



Corry Station Pensacola, Florida PFAS Drinking Water Investigation

January 2022

The Navy is requesting permission to test water obtained from drinking water wells located within a sampling area near Corry Station for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS.

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals that have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1950s. The Navy developed a proactive policy to address past releases of PFAS at installations nationwide, as several PFAS are now of emerging public health concern. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a lifetime health advisory for two commonly used and studied PFAS, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

The most common Navy activity that could have resulted in the historical release of PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS to the environment at Corry Station (Figure 1) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF) for testing, training, firefighting, and other life-saving emergency responses. Because of this historical use, PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS are present in the groundwater on-base, and they may also be present within the sampling area in off-base drinking water wells in the direction that groundwater flows away from the Base (Figure 2).

Records indicate that a majority of properties within the sampling area purchase their drinking water from Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) or Peoples Water Service Company (Peoples); however, some residents within the sampling area may use a private well for their drinking water. At this time, the Navy is only asking to sample from drinking water wells in the sampling area.

BACKGROUND

In 2018 and 2019, a comprehensive Preliminary Assessment was conducted to identify all potential historical releases of PFAS to the environment on Corry Station. PFAS were detected above the EPA lifetime health advisory in on-base groundwater samples collected from two on-base areas: the current fire station and the former fire department AFFF storage area. Based on the location of these PFAS release areas,



Figure 1- Corry Station

in February 2019, an off-base drinking water sampling area was designated (Figure 2). The Navy conducted extensive public outreach, which included sending letters to parcel owners in the sampling area, placing notices in local newspapers and conducting an in-person Open House. Through this process, the Navy did not receive any requests to sample drinking water wells.

The Navy continues to investigate on-base groundwater and soil for PFAS (Figure 2). Based on additional on-base groundwater data, a new sampling area has been designated, which includes all properties within 1 mile of Corry Station. This new off-base drinking water investigation will allow us to identify and address any current possible exposures to PFOA and/or PFOS in drinking water from wells in this area that may be above EPA's lifetime health advisory.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. We are performing this voluntary testing because it is important that our neighbors in the sampling

To be protective, the Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to any resident in the sampling area whose well contains drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA lifetime health advisory.

