



# News Release

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## **Navy asks twelve property owners for permission to test drinking water wells**

(Chesapeake, VA) – The Navy is contacting 12 property owners in the vicinity of Navy Auxiliary Landing Field Fentress for permission to sample drinking water from private wells for the presence of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs).

In February and March, the Navy tested 53 private wells within a half mile radius of the on-base wells where the compounds were detected. The Navy is providing water to two of the private wells that had levels above the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provisional health advisory for PFCs. Three wells are being monitored quarterly to ensure the PFCs remain below the EPA's provisional level. Results at 48 wells required no further action.

This week, Navy environmental staff, verifying the test values from the February sampling, discovered an error affecting the results at one property previously requiring no further action. The Navy has notified the property owner that the corrected results are still below the EPA advisory levels and asked for permission to monitor the well quarterly. A transposition of screening values was responsible for the incorrect result. The Navy has verified that all other comparisons to EPA's provisional health advisory values were accurate.

By policy, the Navy must now expand the sampling area in a half mile radius from this sample for the presence of the PFCs in drinking water wells. On Thursday, the Navy began notifying the 12 property owners within the half mile radius.

"When we started the testing we knew additional testing might be required," said Capt. Lou Schager, Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Oceana and Fentress. "We also promised to keep the community and our partners up-to-date and informed of where we are in the process and the next steps." Schager said.

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Fentress Drinking Water  
2-2-2-2-2

Sampling of the drinking water from the wells will be performed May 3-13, 2016. Property owners will be individually notified of the results. The results are expected in early June 2016. A public information update session will be held in June, similar to the ones conducted by the Navy, federal, state, and local agencies in February and March. The location, date, and time are still being determined.

A water-fill station for use by residents who have concerns with their well water used for cooking and drinking, will remain open. The Navy in partnership with the City of Chesapeake set up the station in February.

In December, Navy installations across the country began testing on-base drinking water wells for the presence of PFCs. The compounds were used in many products, beginning in the 1950s, for their stain and water-repellent properties, including the foam the Navy used to train Sailors in fighting aircraft fires at sea and ashore. The Navy no longer uses the foam in firefighting training. The compounds are also found in paints, carpets, cookware and food packaging.

Residents may obtain more information from:

Web: [www.cnic.navy.mil/FentressInfo](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/FentressInfo)

Email: [fentressinfo@navy.mil](mailto:fentressinfo@navy.mil)

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