IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, Non-regulated Well #30, Detectable Levels of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The health and well-being of our service members, civilians, and families continues to be a high priority. Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point (MCAS CHERPT) routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. On April 10, 2024, the EPA announced a final rule on drinking water standards for certain PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The rule establishes maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for several PFAS in drinking water, provides three years for regulated drinking water systems to begin monitoring and related public notifications, and five years for purveyors to install system improvements to comply with the new MCL levels. As a proactive approach and in anticipation of EPA's requirements, a Department of Defense (DoD) policy memorandum, dated 11 Jul 2023, required testing of all DoD-owned drinking water systems for PFAS by 31 Dec 2023. Samples from the MCAS CHERPT, Non-regulated Well #30 servicing Building 4041, were collected on July 27, 2023, and results were received on March 7, 2024. The method detection limit (MDL) for perfluorooctanoic acid is 0.42 nanograms per liter [ng/L]. **The sample yielded a result of 0.43 ng/L, which is still below the limit of detection (set by DoD)**. Results are listed in Table 1 below. The Non-regulated Well #30 provides drinking water to occupants of building 4041 and the associated area only (see Figure 1).

In accordance with the 11 July 2023 DoD policy, we are required to monitor drinking water for PFAS at a minimum of every two years and to notify the public of detectable PFAS in the drinking water supplied by DoD-owned drinking water systems. DoD policy also requires us to take action to provide alternative drinking water if the concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) exceed 70 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as nanograms per liter [ng/L]), individually or combined. The sample results are BELOW these levels.

Table 1: MCAS CHERPT public water supply system Finished Water PFAS Results

PFAS Analyte	Limit of Detection (ppt) (LOD)	Result (ppt)	DoD Action Level (ppt)
11-Chloroeicosafluoro-3-oxaun	1.3	Below LOD	70
4:2 Fluorotelomer sulfonic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
6:2FTS	1.8	Below LOD	70
8:2FTS	1.3	Below LOD	70
9-Chlorohexadecafluoro-3-oxan	1.3	Below LOD	70
DONA	1.3	Below LOD	70
Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimethyl	1.3	Below LOD	70
Nonafluoro-3,6-dioxaheptanoic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluoro(2-ethoxyethane) sulfonic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluoro-3-methoxypropanoic	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluoro-4-methoxybutanoic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluorobutanoic acid	1.8	Below LOD	70
Perfluorodecanoic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluorododecanoic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluoroheptanesulfonic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluoroheptanoic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluorohexanoic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluorononanoic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluorooctanesulfonate	1.3	0.43	70
*Perfluorooctanoic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluoropentanesulfonic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluoropentanoic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70
Perfluoroundecanoic acid	1.3	Below LOD	70

(* The sample at well #30 yielded as result of 0.43 ppt, however this value is still below the LOD)

What are Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and where do they come from?

PFAS are a group of thousands of man-made chemicals that have been used in a variety of industrial and consumer products around the world for decades. Due to their widespread use and environmental persistence, most people have been exposed to certain PFAS. They have been used to make coatings and products that are used as oil and water repellents in carpets, clothing, paper packaging for food, and cookware. They are also contained in some aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) used for fighting petroleum fires at airfields and for industrial fire suppression.

What does this mean?

Research is still ongoing to understand the mechanisms of PFAS toxicity. The risk of health effects associated with PFAS depends on exposure factors (dose, frequency, route, duration), individual factors (sensitivity and chronic disease burden), and other determinants of health. The epidemiological evidence suggests associations between increases in exposure to specific PFAS and certain health effects. For specific information about the health effects of PFAS exposure, please visit *https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas*.

Are there regulations for PFAS in drinking water?

As noted above, on April 10, 2024, the EPA announced a final rule on drinking water standards for certain PFAS under the SDWA. The rule applies to all regulated drinking water purveyors, including DoD. The rule establishes MCL for several PFAS in drinking water, sets forth requirements to establish monitoring and notification requirements within three years, and provides five years for regulated drinking water purveyors to comply with the specified MCL levels. We are working to protect the drinking water on our installation and ensure compliance with EPA standards in advance of the deadline.

What is being done?

MCAS CHERPT will continue to monitor for PFAS in the treated drinking water for MCAS CHERPT public water supply system on a periodic basis as directed by DoD policy and take appropriate action, as required. Additionally, MCAS CHERPT in coordination with Marine Corps Installations Command and joint service partners will continue to evaluate the potential need for mitigation measures, as necessary. MCAS CHERPT will post sampling results of detected PFAS on the installation's public webpage and in the drinking water system's Consumer Confidence Report(s) (accessible at *https://www.cherrypoint.marines.mil/Portals/86/Docs/WaterQualityReports/CCR2023aCherryPoint.pdf*). These efforts and required DoD timelines are in advance of EPA requirements noted in their recent regulations.

What can I do?

There is nothing you need to do, as there is no immediate risk to the general population. You may continue to use the water for all consumptive purposes (drinking, bathing, showering, cooking, dishwashing, and maintaining oral hygiene).

For more information, please visit https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained, or send inquiries to the Environmental Affairs Department at CHPT_FAC_EAD_OMB@usmc.mil, or call 252-466-3631.

This notice is provided by the Environmental Affairs Department.

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Figure 1: Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point Building 4041 and associated area served by Non-regulated Well #30.