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## Navy waste could harm private wells

JACKSONVILLE (AP) — The water supplies of some 2,500 people who have private wells within three miles of two local Navy bases could be threatened by hazardous wastes, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said.

While the EPA warns the potential for contamination exists, state environmental officials said no evidence of contamination has been found outside either Cecil Field Naval Air Station or Jacksonville Naval Air Station.

The EPA announced last week that it is proposing to add both bases to its Superfund list of the nation's worst hazardous waste sites.

At Cecil Field on the west side of Jacksonville, the drinking water of some 2,200 people with private wells could be threatened. At Jacksonville Naval Air Station, the water of an estimated 300 residents has the potential for contamination.

"As far as I know there have been no private wells contaminated by the Navy," said Mike Fitzsimmons, waste program administrator with the state.

Navy officials said they do not think any contamination has spread off the bases and no private drinking wells are at risk.

"Testing of ground water on the base and the identification of contamination plumes will be part of the Navy's investigation," Navy spokeswoman Veronica Schauer said.

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