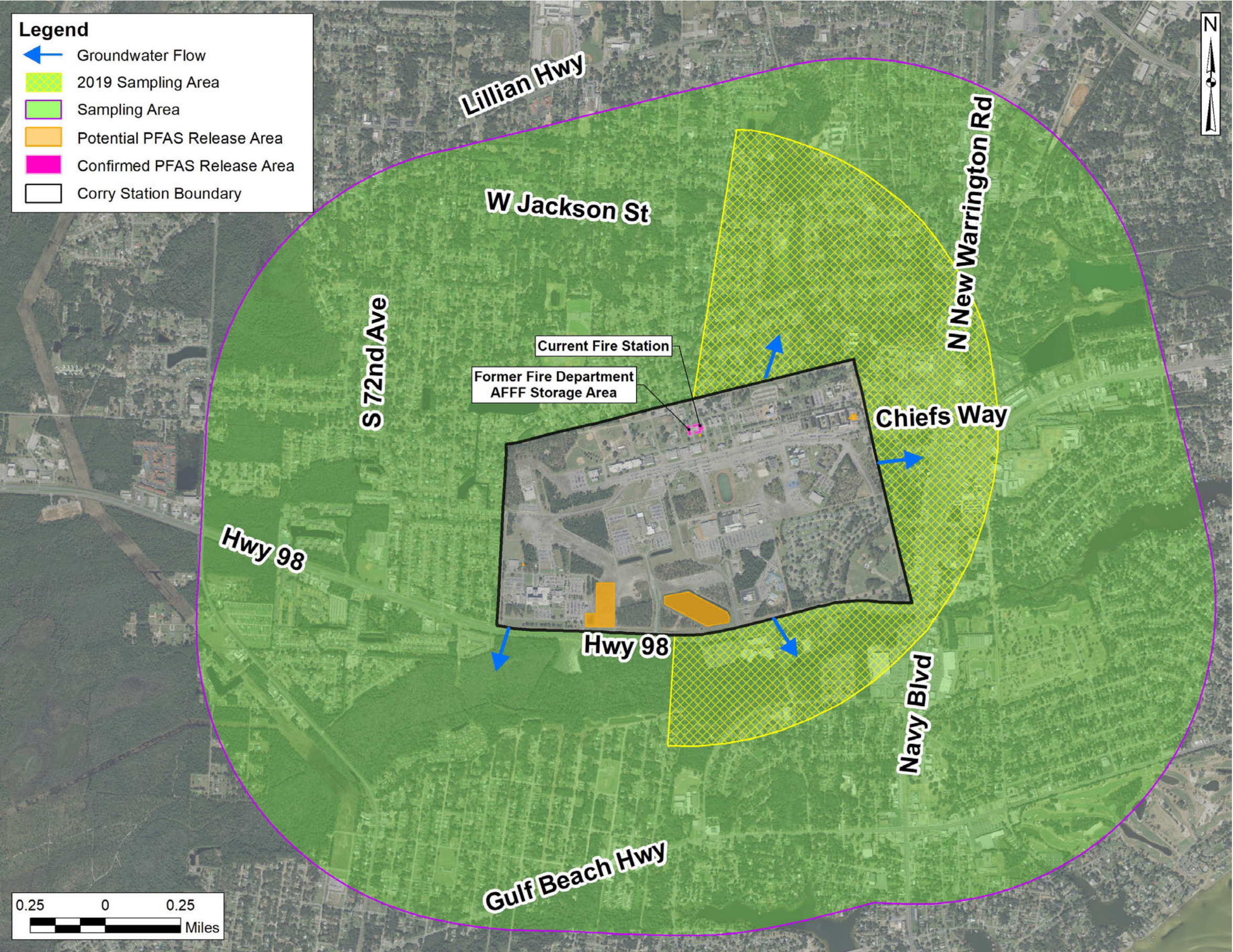


Figure 2 - Drinking Water Well Sampling Area

area are not drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS concentrations above the EPA lifetime health advisory as a result of known or suspected releases of PFAS from Corry Station. We are conducting the current investigation in collaboration with partners such as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health.

PFAS

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s 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, they break down very slowly.

PFAS are chemicals of emerging concern, which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. EPA's lifetime health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. They are informal technical guidance to assist federal, state, and local officials, along with managers of public or community water systems, in protecting public health as needed.

The EPA is currently studying PFAS to determine if national regulation is needed. The EPA's lifetime health advisory provides Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. The EPA's lifetime health advisory for exposure is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 70 ppt for PFOS. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations should not exceed 70 ppt.

NAVY POLICY

Until a decision for regulating PFAS is made, the Navy has proactively developed a policy to conduct investigations at installations where there has been a known or suspected release of PFAS to the environment. The Navy's first priority with these investigations is to ensure people are not being exposed to PFOA and/or PFOS in their drinking water at concentrations exceeding the EPA's lifetime health advisory as a result of a Navy PFAS release. When a known or suspected release of PFAS is identified on a Navy installation, a sampling area is established 1 mile in the direction that groundwater flows away from a release site. To be protective, the Navy offers sampling to all residents whose drinking water is supplied by private groundwater wells in the sampling

area. Once any potential exposure from drinking water has been addressed, the Navy will then complete the full investigation to determine the extent of these compounds on our installations.

ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS

The preliminary results from the off-base drinking water sampling are expected approximately 30 days after collecting the samples. We will provide notification to the property owners of their personal drinking water results and follow-up actions if needed. The Navy will do its best to keep the results of individual properties confidential to the extent permitted by law. The Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to any resident in the sampling area whose private well contains drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA's lifetime health advisory. The Navy will continue to provide bottled water until a permanent solution is implemented.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Exposure to PFOA and PFOS appears to be global. Studies have found both compounds in the blood samples of the general population. Studies on exposed populations indicate that PFOA and/or PFOS may have caused elevated cholesterol levels and possibly low infant birth weight. In studies conducted using laboratory animals, effects on developmental, neurological, immune, thyroid, and liver function were observed.

Health effects from exposure to low levels of PFAS are not well known and studies are continuing. At this time, it is not possible to link exposures to PFOA and/or PFOS to a person's individual health issues. Blood tests are available to measure these chemicals, but they are not routinely done because the results can be inconclusive and test results do not predict health effects. Long-term exposure effects are still being investigated by the EPA.

Based on what is known and still unknown about PFOA and PFOS, EPA recommends people not drink or cook with water that contains these compounds above the EPA's lifetime health advisory.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://go.usa.gov/xMRUh>

If you have questions, please call and leave a detailed message at [REDACTED].
A Navy representative will return your call.