St. Juliens Creek Annex
Chesapeake, Virginia
Off-Base Drinking Water Sampling for PFAS

January 2024

The Navy is requesting permission to sample drinking water obtained from wells within a sampling area near St Juliens Creek Annex (SJCA) for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS.

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 Department of Defense (DoD) have developed proactive policies to address past releases of PFAS, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), at installations nationwide.

The most common activity associated with the historical release of PFAS to the environment at SJCA (**Figure 1**) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF) for testing, training, firefighting, and life-saving emergency responses. Due to this historical use, PFAS are present in the groundwater on-base and may also be present in nearby off-base drinking water wells located in the direction that groundwater flows away from the base.

In 2016, the Navy identified one area at SJCA as a potential PFAS release area. Based on a review of presumed groundwater flow direction, no off-base drinking water sampling was initiated. In 2021, the Navy completed a Basewide PFAS Preliminary Assessment that identified additional known and potential releases of PFAS to the environment. The Site Inspection (SI) of the PFAS release areas began in 2022. During the SI, PFOA and PFOS were detected in groundwater at SJCA and additional information about groundwater flow was obtained. As a result, the Navy established a sampling area 1 mile from the detections of PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 parts per trillion (ppt) in the direction that groundwater flows away from the base (**Figure 2**). Based on the new information about the direction of groundwater flow, the proposed sampling area only includes properties within the City of Chesapeake and not within the City of Portsmouth.

Records indicate that the City of Chesapeake Public Utilities Department provides drinking water for the majority of properties within the proposed sampling area; however, some properties within the sampling area may use a private well for their drinking water. The Navy would like to sample these drinking water wells to determine if PFOA and PFOS, individually or combined, are above 70 ppt in these drinking water wells.

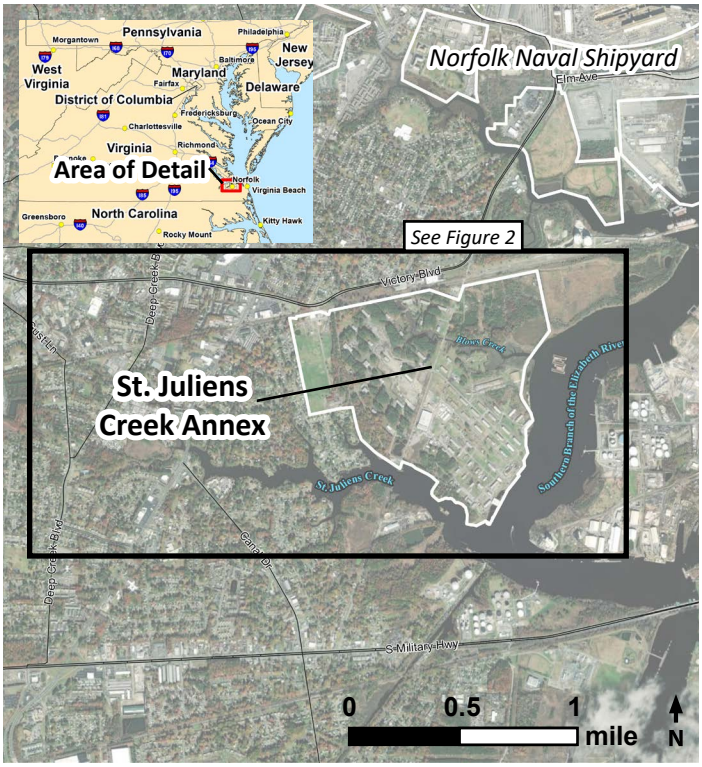

Figure 1 – St Juliens Creek Annex

There is no regulatory requirement to conduct this drinking water sampling. The Navy is conducting the sampling in collaboration with partners such as the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Department of Health (including the Chesapeake Health District), and the City of Chesapeake.

PFAS

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 Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to any property owner or tenant in the sampling area whose drinking water well has been tested by the Navy and it has been found to contain PFOA and PFOS, individually or combined, above 70 ppt. The Navy will continue to provide bottled water until a long-term solution is implemented.

Figure 2 – Proposed Sampling Area

LEGEND

- Groundwater well with PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 ppt
- Groundwater well with PFOA and/or PFOS below 70 ppt
- Base boundary
- Groundwater flow direction
- Proposed sampling area
- City boundary

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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. Several PFAS are chemicals of emerging concern. Although the EPA has started the process to establish regulatory levels for several PFAS in drinking water, there are currently no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards. The EPA has developed drinking water health advisories for a small number of PFAS; these advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. The advisories provide technical information to states and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies.

On March 14, 2023, the EPA proposed a draft regulatory drinking water standard for certain PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS. In response, the DoD has issued the following statement:

"DoD respects and values the public comment process on this proposed nationwide drinking water rule and looks forward to the clarity that a final regulatory drinking water standard for PFAS will provide. In anticipation of the final standard that EPA expects to publish by the end of 2023, the DoD is assessing what actions DoD can take to be prepared to incorporate EPA's final regulatory standard into our current cleanup process, such as reviewing our existing data and conducting additional sampling where necessary. In addition, DoD will incorporate nationwide PFAS cleanup guidance, issued by EPA and applicable to all owners and operators under the federal cleanup law, as to when to provide alternate water when PFAS are present."

More information about EPA's actions for PFAS in drinking water is online at: https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas.

NAVY POLICY

For now, the Navy is continuing to follow the policy it issued in June 2016 to conduct investigations at installations where there has been a known or suspected release of PFAS to the environment. The first priority with these investigations is to ensure that PFOA and PFOS concentrations in drinking water wells are not above 70 ppt, individually or combined, as a result of Navy operations.

ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS

Preliminary drinking water sample results are typically received from the laboratory within 30 days after the samples are collected, and final laboratory reports are typically available within 3 months. Property owners and tenants will be called to notify them of their preliminary drinking water sample results. Final drinking water sample results will be mailed to property owners and tenants. Final drinking water sampling results are available online at: https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/map/pfasmap.html for transparency with the public. Individual drinking water sample results cannot be linked with the sampled property on this website.

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The Navy will continue to investigate the presence of PFAS at SJCA and evaluate if actions are needed on base. The Navy is committed to ensuring the safety of the property owners and tenants in the community. The public can find out more about all on-base environmental investigations by visiting https://go.usa.gov/xSvtw.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER SAMPLING

http://www.navfac.navy.mil/SJCA_PFAS

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY)/
SJCA Public Affairs Office at:

757-396-9550 or **NNSY_PAO@us.navy.mil**

HEALTH INFORMATION

Studies on PFOA and PFOS have found both compounds in the blood samples of the general population. Research to better understand health effects from exposure to low levels of PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS is ongoing. 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