



# NSA HAMPTON ROADS-NORTHWEST ANNEX CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA 2023 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

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## For additional information:

**Virginia Department of Health**  
757-683-2000  
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/drinking-water/>

**USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline**  
800-426-4791  
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>

**NSA Hampton Roads Public Works Department Environmental**  
757-836-1862

Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads (NSA HR)-Northwest Annex is committed to providing you drinking water that is safe and reliable. NSA HR-Northwest Annex believes that providing you with accurate information about your water is the best way to assure that it is safe. There were no drinking water violations to report for 2023.

In 2018, Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were detected in two groundwater withdrawal wells above the EPA health advisory (HA) levels. These wells supply drinking water for Water Treatment Plant #1, but the plant and these wells have not been in service since 2014. While PFAS are unregulated contaminants, the Navy is taking corrective actions and treatment upgrades to reduce PFAS levels below EPA HA levels before the wells will be returned to service. In 2021 and 2023, PFAS was detected below the EPA HA level in samples collected from finished water at Water Treatment Plant #2. For additional information on PFAS and the Navy's continued testing program, please see page 4 of this report.

Each year, the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is required to be distributed by July 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year. This CCR is a snapshot of the quality of your drinking water in 2023. The purpose of this annual report is to advise consumers of where their water comes from, provide water quality data, advance greater understanding of drinking water, and heighten awareness to conserve water resources. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

## NSA HR-NORTHWEST ANNEX SOURCE WATER

NSA HR-Northwest Annex obtains raw water from the Yorktown aquifer, a naturally clean source of groundwater. Pumps, located in pump houses, are used to withdraw water from nine deep-water wells at the installation. Five wells supply Water Treatment Plant No. 1 (currently off line) and are located east of Wren Street in the vicinity of the Navy Housing complex. Four other wells supply water to Water Treatment Plant No. 2 and are located between Relay Road and Douglas A. Munro Road, south of the Coast Guard facility.

Raw water (sometimes referred to as untreated water) is pumped from the wells into the treatment plants and passes through pressure filters called "greensand filters." The greensand filters are designed to remove naturally occurring iron and manganese from the groundwater. After passing through the filters, chlorine is added to the treated water to disinfect and protect against microbiological contamination. This treated water is then pumped into storage tanks prior to being fed into the distribution system and ultimately to your faucet. NSA HR-Northwest Annex, with the help of the Virginia Health Department, monitors your drinking water throughout the year to ensure that it is safe to drink.

## ABOUT DRINKING WATER

The sources of drinking water (both tap 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. Substances (referred to as contaminants) in source water may come from septic systems, discharges from domestic or industrial wastewater treatment facilities, agricultural and farming activities, urban storm water runoff, residential uses, and many other types of activities. Water from surface sources is treated while groundwater may or may not receive any treatment.

The Virginia Department of Health conducted a Source Water Assessment of the NSA HR-Northwest Annex Waterworks in April 2019. All groundwater wells were determined to be of high susceptibility of contamination using the criteria developed by the state in its approved Source Water Assessment Program. The assessment report consists of maps showing the source water assessment area, an inventory of known land use activities of concern, and documentation of any known contamination within the last five years. The report is available by contacting PWD NSA Hampton Roads Environmental at 757-836-1862.

*The source of NSA HR-Northwest Annex drinking water includes four deep wells.*



## ABOUT DRINKING WATER (continued)

### **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 may be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or 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, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and may come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

**Radioactive contaminants**, which may be naturally occurring, or the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In addition to these contaminants, all lakes and streams contain algae, which are microscopic plants that can cause taste and odor problems in drinking water. All 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 Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791). In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) establishes limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

### **Who needs to take special precautions?**

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as those with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune systems 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/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/national-primary-drinking-water-regulations>.

Kidney dialysis patients should consult with their health care providers or dialysis centers in order to take special precautions when using chloraminated water. Fish owners should be sure chloramines are removed from the water before it is used in aquariums or ponds. Many pet stores sell water conditioners for chloraminated water.

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. NSA HR-Northwest Annex is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in buildings. 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 two minutes or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using water for drinking or cooking. If you have questions about your water, please contact PWD NSA Hampton Roads Environmental at 757-836-1862. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Contaminants in your drinking water are routinely monitored according to Federal and State regulations. The table on the following pages shows the results of monitoring for 2023. In the tables and elsewhere in this report you may find many terms and abbreviations which you are not familiar. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

**Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow. For lead and copper monitoring, compliance is based on the 90th percentile value.

**Level 1 Assessment** - A Level 1 assessment is a study of the waterworks to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our waterworks.

**Level 2 Assessment** - A level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the waterworks to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an *E. Coli*/PMCL violation has occurred and why total coliform bacteria have been found in our waterworks on multiple occasions.

