



## Naval Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress 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 Auxiliary Landing Field (NALF) Fentress.**

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 NALF Fentress (**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 PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING

From 2016–2024, the Navy sampled 69 private drinking water wells near NALF Fentress. In seven private drinking water wells, PFOA and PFOS were detected above 70 parts per trillion (ppt), the DoD action level at the time. The Navy continues to provide bottled water to these seven properties for drinking and cooking until an enduring solution can be implemented.

### CURRENT EFFORTS

The Navy is requesting property owner permission to sample any private drinking water wells in the sampling areas near NALF Fentress (**Figure 1**) that were not previously sampled by the Navy. Due to improvements in laboratory methods, the Navy is also requesting property owner permission to resample private drinking water wells that were sampled in 2016–2024.

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

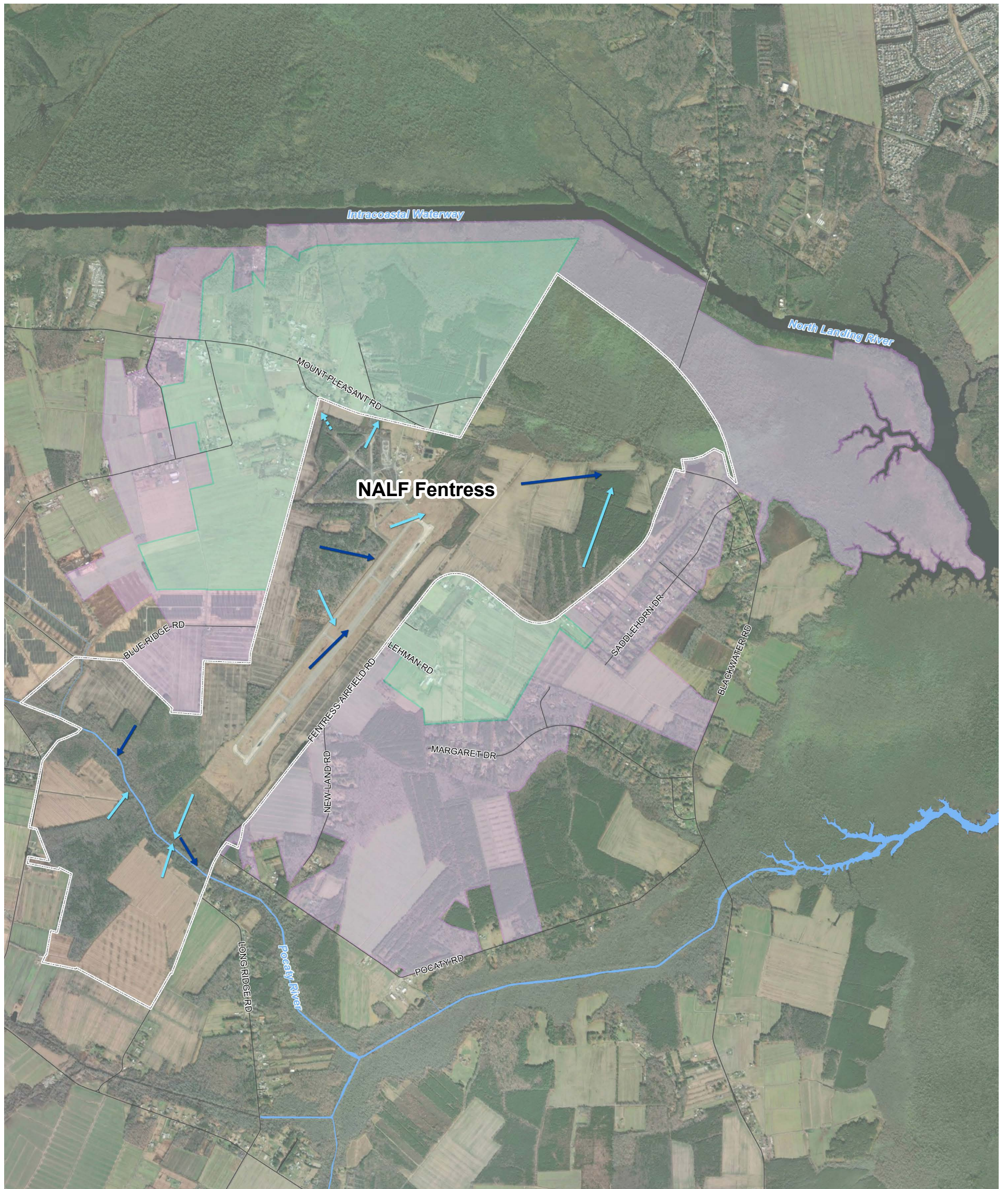
PFAS	Level
perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	12 ppt
perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	12 ppt
perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	30 ppt
perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	30 ppt
hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA, or GenX)	30 ppt
hazard index for mixture of at least two of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA,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

