

NAVAL AIR STATION WHIDBEY ISLAND

DRINKING WATER SYSTEM

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

2022



Naval Air Station Whidbey Island (NASWI) owns and operates a community drinking water system, which provides purchased, treated, drinking water to employees, residents, and visitors. The following water quality information is being provided to you, our consumer, in accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, as implemented by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) regulations.

Throughout 2022, the drinking water distributed through the Navy water system consistently met federal and state drinking water health standards.



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Where does my drinking water come from?

The NASWI water supply comes from the water treatment facility at Mount Vernon, owned and operated by the City of Anacortes. Raw water from the Skagit River is pumped to the plant where it undergoes full treatment including screening, filtration, and disinfection to make it safe. The treated water is then pumped to Whidbey Island via pipeline and enters the NASWI water system. The drinking water system aboard NASWI is operated by the base operating services contractor, whose contract is managed by the base Public Works Department. The Environmental Division reports water sampling results to ensure compliance with EPA and DOH regulations. Water treatment aboard NASWI includes adding fluoride to strengthen teeth and chlorine, only as needed, to ensure adequate disinfection.

What is in my drinking water?

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up other substances resulting from the presence of animals or human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- ☞ Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- ☞ Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining and farming.
- ☞ Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- ☞ Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are the potential by-products of various industrial processes, petroleum storage and handling, gas station operations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- ☞ Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production, and mining operations.

How is the safety of my drinking water ensured?

To ensure your tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Your water is monitored daily for chlorine and fluoride treatment levels, monthly for the presence of coliform bacteria, and quarterly in four locations for chlorine disinfection by-products. It is monitored every three years for lead and copper, and once every 6 years for asbestos.

Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Can my health be affected?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should

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seek advice about their drinking water from their health care providers. EPA and Center for Disease Control guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Is there lead in my drinking water?

EPA and Washington State regulations require NASWI to monitor for the presence of lead and copper at household and non-residential taps every 3 years. Lead was tested in 2022 with no exceedances detected out of 30 locations sampled. The next round of testing is scheduled to take place in 2025. If present in your drinking water, lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and children. It is possible that lead levels in your home may be higher compared to others due to plumbing construction and service lines. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using it for drinking or cooking. Additional information about lead in your water is available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

What about other contaminants?

The City of Anacortes Water Treatment Plant, as NASWI's water supplier, is required to test for water contaminants at the water source. They reported no violations of total coliform bacteria, total organic carbon, nitrate, haloacetic acids, total trihalomethanes, sodium, barium, fluoride, or turbidity in the treated drinking water. Visit the City of Anacortes' water quality report webpage for more information:

<https://www.cityofanacortes.org/Archive.aspx?AMID=47>

Due to the consistency with meeting requirements and not having water quality exceedances, there has been no need for a public meeting to discuss decisions affecting the water quality. If such a meeting becomes necessary in the future, it will be publicized in the NASWI Plan of the Week, NASWI website, and social media.

What can I do to save water?

Water is one of our most precious resources. As summer approaches and rainfall becomes scarce, it is particularly important to conserve water at home. Saving water minimizes the effects of drought and water shortages, helps to preserve the environment, and makes water available for recreational purposes.

Things you can do to save water at home include:

- ⌚ Turn off the water while brushing teeth or shaving.
- ⌚ Take shorter showers.
- ⌚ Use your dishwasher and washing machine for full loads only.
- ⌚ Check pipes, faucets, and outdoor spigots for slow leaks.

For drinking water quality or conservation comments or questions, please contact the Water Program Manager, Leanne McConnell at (360) 994-8939.

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The following table presents the regulatory limits and sampling results for contaminants, which NASWI routinely monitors:

LEAD AND COPPER – Testing is completed through the customers’ taps every 3 years. The 2022 results are below:						
Contaminant	Action Level	MCLG	90th percentile	Samples Exceeding Limits	Violation	Typical Sources
Lead	90% of tested homes less than 15 ppb	0 ppb	2 ppb	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Copper	90% of tested homes less than 1.3 ppm	1.3 ppm	0.182 ppm	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
INORGANIC CHEMICALS - Chloride and Fluoride tested daily						
Contaminant	EPA's MRDL	MRDLG	Highest Result	Results Range	Violation	Typical Sources
Chlorine	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.0 ppm	0.1-1.0 ppm	NO	Added as a drinking water disinfectant.
Contaminant	MCL	Ideal Goal	Highest Result	Range Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride (ppm)	4 ppm	4 ppm	0.89 ppm	0.49-0.89 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits, or water additive that promotes strong teeth.
DISINFECTION BY-PRODUCTS - Tested quarterly at 4 locations in the water system						
Contaminant	MCL	Average Detected	Range Results	Violation	Typical Sources	
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	16.1 ppb	11.1-24.6 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	
Total Haloacetic Acids	60 ppb	19.6 ppb	13.4-30.7 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.	
How to Read the Water Quality Data Table: EPA establishes the safe drinking water regulations that limit the amount of contaminants allowed in drinking water. The table shows the concentrations of detected substances in comparison to regulatory limits. Substances not detected are not included in the table.						
Action Level (AL). Action Level is the concentration of lead or copper in drinking water which, if exceeded, may trigger additional water treatment or other corrective actions.						
Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.						
Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.						
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL). The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.						
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG). The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.						
N/A = not applicable; ND = non-detectable by EPA required lab analysis method (DOH reporting limit is 1 ppb).						
Units in the Table: ppm is an abbreviation for parts per million; ppb is an abbreviation for parts per billion.						

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Per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and where do they come from?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals. PFAS have been used in a variety of industries and consumer products around the globe, including in the United States, since the 1940s. PFAS have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents for carpets, clothing, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They are also contained in some foams (aqueous film-forming foam or AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires at airfields and in industrial fire suppression processes because they rapidly help extinguish fires, save lives and protect property. PFAS chemicals are persistent in the environment and some are persistent in the human body – meaning they do not break down and they can accumulate over time.

Is there a regulation for PFAS in drinking water?

The EPA has developed drinking water health advisories for a small number of PFAS; these advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. The advisories provide technical information to states and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies.

On March 14, 2023, the EPA proposed a draft regulatory drinking water standard for certain PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS. In response, the DoD has issued the following statement:

“DoD respects and values the public comment process on this proposed nationwide drinking water rule and looks forward to the clarity that a final regulatory drinking water standard for PFAS will provide. In anticipation of the final standard that EPA expects to publish by the end of 2023, the DoD is assessing what actions DoD can take to be prepared to incorporate EPA’s final regulatory standard into our current cleanup process, such as reviewing our existing data and conducting additional sampling where necessary. In addition, DoD will incorporate nationwide PFAS cleanup guidance, issued by EPA and applicable to all owners and operators under the federal cleanup law, as to when to provide alternate water when PFAS are present.”

Has NASWI tested its water for PFAS?

In 2020, the DoD established a policy to monitor drinking water for PFAS at all DoD owned and operated water systems at a minimum of every three years. All of NASWI’s drinking water wells are scheduled to be tested again in 2023 per DoD policy. On 23 November 2020, drinking water samples were collected from the two Navy owned drinking water wells at Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Coupeville. Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), one of a group of related PFAS chemicals was not detected; however, another PFAS chemical, Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), tested above the 2016 EPA’s lifetime health advisory of 70 ppt. PFOS and PFOA, either individually or combined, measured at 247 ppt in one of the two wells sampled. Public notification of this sample result was initially provided on 11 January 2021, via the Water Quality website (copy and paste link if it does not work from clicking in PDF):

<https://cnrnw.cnrc.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Environmental-Stewardship-and-Compliance/Water-Quality-Information/>

In accordance with the DoD policy, alternate water, i.e. bottled water, is currently being provided to personnel working at OLF Coupeville until the drinking water sampling results consistently indicate PFOS and PFOA levels are below 70 ppt. NASWI is sampling quarterly to monitor the situation, and periodic updates will be available on the link above.

In November 2021, the Navy sampled the water received at two entry points into Ault Field’s and Seaplane Base’s drinking water distribution system. PFAS compounds were not detected, which meets DoD policy.