**Health Advisory (HA)** - Health advisories provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to states agencies and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination. EPA's health advisory level for PFOA and PFOS offers a margin of protection for all Americans throughout their life from adverse health effects resulting from exposure to PFOA and PFOS in drinking water.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (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 based on running annual average. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants. For chlorine and chloramines, a waterworks is in compliance with the MRDL when the running annual average of monthly averages of samples taken in the distribution system, computed quarterly, is less than or equal to the MRDL.

**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 contamination.

**NA** - Not applicable

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU)** - A measure of the clarity, or cloudiness, of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

**Non-detection (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.

**Picocuries per liter (pCi/L)** - A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L)** - A measurement of the amount of contaminant per unit of water. A part per million is one cent in \$10,000 or one minute in two years.

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (ug/L)** - A measurement of the amount of contaminant per unit of water. A part per billion is like one cent in \$10,000,000 or one minute in 2,000 years.

**Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)** - Non-enforceable standard that is established for aesthetic considerations.

**Treatment Technique (TT)** - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

## WATER QUALITY DATA

The following tables list only those contaminants that were present in your drinking water at levels detectable by laboratory equipment. Unless otherwise noted, the data presented in these tables is from testing done in 2023. We are required to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants are less likely to change. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The EPA sets the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and the Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) as listed in the tables. The Regulated Substances Table and the Unregulated Substances Table are provided for your information and as required by the Consumer Confidence Rule.

### 2023 WATER QUALITY TABLE

Inorganic Contaminants	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level	Range	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination	
Fluoride (2022 Data)	ppm	4	4	0.17	NA	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from Fertilizer and Aluminum Factories.	
Lead and Copper Monitoring	Unit	MCLG	AL	Samples above AL	Highest Level (90th percentile)	Range	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination
Lead	ppb	0	15	0	3	ND – 4	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Copper	ppm	1.3	1.3	0	0.386	0.077 – 0.531	Yes	Corrosion of household plumbing systems
Lead and copper are regulated by a treatment technique that requires systems to control the corrosiveness of their water. If more than 10% of tap water samples exceed the AL, water systems must take additional steps. These samples were collected in 2023. The next sampling event will be in 2026.								
Radiological Data	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level	Range	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination	
Combined Radium	pCi/L	0	5	0.8	NA	Yes	Erosion of natural deposits	
Gross Beta	pCi/L	0	50	2.7	NA	Yes	Decay of natural and man-made deposits	
*EPA considers 50 pCi/L as the level of concern for beta particles								
Microbiological Contaminants	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level	Range	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination	
E. Coli	# of positive samples	0	*	0	NA	Yes	Human and animal fecal waste	
*Effective April 1,2016 The Revised Total Coliform Rule established the following Primary Maximum Contamination Level (PMCL): In compliance unless (i) the waterworks has an E. coli-positive repeat sample following a total coliform-positive routine sample; (ii) the waterworks has a total coliform-positive repeat sample following an E. coli-positive routine sample; (iii) the waterworks owner fails to take all required repeat samples following an E. coli-positive routine sample; or (iv) the waterworks owner fails to test for E. coli when any repeat sample tests positive for total coliform.								
Residual Disinfectants and Disinfection By Products	Unit	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level <sup>1</sup>	Range <sup>1</sup>	Meets EPA Standards	Possible Source of Contamination	
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	ppb	NA	60	13	7-16	Yes	A by-product of drinking water disinfection	
Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	ppb	NA	80	67	44.1 – 81.6	Yes	A by-product of drinking water disinfection	
Total Chlorine Residual	ppm	4 <sup>2</sup>	4 <sup>3</sup>	1.15	0.52-1.39	Yes	A water additive used to control microbes	
<sup>1</sup> The highest levels found for TTHM and HAA5 were the highest locational running annual averages found at each of the sample sites for each of the four quarters in 2023. The range is the highest and the lowest values found in the individual samples. The highest level found for Total Chlorine Residual was based on the running annual average calculated for each of the four quarters in 2023. The range is the highest and lowest values found in the individual samples. <sup>2</sup> MRDLG <sup>3</sup> MRDL								

Secondary and Unregulated Monitored Substances	Unit	SMCL	Highest Level	Range <sup>4</sup>	Likely Source
Hardness	ppm	NA <sup>5</sup>	195	151-195	Naturally present in the environment
Iron	ppm	0.3	0.38	0.02 - 0.38	Natural in environment
Manganese	ppm	0.05	0.051	0.008 – 0.051	Natural in environment
Sodium (2022)	ppm	NA <sup>6</sup>	30.8	NA	Natural in environment; also from use of chemicals at water treatment plant
Turbidity	NTU	NA <sup>7</sup>	0.9	0.1-0.9	Soil runoff
Antimony (2022)	ppb	PMCL = 6	ND	NA	Discharge from petroleum refineries; fire retardants; ceramics; electronics; solder

