



Corry Station Pensacola, Florida

Results of Off-Base PFAS Drinking Water Investigation

April 2022

In early 2022, the Navy sampled drinking water wells near Corry Station for certain chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. No action is required at this time for these drinking water wells as all results were below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lifetime drinking water health advisory (HA).

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals which have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1950s. The EPA has issued HAs 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 in off-base drinking water wells within the sampling area. The Navy developed a proactive policy to sample off-base drinking water wells that could be impacted by past releases of PFAS on-base.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. We conducted this voluntary testing because it is important that our neighbors are not drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS concentrations above the EPA HA as a result of PFAS releases at Corry Station. We are conducting the investigation in collaboration with partners including the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the Florida Department of Health.

Records indicate that a majority of the 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. The Navy did not test drinking water from homes that are serviced by ECUA or Peoples.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

In 2018 and 2019, a comprehensive Preliminary Assessment (PA) was conducted to identify all potential historical releases of PFAS to the environment on Corry Station. PFAS were detected above the EPA HA 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, in February 2019, an off-base drinking water sampling area was identified (Figure 2). The Navy conducted extensive public outreach, which included sending letters to property owners in the sampling area, placing notices in local newspapers, and conducting an in-person Open House. The Navy did not receive any requests to sample drinking water wells.

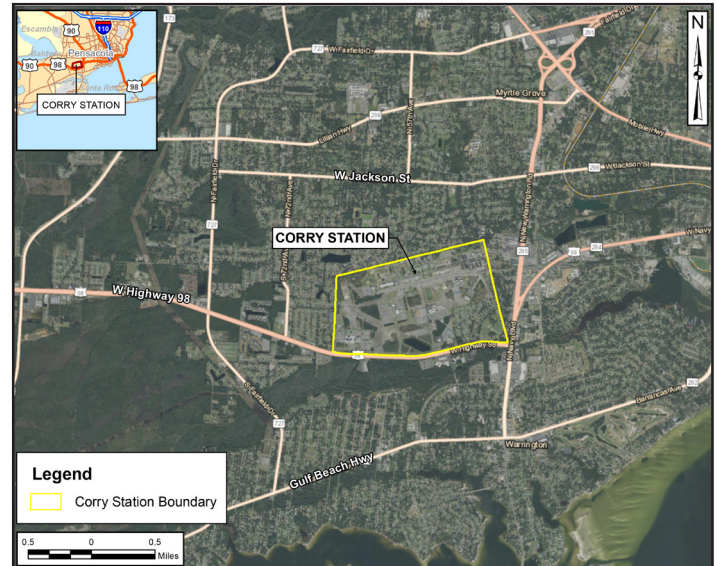


Figure 1- Corry Station

The Navy continues to investigate on-base groundwater and soil for PFAS. Based on additional on-base groundwater data, a new sampling area was established for the off-base drinking water investigation, which includes all properties within 1 mile of Corry Station (Figure 2). In 2022, the Navy again conducted extensive public outreach, which included sending letters and postcards to property owners in the sampling area, issuing press releases to introduce the sampling program, and conducting a Virtual Open House. The Navy received over 70 calls from property owners who had questions or requested to schedule an appointment for sampling. The Navy provided responses to the questions and scheduled appointments to collect drinking water samples.

PFAS

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 remain in the environment for a long time.

The EPA is currently studying PFAS to determine if national regulation is needed. The EPA HA 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 HA for exposure is 70 parts per

