



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL AIR STATION WHITING FIELD MILTON FLORIDA
7550 USS ESSEX STREET SUITE 200
MILTON FLORIDA 32570-6155

5000
Ser N45/1
May 28, 2021

PROPERTY OWNER



Dear Property Owner:

SUBJECT: TESTING DRINKING WATER WELLS BY THE U.S. NAVY

The Navy is conducting an off-base drinking water well investigation near Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Silverhill, an OLF for Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field, beginning in June 2021. The Navy is testing for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which may be present in these drinking water wells due to past uses on-base of a firefighting agent called aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), or other PFAS-containing materials. Although this issue is not unique to the Department of Defense (DoD) or the Navy, we are continuing this investigation to proactively address possible issues that may exist from past Navy activity.

Your property is located within the designated sampling area near OLF Silverhill and based on our records reviewed, we believe the drinking water consumed on your property, Property [REDACTED], located at [REDACTED], may come from a well. If this is the case, we would like permission to sample your drinking water. This sampling would be at no cost to you.

You may schedule a drinking water well sampling appointment for your property by telephone at 844-NASWFLD (844-627-9353) and leaving a message with your name, property address, property number (included above), and telephone number.

PFAS are a group of thousands of chemicals that have been widely used in industrial and consumer products since the 1950s and are today considered to be chemicals of emerging concern. Currently, there are no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements for PFAS, but in 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a lifetime health advisory for two commonly used and studied PFAS: perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The EPA established the health advisory at a level that will provide Americans, including the most sensitive populations, with a margin of protection from a lifetime of exposure to PFOS and PFOA from drinking water.

The Navy subsequently established a policy to ensure the communities near our installations are not exposed to drinking water with PFOS and/or PFOA above the EPA's

lifetime health advisory level from a known or likely Navy release of PFAS-containing materials. Following that policy, the Navy identified potential PFAS release areas on OLF Silverhill that may present an exposure to nearby residents using wells for their drinking water.

Working in partnership with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and the Alabama Department of Health, the Navy is voluntarily conducting this off-base drinking water well investigation prior to completing the on-base investigation of these chemicals on OLF Silverhill. If the Navy's sampling identifies that your well contains PFOS and/or PFOA above the EPA lifetime health advisory level, the Navy will provide bottled drinking water. We will continue to provide alternate drinking water until a long-term solution to address Navy releases is in place.

Enclosure (1) is a property owner questionnaire that we ask you to complete and return to the Navy. Enclosure (2) is answers to frequently asked questions about the drinking water well sampling. Enclosure (3), is the OLF Silverhill Drinking Water Investigation Fact Sheet; Enclosure (4), is the EPA Fact Sheet; and Enclosure (5), is a project background packet that provides additional information on the background and the drinking water well sampling. You may also review our project website at <http://go.usa.gov/xAEQF>.

We invite you to attend an online Virtual Open House from June 4 through August, 2021 at <https://WhitingFieldPFAS.com>. We will have information available on the project background and the drinking water well sampling, including a link to request a drinking water well sampling appointment.

We are committed to keeping you informed of the Navy's investigation. If you have specific questions, contact the Navy Public Affairs office at: whtg_naswf_pao.fct@navy.mil or call and leave a detailed message at 844-NASWFLD (844-627-9353); please include your telephone number so that a team member may return your call.

Sincerely,



PAUL N. FLORES
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer

Enclosures:

1. Property Owner Questionnaire
2. Property Owner Frequently Asked Questions
3. OLF Silverhill Drinking Water Investigation Fact Sheet
4. EPA Fact Sheet: PFOA and PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisories
5. Project Background Packet