



NAS Pensacola Pensacola, Florida Results from Off-Base Drinking Water Investigation

March 29, 2019

INTRODUCTION

The Navy has developed a protective policy to address past releases of a class of compounds called per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS. These substances may be present in the soil and/or groundwater at Navy sites as a result of historical activities using firefighting foam (AFFF or aqueous film forming foam), including response to crashes, equipment testing, training, etc.

Since firefighting foam was used in response to plane crashes on Sherman Field Runway 7R of Naval Air Station (NAS) Pensacola and because these compounds have the potential to enter into and migrate with groundwater, the Navy initiated an investigation of private drinking water wells in areas in close proximity to NAS Pensacola in February 2019. **Results from this investigation indicate PFAS have not impacted nearby private drinking water wells at levels requiring action.** Although this fact sheet focuses on NAS Pensacola, similar investigations have been initiated near Saufley Field and Corry Station.

INITIAL INVESTIGATION

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are the only PFAS that have lifetime health advisories for drinking water set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA health advisory level for lifetime exposure is 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 70 ppt for PFOS. When both PFOA and PFOS are found in drinking water, the combined concentrations should not exceed 70 ppt. The Navy uses

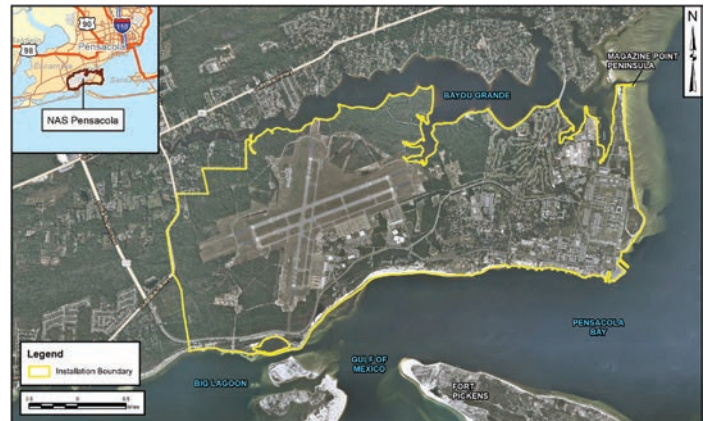


Figure 1- NAS Pensacola Field

these levels to evaluate the drinking water results to determine if exposure to PFAS in drinking water needs to be addressed. The Navy has detected PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS in some shallow groundwater monitoring wells at NAS Pensacola. The Navy performed the off-base private drinking water sampling in February 2019. The table below summarizes the results of the sampling already conducted near NAS Pensacola.

Results from Off-Base Drinking Water Investigation at NAS Pensacola (as of March 27, 2019)			
Samples Collected	PFOA and/or PFOS Not Detected	PFOA and/or PFOS Detected Below EPA Health Advisory	PFOA and/or PFOS Detected Above EPA Health Advisory
10	6	4	0

None of the wells sampled contained PFOA and PFOS above the EPA health advisory, so no immediate action was required for these wells to reduce exposure.

Figure 2 shows the designated sampling area and a summary of the off-base drinking water results. Although available records indicate the majority of drinking water in the designated area is supplied by Peoples Water

If preliminary results show that drinking water from your private well contains PFOS and/or PFOA above the EPA lifetime health advisory, then the Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking until a long-term solution is implemented.

