U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS) SIGONELLA
CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT
U.S. NAVAL COMPUTER AND TELECOMMUNICATION STATION
NISCEMI
2010

About this report.

We are proud to present to you our annual drinking water quality report. This Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) provides valuable information on water quality and supports the Navy's commitment to provide high quality drinking water to our service members, their families, and DoD personnel. Presented in this report is information regarding the source of our water, its constituents, and the health risks associated with any contaminants detected in quantities exceeding a drinking water regulatory maximum contaminant level (MCL) or an action level (AL). The report covers the period of 1 January through 31 December 2010.

What standards apply to drinking water overseas?

DoD water systems in Europe must comply with country specific Environmental Final Governing Standards (FGS). The Environmental Final Governing Standards-Italy (IFGS) were developed after a comprehensive review and comparison of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and Italian drinking water standards. When Italy and USEPA standards are different, the most protective requirement was adopted into the IFGS. This assures U.S. personnel, family members, and Italian employees receive drinking water which meets requirements mutually agreed upon by the U.S. and Italy.

Is my water safe?

Tap water provided to Niscemi in 2010 did not meet IFGS, USEPA Primary Drinking Water Standards, and Italian drinking water standards for nitrate. The nitrate analyses were above the allowed MCL established by the above drinking water standards.

Annual Declaration of Non-Potability

The Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Italy, (Niscemi) drinking water is declared NON-POTABLE. This declaration is based on the Annual Drinking Water Surveillance results conducted by US ARMY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMAND REGION – EUROPE for calendar year 2010, and current U.S. Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Italy, Public Works Department, Environmental Division water analysis and test results.

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Where does my water come from?

The Niscemi facility purchases treated water from Calta Aqua, Acque di Caltanissetta S.p.A. The water provided to the Niscemi facility comes from a spring house located outside the installation property. The drinking water is chlorinated before it is distributed to the Niscemi facility. Bottled water is provided to personnel on Niscemi.

Source water assessment and its availability.

A source water assessment was conducted by an environmental engineering company contracted by the Navy. The last survey was completed in January 2009. Possible sources of potential contamination of the spring include local agricultural activities. Additional information about the source water assessment is available from the Public Works Environmental Office at 624-2722.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

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 from the Safe Drinking Water website, www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa. The source of your drinking water is spring

water, where water flows naturally to the surface of the earth from underground. As water travels through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals (including 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 can include the following:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, may come from septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic compounds, such as salts and metals, can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, domestic wastewater discharges, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemicals, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, are by-products of industrial processes and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive compounds can be naturally occurring.

How can I get involved?

Customers should always observe water conservation practices. Water is a scarce resource in Sicily and everyone's cooperation in conserving water is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please contact the Public Works Environmental Office Drinking Water Program Manager at 624-2722.

For what compounds is Niscemi drinking water tested?

Drinking water at the Niscemi is tested at least quarterly for nitrate, nitrite, microbiological contaminants, and residual chlorine (residual disinfectant). Information on the specific compounds tested and the testing frequency is available from the Public Works Environmental Office at 624-2722.

Additional information about nitrate.

High levels of nitrate in drinking water can be dangerous to health, especially for infants and pregnant women. Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. When ingested, high nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue-baby syndrome. High nitrate levels in spring water often result from overuse of chemical fertilizers or improper disposal of human and animal waste. For those who are pregnant, it is recommended to not drink the water and find

alternative water sources. If you are concerned about nitrate in your water, please contact the Drinking Water Program Manager at 624-2722. Information on nitrate in drinking water and the steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water website, www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa.

Water quality data table.

The following tables list the level of the detected drinking water contaminants regulated by the IFGS which were monitored during 2010, and compounds detected in previous years that are on a greater than one-year monitoring cycle. The presence of contaminants in the drinking water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

Contaminants (units)	USEPA MCLG or MRDLG	IFGS MCL	Your Water	Range		Year	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Disinfectants								
Chlorine (as Cl2) (ppm)	4	4	0.57	0.06	0.57	2010	No	Water additive used to control microbes.

Contaminants (units)	USEPA MCLG or MRDLG	IFGS MCL	Your Water	Range		Year	Violation	Typical Source
				Low	High			
Inorganic Contaminants								
Nitrate (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	13	12	13	2010	**No****	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Total Nitrate and Nitrite (as Nitrogen) (ppm)	10	10	13	12	13	2010	**No****	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Turbidity (NTU)	NA	Acceptable to consumer	1.25	0.12	1.25	2010	No	Soil runoff.
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha Emitters (pCi/L)	zero	15	2.2	-1.1	2.2	2008-2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits.
Beta/photon emitters (pCi/L)	zero	50	2.1	0.16	2.1	2008-2009	No	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Radium (Combined 226/228) (pCi/L)	zero	5	0.44	Not Detected	0.44	2008-2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits.

**Violation only occurs for systems that are potable water sources.

Unit Descriptions	
Term	**Definitions**
NA	Not applicable.
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit – A unit for measuring turbidity. Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water.
pCi/L	Picocuries per liter - A unit for measuring radioactivity.
ppb	Parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (µg/L).
ppm	Parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Important Drinking Water Definitions	
Term	**Definitions**
AL	Action Level - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. USEPA sets MCLs as close to the MCLG as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCLs are set by the USEPA or Italian water standards, and the most conservative (typically the lowest) value is adopted by the IFGS.
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by USEPA, and include a margin of safety.

For more information, please contact the Public Works Environmental Office at 624-2722.