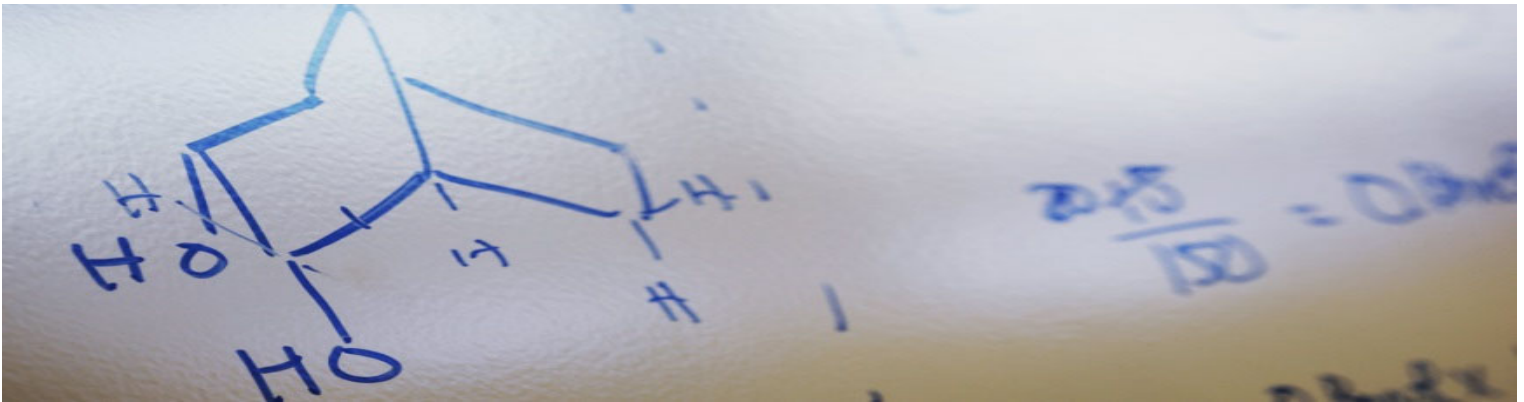
<sup>4</sup> These are results of samples collected from Plant No. 2. As mentioned in NSA NORTHWEST ANNEX SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT, the Water Treatment Plant No. 1 is currently off line and has been out of service since 2014.

<sup>5</sup> While safe to drink and use for household purposes, hard and soft water will affect your home in different ways. Soft water can lead to early corrosion in pipes while moderately hard water and higher may cause some skin dryness, or staining or spotting on glassware.

<sup>6</sup> Sodium was detected in your water sample at 35.8 mg/L. There is presently no established standard for sodium in drinking water. Water containing more than 270 mg/L of sodium should not be used as drinking water by those persons whose physician has placed them on moderately restricted sodium diets. Water containing more than 20 mg/L should not be used as drinking water by those persons whose physician has placed them on severely restricted sodium diets.

<sup>7</sup> Northwest Annex falls under groundwater source with no influence from surface water, therefore Turbidity is not required. However, it is still measured as an indicator of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity by itself is not harmful, but can interfere with the disinfection of drinking water. Turbidity is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

Water Hardness Scale		
Grains/Gal	mg/L & ppm	Classification
Less than 1	Less than 17.1	Soft
1 – 3.5	17.1 - 60	Slightly Hard
3.5 - 7	60 - 120	Moderately Hard
7 - 10	120 - 180	Hard
Over 10	Over 180	Very Hard



## 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 extinguish fires, saving lives and protecting 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?

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



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

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 NSA HR-Northwest Annex tested its water for PFAS?**

NSA HR-Northwest Annex conducted sampling events in 2020, 2021, 2022, and most currently December 2023. We are informing you that two of the 29 PFAS compounds covered by the sampling method were detected above the method reporting limit (MRL). The results are provided in the table below. EPA does not have a HA or MCL for all of these compounds at this time. PFHxS and PFBS were detected but below the new MCL. As the regulated chemicals were below the new MCLs, there is no immediate cause for concern, but we will continue to monitor the drinking water closely. Northwest Annex is currently on a semi-annual monitoring schedule effective CY2024.

PFAS	Unit	MCL	Highest Level	Likely Source
PFHxS	ppt	10	2.3	Firefighting foam, non-stick cookware and food packaging, waterproof clothing and shoes, stain resistant carpeting
PFBS	ppt	Hazard Index Calculation=1	0.23	Firefighting foam, non-stick cookware and food packaging, waterproof clothing and shoes, stain resistant carpeting

\*Finished water at Water Treatment Plant #2 was sampled in December 2023 for all PFAS, PFOA and PFOS compounds using EPA approved sampling methods 533 and 537.1.2. PFHxS and PFBS were the only compounds detected.

**VIOLATIONS AND EXCEEDANCES**

There were no drinking water violations to report for 2023 for NSA HR-Northwest Annex.

**QUESTIONS**

Please contact PWD NSA Hampton Roads Environmental staff at 757-836-1862 if you have any questions regarding this report.

To access this report electronically, please visit the Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic website:  
<https://cnrma.cnrc.navy.mil/Operations-and-Management/Environmental-Support/Drinking-Water-Quality-Information/>