

2023 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report of Naval Air Station Whiting Field (NAS Whiting Field)

This report will be mailed to customers only upon request and is also available at Bldg. 1430, NASWF Public Works Department, Environmental Division upon request.

We are pleased to report that our drinking water meets all federal and state requirements.

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Our water source is ground water from three (3) wells. The wells draw from the Sand and Gravel Aquifer. The treatments required are chlorine for disinfection purposes and Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) for pre-treatment. Caustic Soda is added as a buffering agent and Aqua Mag is also added as a means to reduce pipe degradation.

In 2023, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection performed a Source Water Assessment on our system. The assessment was conducted to provide information about any potential sources of contamination in the vicinity of our wells. There are seven (7) potential sources of contamination identified for this system with low to moderate susceptibility levels. The assessment results are available on the FDEP Source Water Assessment and Protection Program website at <https://fldep.dep.state.fl.us/swapp/> or they can be obtained from **Mrs. Jacquelin Brooke Boyd, Physical Scientist, Naval Air Station Whiting Field, Public Works Department (850) 554-6676 or via email at jacquelin.b.boyd.civ@us.navy.mil.**

NAS Whiting Field routinely monitors for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws, rules and regulations. Except where indicated otherwise, this report is based on the results of our monitoring for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2023. Data obtained before January 1, 2023 and presented in this report are from the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

In the table below, you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

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.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal or 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.

Not Detected (ND): Indicates that the substance was not found by laboratory analysis.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$): One part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l): One part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

2023 CONTAMINANTS TABLE

Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants							
Barium (ppm)	May & Sep 2021	N	0.043	0.014-0.043	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	June & July 2023	N	0.018	ND-0.018	4	4.0	Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories. Water additive which promotes strong teeth when at the optimum level of 0.7 ppm
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	June 2023	N	0.8	0.73-0.8	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (ppm)	May & Sep 2021	N	32.9	28-32.9	N/A	160	Salt water intrusion, leaching from soil
Stage 1 and Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products							
Disinfectant or Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	MCL or MRDL Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Range of Results	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL or MRDL	Likely Source of Contamination
Chlorine (ppm)	Jan-Dec 2023	N	0.57	0.39-0.77	MRDLG = 4	MRDL = 4.0	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppm)	Aug 2023	N	1.7	N/A	N/A	MCL = 60	By-product of Drinking Water Disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) (ppm)	Aug 2023	N	6.2	N/A	N/A	MCL = 80	By-product of Drinking Water Disinfection
Lead and Copper (Tap Water)							
Contaminant and Unit of Measurement	Dates of sampling (mo/yr)	AL Exceeded (Y/N)	90th Percentile Result	No. of sampling sites exceeding the AL	MCLG	AL (Action Level)	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper (tap water) (ppm)	Jun-Sep 2022	N	0.4	0 of 10	1.3	1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Lead (tap water) (ppb)	Jun-Sep 2022	N	2.3	0 of 10	0	15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits

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 U.S., 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) currently used for fighting petroleum fires at airfields and in industrial fire suppression processes. 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? ¹

On April 10, 2024, the US EPA established MCLs for a subset of PFAS chemicals.

Compound	MCL
PFOA	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	10 ppt
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	1 (unitless) Hazard Index

EPA requires implementation of sampling in accordance with the new MCLs within three years of the publication date and implementation of any required treatment within five years.

These limits did not apply for the 2023 calendar year because they had not been published. However, the DoD proactively promulgated policies to monitor drinking water for PFAS at all service owned and operated water systems at a minimum of every two years. The DoD policy states that if water sampling results confirm that drinking water contains PFOA and PFOS at individual or combined concentrations greater than the 2016 EPA health advisory (HA) level of 70 ppt, water systems must take immediate action to reduce exposure to PFOS or PFAS. For levels less than 70 ppt but above the 4 ppt level (draft at the time of policy publication), DoD committed to planning for implementation of the levels once EPA's published MCLs take effect.

Has NAS Whiting Field tested its water for PFAS in 2023?

Yes. In May 2023 samples of the collected from the water treatment plant and analyzed for PFAS in 2023.

We are pleased to report that drinking water testing results were below the Method Reporting Limit (MRL) for all 29² PFAS compounds covered by the sampling method, including PFOA and PFOS. This means that PFAS were not detected in your water system. In accordance with DoD policy, the water system will be resampled every two years for your continued protection.

https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/cnrse/installations/nas_whiting_field/om/environmental_support/PFAStesting.html

https://www.cnic.navy.mil/om/base_support/environmental/water_quality/Testing_for_Perfluorochemicals.html

¹ This language and language referencing the HA will need to change to reflect any promulgated state standards relevant to the installation. Any language changes need to be vetted through respective high headquarters and public health centers. [CNIC HQ for Navy]

² Total number of analytes must be validated against your sample results.

At present, no health standards (for example, maximum contaminant levels) have been established for Unregulated Contaminants. We are pleased to report that we had no detections of any of any of the contaminants tested. If you would like more information on the EPA's Unregulated Contaminants Monitoring Rule (UCMR), please call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. NAS Whiting Field is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. 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 water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- (A) Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- (B) Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- (C) Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- (D) Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- (E) Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations, which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

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 who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

“Please DO NOT FLUSH your unused/unwanted medications down toilets or sink drains. More information is available at <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/waste/categories/medications/pages/disposal.htm>.”

We at NAS Whiting Field would like you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water. If you have any questions or concerns about the information provided, please feel free to call any of the numbers listed.