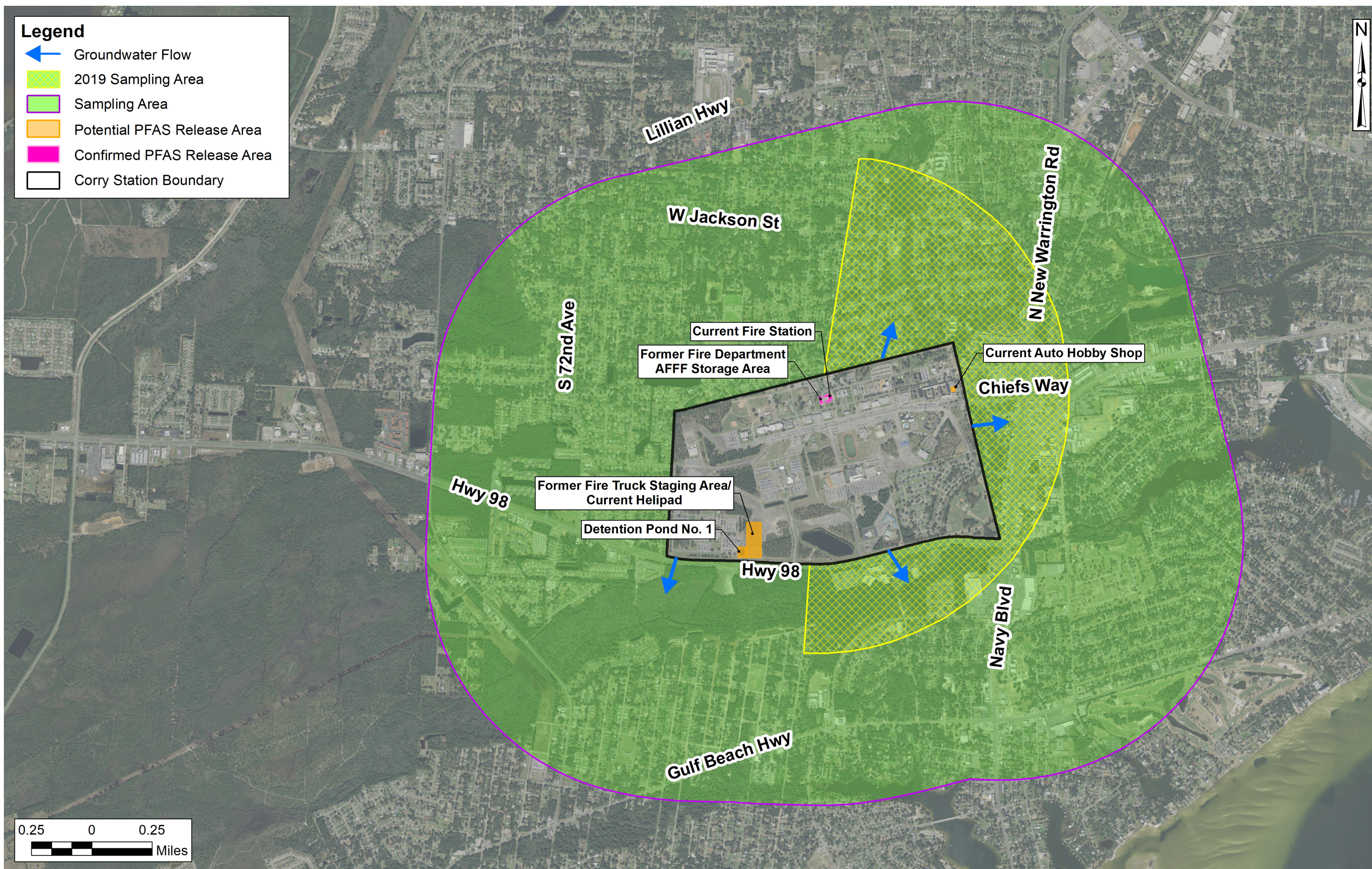


Figure 2 - Drinking Water Well Investigation Sampling Area

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 bases where there have been known or suspected releases 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 HA as a result of a Navy PFAS release. When a known or suspected release of PFAS is identified on a Navy base, a sampling area is established 1 mile in the direction the groundwater flows away from a release site. To be protective, the Navy offers sampling of drinking water that is supplied by 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 bases.

OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER INVESTIGATION SUMMARY

In early 2022, the Navy collected 12 drinking water well samples near Corry Station. PFOA and PFOS were detected in all 12 drinking water samples at concentrations below the EPA HAs. Table 1 provides a summary of the results, and Table 2 provides the PFOA and PFOS concentrations for each sample.

Table 1 Off-Base Drinking Water Well Investigation Summary			
Number of Wells Sampled	PFOA and PFOS Not Detected	PFOA and/or PFOS Detected	
		Below EPA HA	Above EPA HA
12	0	12	0

All results were below the EPA HA; therefore, no action is required at this time.

Figure 2 shows the sampling area. The Navy will ensure individual property results are kept confidential to the extent permitted by law.

PATH FORWARD

The Navy will continue the on-base investigation for PFAS. The Navy initiated the PFAS Site Inspection (SI) in 2021 to further investigate the potential PFAS release areas at Corry Station. The SI is a step in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process of site investigation and clean up. Throughout the on-going CERCLA process, the Navy will continue to communicate with local residents and partner with Federal, State, and local agencies.

Table 2
Concentrations of PFOA and PFOS in
Drinking Water Wells Sampled near Corry Station

Sample	PFOA	PFOS	PFOA + PFOS
1	0.48 J	0.759 J	1.239
2	1.79 J	1.43 J	3.22
3	2.12 J	2.30 J	4.42
4	2.07 J	6.73	8.80
5	1.98 J	7.71	9.69
6	1.76 J	9.04	10.80
7	7.83	17.4	25.23
8	9.72	21.7	31.42
9	9.54	23.2	32.74
10	11.5	21.6	33.10
11	7.61	45.7	53.31
12	10.6	50.9	61.50

Results in parts per trillion (ppt).

J = The chemical was detected, but the actual level is estimated since it is less than the level at which the laboratory can accurately measure.

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 HA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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

If you have questions, contact the NAS Pensacola Community Planning and Liaison Officer: 850-452-8715