



PRESS RELEASE FROM NAVFAC MID-ATLANTIC PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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U.S. Navy PFAS Private Drinking Water Well Sampling Near NSA Cutler Fire Station

CUTLER, Maine – The Navy is seeking to sample private drinking water wells in a designated sampling area near the Naval Support Activity (NSA) Cutler Fire Station, Cutler, Maine. These free tests are to determine whether certain chemicals (commonly and collectively referred to as PFAS) used by the Navy in its activities at NSA Cutler Fire Station may have migrated through groundwater to private drinking water wells at levels greater than U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) health advisory levels.

Community Participation and COVID-19 Concerns

Ordinarily, the Navy would host an open house public meeting to present information pertaining to this drinking water investigation and to interact with the community to address questions and concerns. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Navy and our partnering agencies agree that holding a public meeting is not in line with current Navy COVID-19 safety protocols. Therefore, we have prepared a virtual open house to open communication with the local community; the virtual open house is available at <https://go.usa.gov/xfGMx>. Throughout this drinking water investigation, COVID-19 safety protocols will be implemented to protect members of the community and our samplers.

The public is also invited to visit our PFAS webpage <https://go.usa.gov/xwfdW>, to read additional information about this private drinking water well sampling investigation. The information on both webpages was developed by the Navy in collaboration with the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Region 1. These agencies are working in partnership with the Navy.

In May 2016, the U.S. EPA issued lifetime health advisory levels for two chemicals: perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The U.S. EPA 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. Although these health advisory levels are not enforceable regulatory standards, the Navy is seeking to identify private drinking water wells that have been impacted at levels greater than the lifetime health advisory levels.

PFOS and PFOA (two types of a class of chemicals collectively referred to as PFAS) are man-made chemicals persistent in the environment. PFAS has been used since the 1950s in products that resist heat, stains, grease, and water. It has been used in a variety of products and substances such as non-stick cookware, food packaging such as microwaveable popcorn bags, and water-resistant textiles and sprays used to treat carpets and fabrics. The most common historical Navy use of these chemicals has been through the firefighting agent, aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF).

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Again, more information about the Navy PFAS initiative and the private drinking water well testing program may be found at <https://go.usa.gov/xwfdW>. Questions may be referred to the Navy Public Affairs Office at 1-800-915-4705 or email at [NAVFAC ML PAO@navy.mil](mailto:NAVFAC_ML_PAO@navy.mil).

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