



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON
1343 DAHLGREN AVE SE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5161**

5090
Ser N45/031
February 13, 2023



Dear Sir or Madam:

**SUBJECT: DRINKING WATER SAMPLING NEAR NAVAL SUPPORT FACILITY
THURMONT**

The Navy is conducting an off-base drinking water investigation near Naval Support Facility (NSF) Thurmont beginning in March 2023. 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 conducting this investigation to proactively address possible issues that may exist from past Navy activity.

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

You may schedule a drinking water well sampling appointment for your property by calling (833) 222-3282 and leaving a message with your name, property address, property number (included above), and telephone number.

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals which have been widely used in many household and industrial products since the 1950s because of their stain- and water-repellent properties. Although the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has started the process to establish regulatory levels for two PFAS in drinking water, there are currently no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards. In May 2016, the EPA issued lifetime drinking water health advisories for two commonly used and studied PFAS: perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). These health advisories recommended that concentrations of PFOA and PFOS, whether individual or combined, in drinking water should not be above 70 parts per trillion (ppt).

The Navy subsequently established a policy to ensure the communities near our installations

are not exposed to drinking water with PFOS and/or PFOA because of a known or potential Navy release of PFAS-containing materials. Our first priority is to ensure people are not being exposed to PFOA and/or PFOS in their drinking water at concentrations above 70 ppt, whether individual or combined, as a result of a Navy PFAS release.

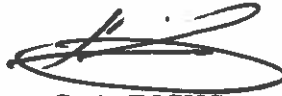
Working in partnership with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Fredrick County Health Department the Navy is voluntarily conducting this off-base drinking water source investigation near NSF Thurmont. If the Navy's sampling indicates that your drinking water source contains PFOS and/or PFOA above 70 ppt, the Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking. We will continue to provide alternate drinking water until a long-term solution is in place.

We ask you to please complete and return the enclosed well questionnaire and access authorization form prior to your sampling appointment. Enclosed please also find additional information regarding drinking water well sampling near NSF Thurmont. You may also review our project website at <http://www.navfac.navy.mil/ThurmontSampling>.

We invite you to attend an Open House on March 1, 2023 anytime between 5 and 7 p.m. at the Camp Round Meadow Gymnasium, Catoctin National Park, 14840 Manahan Rd, Sabillasville, MD 21780. The open house will have informational displays along with representatives from the Navy, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Fredrick County Health Department. You will also be able to schedule a drinking water well sampling appointment.

We are committed to keeping you informed of our investigation. If you have questions, contact the Navy Public Affairs office at: NDW_publicaffairs@us.navy.mil or call and leave a detailed message at (833) 222-3282; please include your telephone number so that a team member may return your call.

Sincerely,



G. A. DICKS
Chief of Staff

- Enclosures:
1. Drinking Water Well Questionnaire
 2. Access Authorization Form
 3. PFAS Drinking Water Sampling Frequently Asked Questions
 4. NSF Thurmont Off-Base Drinking Water Sampling for PFAS Fact Sheet