



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER
NAVY REGION MID-ATLANTIC
1510 GILBERT ST.
NORFOLK, VA 23511-2737

IN REPLY REFER TO:
February 12, 2016

Dear Resident:

The U.S. Navy is requesting permission to sample your drinking water, at your convenience, between February 19, 2016 and February 26, 2016 (with the exception of Sunday February 21st). The request is being made as a result of recent water sampling conducted on Naval Weapons Station (NWS) Earle Fire Training Center.

As background, the Navy recently sampled groundwater and drinking water at NWS Earle's Fire Training Center for Perfluorinated Compounds (PFCs). PFCs are unregulated or "emerging" contaminants which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. PFCs are currently being studied by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to determine if regulation is needed. Until a decision on regulating PFCs is made, the Navy is testing on-base drinking water for potential PFC contamination at installations where there has been a nearby known or suspected release of PFCs to the environment. NWS Earle's Fire Training Center was recently tested because a commonly used fire-fighting foam, Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF), containing PFCs was released to the ground surface during training exercises in past years. This fire-fighting foam is no longer used for training exercises at the NWS Earle Fire Training Center.

Results received this month from samples of the NWS Earle Fire Training Center on-base drinking water and groundwater monitoring wells show the groundwater monitoring wells contain PFCs above the U.S. EPA provisional health advisory levels and New Jersey Interim Ground Water Quality Standard (IGWQS). Drinking water results did not detect any PFCs above the U.S. EPA provisional health advisory levels or NJ IGWQS. Based on your home's proximity and location relative to the NWS Earle Fire Training Center, there is potential for PFCs to be present in your private drinking water well.

As we are committed to ensuring the safety of our neighbors, the Navy is requesting permission to test your drinking water as a proactive measure to ensure our past training activities using PFCs at the NWS Earle Fire Training Center have not impacted your drinking water. There is no legal requirement to conduct this testing. It is a voluntary measure because we care about the water quality both on-base and for our off-base neighbors. If your water is found to contain PFCs above the U.S. EPA provisional health advisory or NJ IGWQSs, the Navy will provide alternate drinking water supplies while a long-term solution is implemented.

The Navy is working in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. EPA, Monmouth County and Howell Township to plan and conduct this sampling. The Navy and our partnering agencies recognize you will have questions, so we are holding an Open House Public Meeting on February 18, 2016, at the Howell Community Enrichment Center at Southard School located at 115 Kent Road, Howell. The meeting format will include information displays with representatives from the Navy and partnering agencies to answer your questions. You are encouraged to attend at your convenience between 4 pm and 7 pm. This letter is accompanied by information on how to schedule sampling. We established a webpage at www.cnmc.navy.mil/earleinfo, to keep you updated as more information becomes available. If you need additional information, please email the Navy at colt.wpnstaearlepa@navy.mil or telephone (732) 866-2171.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH A. NASHOLD
Environmental Program Manager
By direction of the Commander

Enclosures: 1. PFC Drinking Water Sampling Homeowner Information
 2. EPA Fact Sheet
 3. NJ Department of Health Fact Sheet

PFC Drinking Water Sampling Homeowner Information

How do I schedule the sampling? Homeowners within the designated sampling area can call (888) 533-3880 to schedule a sampling appointment. Sampling appointments can also be scheduled in person at the Open House Public Meeting. The meeting will be held on February 18, 2016 at the Howell Community Enrichment Center – Southard School located at 115 Kent Road, Howell, between 4 pm and 7 pm.

What are the optional dates/times for sampling? The sampling will be conducted February 19th through February 26th, 2016, with the exception of Sunday February 21st. Sampling appointments will be available between the hours of 9 am and 7 pm.

Who will be taking the sample? A team of two Navy representatives will conduct the sampling. An adult resident (18 years of age or older) must be present during the sampling.

How long will the sampling take? The sampling will take approximately 30 minutes. The Navy representatives will take a sample from a faucet inside your home, measure and record basic information about the water (e.g. pH and temperature, and review the homeowner questionnaire (below).

When will/ receive the results?

The results are expected in March 2016, and the Navy will provide private notification of your results. If your drinking water is found to contain PFCs above US EPA Provisional Health Advisory Levels or the New Jersey DEP Interim Ground Water Quality Standard, the Navy will contact you in person to arrange for alternate water (e.g. bottled water) for drinking and cooking in your home until a long-term solution can be implemented.

Will my results be private? All results will be confidential. You will receive your results, and all references to results in official reports or documents will have a random number associated with your drinking water sample. Reports and documents will not contain your name or address.

Drinking Water Sampling Example Homeowner Questions

Does your drinking water come from a well on your property?

Do you have well construction information on your drinking water well (e.g. when installed, well depth, well location, and screen length)?

Have you upgraded or installed additional systems to treat your drinking water?

Do you have more than one well (e.g. additional well for irrigation or livestock)?

Do you own or rent this property?

Email address for future contact?