ppt = part(s) per trillion

These levels are based on current EPA NPDWR levels. If EPA updates applicable requirements, DoD will review and update its policy as appropriate.

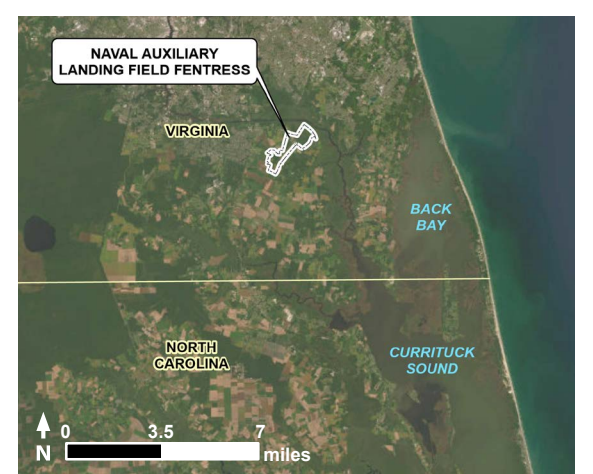
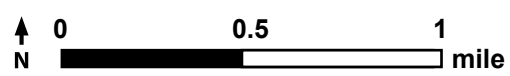
PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals that have been used in many household and industrial products since the 1950s. The Navy and DoD have developed proactive policies to address past releases of PFAS, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), at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

Figure 1 – Sampling Area



**LEGEND**

- Base boundary
- Shallow aquifer groundwater flow direction
- Potential shallow aquifer groundwater flow direction
- Deep aquifer groundwater flow direction
- 2016–present Sampling Area
- 2025 Sampling Area



## **2025 PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING FOR PFAS**

Due to the September 2024 DoD policy, the Navy re-evaluated the 2016–2024 private drinking water well results. The seven properties already receiving bottled water are the only properties with PFAS at or above the DoD PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells. The Navy continues to work with the City of Chesapeake to connect these properties to public water.

Additionally, the Navy is requesting property owner permission to sample private drinking water wells within the sampling area that have not been previously sampled by the Navy. The Navy has also determined that drinking water wells sampled in 2016–2024 should be resampled. Because of improvements in laboratory methods, PFAS previously reported as non-detectable from 2016–2024 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 applicable) to provide preliminary drinking water sample results. Final drinking water sample results will be mailed to property owners (and tenants, if applicable) within three 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 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 include connection to public water or installation of a drinking water treatment system. For any private 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 NALF Fentress in partnership with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. To find out more about all on-base environmental investigations, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xSvtW>.

## **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 PRIVATE DRINKING WATER SAMPLING**

- Visit our website at <https://go.usa.gov/xSvt9> or scan the QR code →
- Leave a voicemail at 1-800-931-6118, or
- Send an email to [NALFFentressWater@us.navy.mil](mailto:NALFFentressWater@us.navy.mil)

