



**Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads Northwest Annex
Chesapeake, Virginia
Private Drinking Water Well Sampling for PFAS**



May 2025

The Navy is requesting property owner permission to sample private drinking water wells for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, within sampling areas near Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads Northwest Annex.

PFAS have been used in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellent 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, many of them tend to stay in the environment for a very long time.

The most common activity associated with the historical release of PFAS to the environment at Northwest Annex (**Figure 1**) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF). Due to this historical use, PFAS are present in the groundwater on base and have been detected in nearby private drinking water wells located in the direction that groundwater flows away from the base.

SEPTEMBER 2024 POLICY FOR PFAS IN PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELLS

On April 26, 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) establishing nationwide drinking water standards for certain PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The regulation applies to public drinking water systems. Operators of public drinking water systems regulated by the NPDWR have until April 26, 2029, to meet these standards. In September 2024, the Department of Defense (DoD) published “Prioritization of Department of Defense Cleanup Actions to Implement the Federal Drinking Water Standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program,” which describes DoD’s plans to incorporate the EPA’s drinking water regulation into DoD’s ongoing PFAS cleanups and prioritize actions to address private drinking water wells with the highest levels of PFAS from DoD activities. **Table 1** shows the DoD PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells.

PREVIOUS OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING

In 2019, the Navy sampled 75 private drinking water wells near Northwest Annex. PFOA and/or PFOS were not detected above 70 parts per trillion (ppt), the DoD action level at the time.

CURRENT EFFORTS

The Navy is requesting property owner permission to sample any private drinking water wells in the sampling areas near Northwest Annex. Due to improvements in laboratory methods, the Navy is also requesting property owner permission to resample private drinking water wells that were sampled in 2019.

Additionally, the Navy is requesting property owner permission to take interim actions to address PFAS at one private drinking water well sampled in 2019 at or above DoD PFAS Interim Action Levels (**Table 1**). The Navy has also determined that the off-base sampling area near Northwest Annex should be expanded.

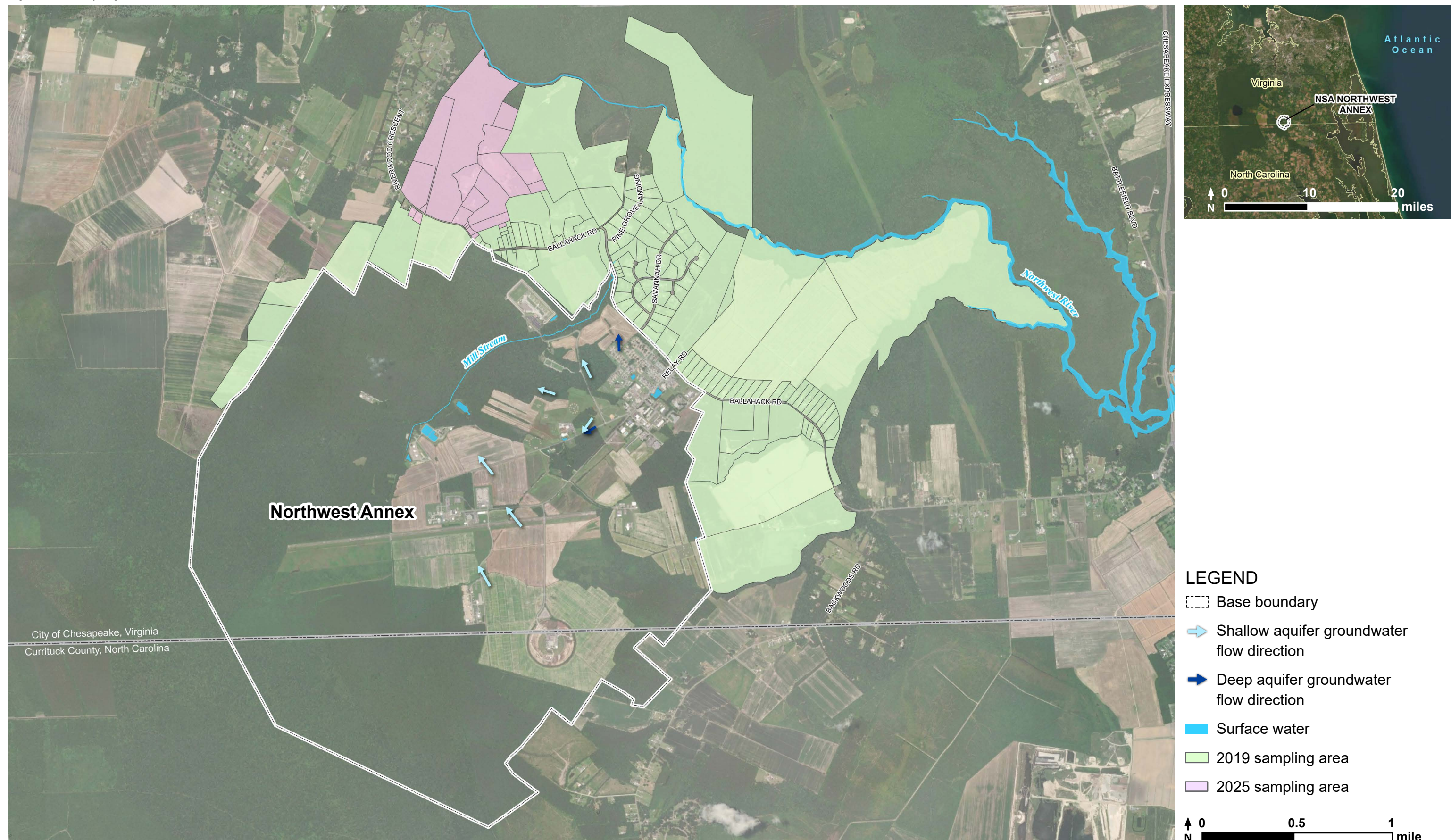
Table 1: DoD PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells

