



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL AIR STATION OCEANA
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VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA 23460-2191

IN REPLY REFER TO:

May 20, 2016

Subj: NAVAL AUXILIARY LANDING FIELD (NALF) FENTRESS PERFLUORINATED COMPOUND (PFC) TESTING AND RESPONSE

In prior letters, I have described the U.S. Navy's initiative to test for, and respond to, the presence of PFCs in drinking water at NALF Fentress. To recap, PFCs are unregulated or "emerging contaminants" for which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards. The EPA is now studying PFCs to determine if regulation is needed. The Navy has nonetheless proactively tested on-base drinking water for potential PFC contamination at installations where there has been a nearby known or suspected release of PFCs to the environment. NALF Fentress was tested because in past years commonly-used fire-fighting foam, Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF), containing PFCs was released to the ground. As you know, this fire-fighting foam is no longer used for training at NALF Fentress.

In January of this year, we learned that test results indicated the presence of Perfluorooctane (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanic Acid (PFOA) above provisional health advisory levels established by the EPA. Specifically, NALF Fentress drinking water was found to contain PFOS at a level of 1.0 parts per billion (ppb), which is higher than the provisional health advisory level of 0.2 ppb; PFOA was detected at a level of 1.8 ppb, which is higher than the provisional health advisory level of 0.4 ppb. Our immediate response was to provide all NALF Fentress personnel with bottled water as an alternative water source for drinking and cooking. As I have previously stated, an alternative water source will continue to be provided until PFCs can be reduced to levels acceptable to the EPA.

Throughout this initiative, our team has stressed that the science surrounding PFCs is evolving and that, as the scientific community learns more, the EPA provisional health advisory levels may change or additional standards may be developed by other federal, state, or local agencies. I am writing to inform you that yesterday, May 19, 2016, the EPA issued a new lifetime health advisory level of 0.07 parts per billion for PFOS and/or PFOA. Using this health advisory level, the concentration of detected PFOS and PFOA in drinking water should not exceed 0.07 ppb when these chemical concentrations occur alone or added together.

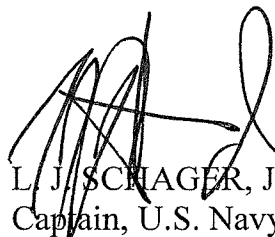
This change of health advisory level by the EPA will not affect our response to the presence of PFCs in NALF Fentress water; an alternative water source will continue to be provided for your use until a long-term solution is implemented.

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More information pertaining to the EPA's new health advisory level may be found at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>, as well as on the attached EPA Fact Sheet. (Please note: the figure "70 parts per trillion" in the EPA's Fact Sheet equals the figure "0.07 parts per billion" used in the paragraph, above.) Navy Region Mid-Atlantic drinking water quality information is also available at <http://1.usa.gov/1QbwtwN>.

Should you have any immediate health concerns, I would again encourage you to contact your health care provider, or our medical representatives, Dr. David Hiland or LCDR Robert Uniszkiwicz. Dr. Hiland may be reached at (757) 953-3772, and LCDR Uniszkiwicz may be reached at (757) 953-5080.

As always, I thank you for your hard work and dedication to the NALF Fentress mission. Your safety and health remains my top priority, and I will therefore continue to keep you updated on this important matter.



L. J. SCHAGER, JR
Captain, U.S. Navy
Commanding Officer