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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Navy to sample private drinking water wells near NBK-Bangor for PFAS *Open house public meetings scheduled for Feb. 19-20*

BANGOR, Wash. - The U.S. Navy will host two open house meetings near Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor to inform the public and answer questions about upcoming efforts to sample drinking water wells near the installation for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances, known as PFAS.

The Navy is proactively seeking to test private drinking water wells in designated locations for two specific PFAS chemicals, known as Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS).

These chemicals are key components in Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), which the Department of the Defense historically has used as a firefighting agent for real-world incidents and training scenarios.

The Navy would like to sample private wells to determine if PFAS-containing substances used at Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor could have migrated through groundwater into off-base drinking water wells at levels greater than U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's health advisory levels.

In May 2016, the EPA announced a lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for both PFOS and PFOA.

Although these health advisory levels are not enforceable regulatory standards, the Navy is voluntarily seeking to identify private wells that may contain levels of PFAS greater than the lifetime health advisory due to Navy activities. The best way to detect an exceedance is to sample the drinking water directly.

The Navy has sampled Bangor's on-base drinking water and the results did not indicate levels of PFOS or PFOA beyond the health advisory level.

The Navy is currently assessing locations at Bangor where PFAS-containing substances may have been used, stored, or disposed of on base. Since these chemicals move quickly through the soil and groundwater, these occurrences could have introduced PFAS-related chemicals into the environment surrounding the base.

The Navy has mailed a letter to residents to provide further information about testing and to request authorization to sample their water. Testing will be available to the public within the sampling area at no cost.

The Navy will hold two informational public meetings on the following dates and times to inform the community of the sampling program, address any public inquiries and schedule testing appointments.

- Session One: Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
- Session Two: Thursday, Feb. 20, 2020, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

People may attend anytime within that window and meeting times may be extended depending on turnout. Both meetings will be held at the Silverdale Best Western, 3073 NW Bucklin Hill Rd., Silverdale, Washington. Representatives from partner agencies, including the EPA, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Health, and Kitsap Public Health District will also be at the meeting.

Across the country, the Navy is committed to working with our local communities on this important issue and keeping the public informed.

PFAS chemicals have been used nationwide since the 1950s in products that resist heat, stains, grease and water. They have been used in a variety of products and substances such as non-stick cookware, food packaging such as microwaveable popcorn bags, and water-resistant textiles and sprays used to treat carpets and fabrics.

For media queries, please contact NBK Public Affairs at 360-627-4046 or pao.nbk.cnrnw@navy.mil.

For drinking water well sampling inquiries, please contact Naval Facilities Engineering Command Public Affairs at 360-396-6387 or james.k.johnson3@navy.mil.

For more information on PFAS at local Naval Installations please visit: <https://www.navfac.navy.mil/NWPFAS>.