| PFAS | Level |
|--|--------------|
| perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) | 12 ppt |
| perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) | 12 ppt |
| perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) | 30 ppt |
| perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS) | 30 ppt |
| hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA, or GenX) | 30 ppt |
| hazard index for mixture of at least two of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS) | 3 (no units) |

ppt = part(s) per trillion

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals which have been widely used in many household and industrial products since the 1950s. The Navy and DoD have developed proactive policies to address past releases of PFAS, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), at installations nationwide.

Figure 1 – Sampling Area



2025 PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING FOR PFAS

Due to the September 2024 DoD policy, the Navy re-evaluated the 2019 private drinking water well results. Based on this information, the Navy has determined that one private drinking water well near Northwest Annex contains PFAS at or above the DoD PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells. The Navy is requesting property owner permission to implement interim actions to address PFAS in drinking water at this location. Interim actions may include connecting to public water (not available near Northwest Annex) or installing drinking water treatment systems.

Additionally, the Navy is requesting property owner permission to sample private drinking water wells within the sampling areas that have not been previously sampled by the Navy. The Navy has also determined that drinking water wells sampled in 2019 should be resampled. Because of improvements in laboratory methods, PFAS previously reported as non-detectable from 2019 may now be detectable at low levels in these drinking water wells.

RESULTS COMMUNICATION

Preliminary drinking water sample results are typically received from the laboratory within approximately 30 days after sample collection. The Navy will call property owners (and tenants, if present) to provide preliminary drinking water sample results. Final drinking water sample results will be mailed to property owners (and tenants, if present) within 3 months after sample collection. They will also be available online at: <https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/map/pfasmap.html>. Individual results will not be linked with the sampled property on this website to ensure continued privacy of property owners and tenants.

This website also contains information on the DoD's planned sampling of off-base private drinking water wells for PFAS.

ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS

The Navy will address PFAS in private drinking water wells in keeping with the DoD policy:

- **PFAS at or above the DoD PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells (Table 1).** The Navy will work with property owners to implement an enduring solution as soon as possible. Options for enduring solutions may include connection to public water (not available near Northwest Annex) or installation of a drinking water treatment system. For any drinking water wells with PFOA and PFOS, individually or combined, above 70 ppt, the Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to property owners or tenants until a more enduring solution is implemented.
- **PFAS below the DoD PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells (Table 1).** For final remedial actions, the Navy will address PFAS in private drinking water wells down to EPA NPDWR or background levels in accordance with Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) requirements.

The Navy will continue to investigate the presence of PFAS at Northwest Annex in partnership with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality. To find out more about all on-base environmental investigations, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xSvMm>.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Federal agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the EPA continue to conduct and support research into health effects associated with PFAS exposure. More information about health effects can be found online at:

ATSDR: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER SAMPLING

- Visit our website at <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/NWAnnexPFAS> or scan the QR code →
- Leave a voicemail at **833-NWANEX (833-692-6639)**, or
- Send an email to nsahamptonroadspao@us.navy.mil

