emerging, national environmental issue of PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances).

The Navy recently completed private drinking water well testing near the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Cutler Fire Station. The testing was done as part of our commitment to ensuring our neighbors have safe and clean drinking water.

NSA Cutler’s status: The Navy received final lab results from all 54 private drinking water wells sampled in the designated sampling area. The results indicate perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) have moved off the NSA Cutler property in the groundwater that is being used as drinking water by nearby residents. Of the 54 private drinking water wells sampled, PFOA and PFOS exceeded the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) in 14 samples. PFOA and PFOS were detected in 27 samples below 70 ppt, and were not detected in 13 samples.

The Navy is providing bottled water for residents whose private drinking water well concentrations exceeded the EPA health advisory level of 70 ppt for PFOA and/or PFOS. This will continue until a permanent solution is implemented.

Out of respect to residents’ privacy, to the extent legally permitted, parcel-specific results are only released by the Navy directly to each well owner.

Testing is still available for anyone within the designated sampling area that has not already had their well sampled. Information on how to schedule a sampling appointment is available, along with other project summary information, on the Navy’s website at <https://go.usa.gov/xfGMx>.

The Navy continues to work with the residents, community leaders and other federal, state and local agencies on this important national issue, and will keep the community informed while respecting the privacy of individual residents.

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Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command: The Facilities and Expeditionary Combat Systems Command

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PROJECT BACKGROUND

PFAS are manmade 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 onboard naval installations.

In May of 2016, the EPA issued lifetime health advisory levels for two PFAS, specifically PFOS and PFOA, at 70 ppt individually, and combined if both are present.

While there are no EPA regulations for these compounds, the EPA established these 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.

For all media queries regarding the NSA Cutler the recent drinking water well testing, contact the NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic Public Affairs Office by email at [NAVFAC ML PAO@navy.mil](mailto:NAVFAC_ML_PAO@navy.mil).

For more information about the Navy's PFAS initiative and drinking water well testing program, visit: <http://www.secnav.navy.mil/eie/pages/pfc-pfas.aspx>.