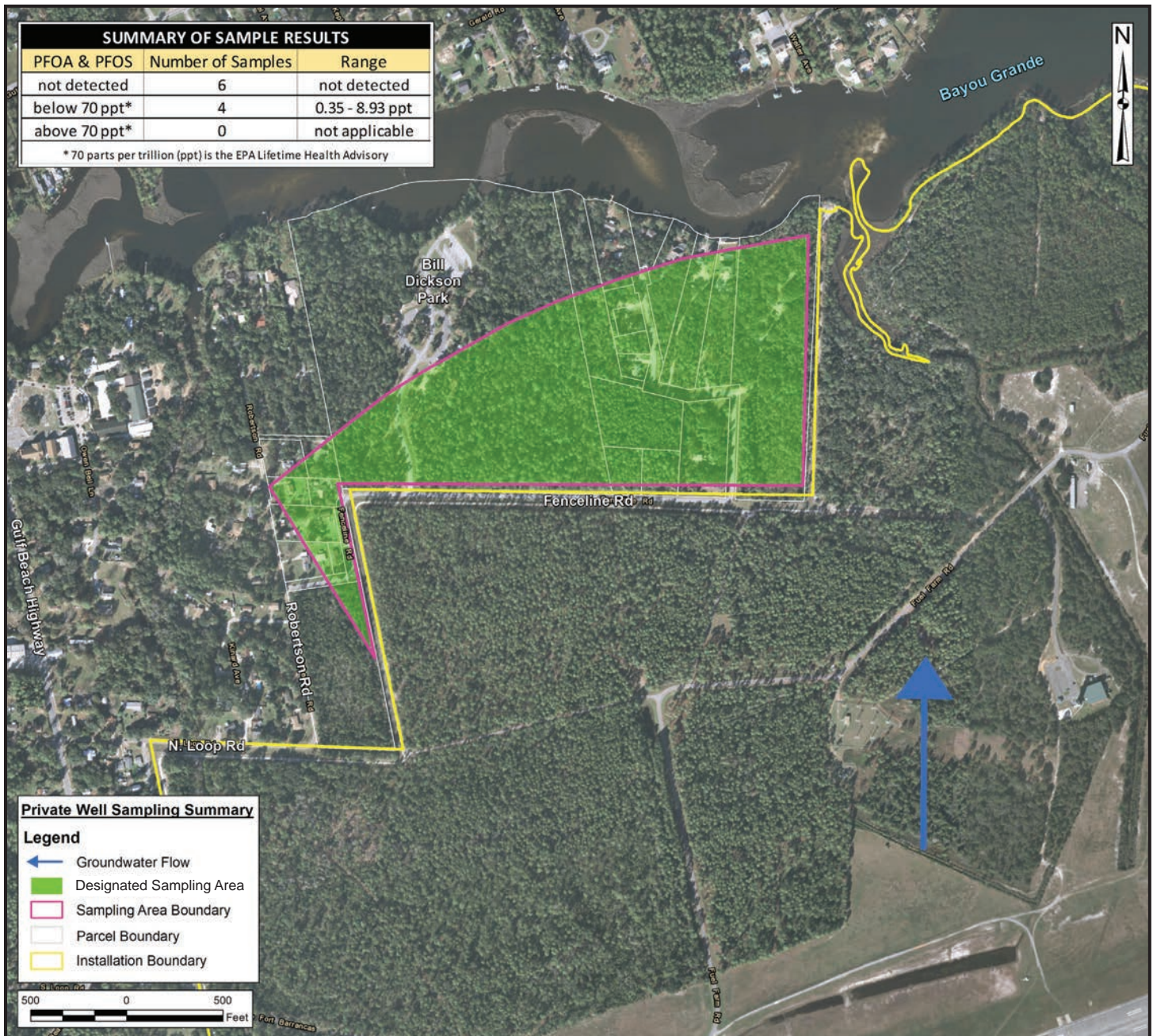


Figure 2- Designated Private Well Sampling Area

Service Company (Peoples), the Navy asked the community for assistance in identifying additional private drinking water wells located in the designated area depicted on Figure 2. The Navy is testing only private drinking water wells, not water supplied by public utilities like Peoples.

BACKGROUND

PFAS are man-made chemicals that have been used since the 1950s in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellant properties. The term PFAS refers to a large group of thousands of chemicals. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. PFAS has been found in non-stick cookware, food wrappers, and stain resistant fabrics. Once these compounds are released to the environment, they break down very slowly.

PFAS are “emerging” contaminants, which have no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards or routine water quality testing requirements. The EPA is currently studying certain PFAS to determine if regulation is needed. In May 2016, the EPA released lifetime health advisory levels for two PFAS, specifically PFOA and PFOS. Health advisory levels are not regulatory standards. They are health-based concentrations which EPA states offer a margin of protection for all Americans throughout their life from exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.

There is no legal requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. It is a voluntary measure because water quality for our off-

base neighbors is a priority for the Navy. The Navy is performing this drinking water sampling in coordination with partners, including Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Region 4, Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Florida Department of Health (FDOH) and the Escambia County Natural Resources Management Department.

ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS

The Navy would like to sample any additional drinking water wells in the designated sampling area (Figure 2). If your property is within the designated sampling area and you have a drinking water well on your property that has not been sampled yet as part of this project, you may schedule sampling of your well by calling 850-452-8715, or by emailing the NAS Pensacola Community Planning and Liaison Officer at: stephen.j.opalenik@navy.mil. The Navy will provide an alternate water source, likely bottled water, for drinking and cooking to any property owner in the sampling area whose water contains PFOA and/or PFOS above the EPA health advisory levels.

The preliminary results from off-base drinking water sampling are expected approximately 30 days after the samples are collected. The Navy will do its best to keep personally identifiable information related to sampling results confidential, to the extent permitted by law. We will provide notification to the property owners of their personal drinking water results and follow-up actions if needed.

Results from any additional drinking water sampling are expected in spring 2019.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_pensacola.html

If you have specific questions contact the NAS Pensacola Community Planning and Liaison Officer at: 850-452-8715 or stephen.j.opalenik@navy.mil