

PUBLIC NOTICE
DRINKING WATER PFAS CONTAMINATION ABOVE LIFETIME HEALTH ADVISORY

08 January 2021

The safety and health of all Navy personnel at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island are our top priority. In accordance with the March 2020 Secretary of Defense Policy for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) sampling in DOD owned drinking water systems, I am informing you of the results of the drinking water testing conducted on 23 November 2020 at the Outlying Landing Field Trainer Building 2807 in Coupeville.

Based on the sampling results, Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) tested higher than 70 parts per trillion (ppt), which is above the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA). The LHA is the health based concentration level above which action should be taken to reduce exposure to PFOA.

While the EPA does not enforce HA levels, Navy policy requires taking action with additional testing and corrective measures if a PFAS sample exceeds the LHA in Navy drinking water systems. As our first immediate response, we will be providing an alternative drinking water source until PFAS levels can be reduced below the HA.

I know this issue will generate more questions than this letter can answer. Ordinarily, we would host an Open House meeting to present this information and allow you to discuss your questions and concerns with our team. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Navy believes that holding a group meeting is not safe at this time. If you have drinking water quality questions, we encourage you to call or email our Public Affairs Office (PAO) at (360) 257-2286 or via e-mail at @WHDB_NASWI_PAO@navy.mil.

Below is a link to the EPA Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFOS and PFOA that provides some additional resources you may find informative:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

Environmental investigation of PFOS and PFOA is on-going at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island and includes the Coupeville Trainer area. To learn more about the NAS Whidbey Island Environmental Restoration Program, please feel free to visit the following website:

https://www.navfac.navy.mil/navfac_worldwide/pacific/fecs/northwest/about_us/northwest_documents/environmental-restoration/pfas-groundwater-and-drinking-water-investigation/nswi_pfas.html

In addition, you can learn more about the Navy's PFAS comprehensive strategy at:

<https://www.secnav.navy.mil/eie/pages/pfc-pfas.aspx>

Rest assured that my team and I are working diligently to find a way to address PFAS in drinking water, and in the interim, we will continue to supply an alternate drinking water source and conduct additional drinking water sampling. I am committed to the safety and health of all personnel using our facilities and will keep you updated on this issue.

Sincerely,

M.L. Army
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer