



# Area 6 Landfill

## Naval Air Station Whidbey Island

### Oak Harbor, Washington

## PFAS Off-Base Drinking Water Sampling Results



April 2025

**The U.S. Navy has conducted sampling of certain drinking water wells within the sampling areas near Area 6 Landfill for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. There were detections of certain PFAS above Department of Defense (DoD) PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells and they are being addressed.**

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals which have been widely used in many household and industrial products since the 1950s. The Navy and DoD have developed proactive policies to address past releases of PFAS, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), at installations nationwide.

PFAS have been used in many household and industrial products because of their stain and water repellent properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. Once these compounds are released, many of them tend to stay in the environment for a very long time.

The most common activity associated with the historical release of PFAS to the environment at the Area 6 Landfill (**Figure 1**) was the disposal of PFAS-containing materials, including firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam). Due to this historical use, PFAS are present in the groundwater on-base and have been detected in nearby off-base drinking water wells located in the direction that groundwater flows away from the base.

### SEPTEMBER 2024 POLICY FOR PFAS IN OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER WELLS

On April 26, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) establishing nationwide drinking water standards for certain PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The regulation applies to public drinking water systems. Operators of public drinking water systems regulated by the NPDWR have five years to meet these standards. In September 2024, DoD published “Prioritization of Department of Defense Cleanup Actions to Implement the Federal Drinking Water Standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program,” which describes DoD’s plans to incorporate EPA’s drinking water regulation into DoD’s ongoing PFAS cleanups and prioritize interim actions to address private drinking water wells with the highest levels of PFAS from DoD activities. **Table 1** shows the DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells.

### PREVIOUS OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING SUMMARY

From 2018 through 2024 the Navy sampled 31 drinking water wells near the Area 6 Landfill (**Figure 1**). PFOA and/or PFOS were detected in nine drinking water wells above 70 parts per trillion (ppt), the DoD interim action level at the time. In 2022, the Navy connected six properties to the City of Oak Harbor water system. The Navy will continue to provide bottled water to the remaining five properties served by three wells with detections of PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 ppt for drinking and cooking until an enduring solution can be implemented.

Due to the September 2024 DoD policy, the Navy re-evaluated on-base groundwater results and off-base drinking water well results. Based on this information, the Navy identified four additional drinking water wells near Area 6 Landfill that contain PFAS above the September 2024 DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells (**Table 1**). Three of these wells are inactive or back up wells that do not require an enduring solution. The Navy contacted the remaining property owner to request permission to begin the process to implement an enduring solution.

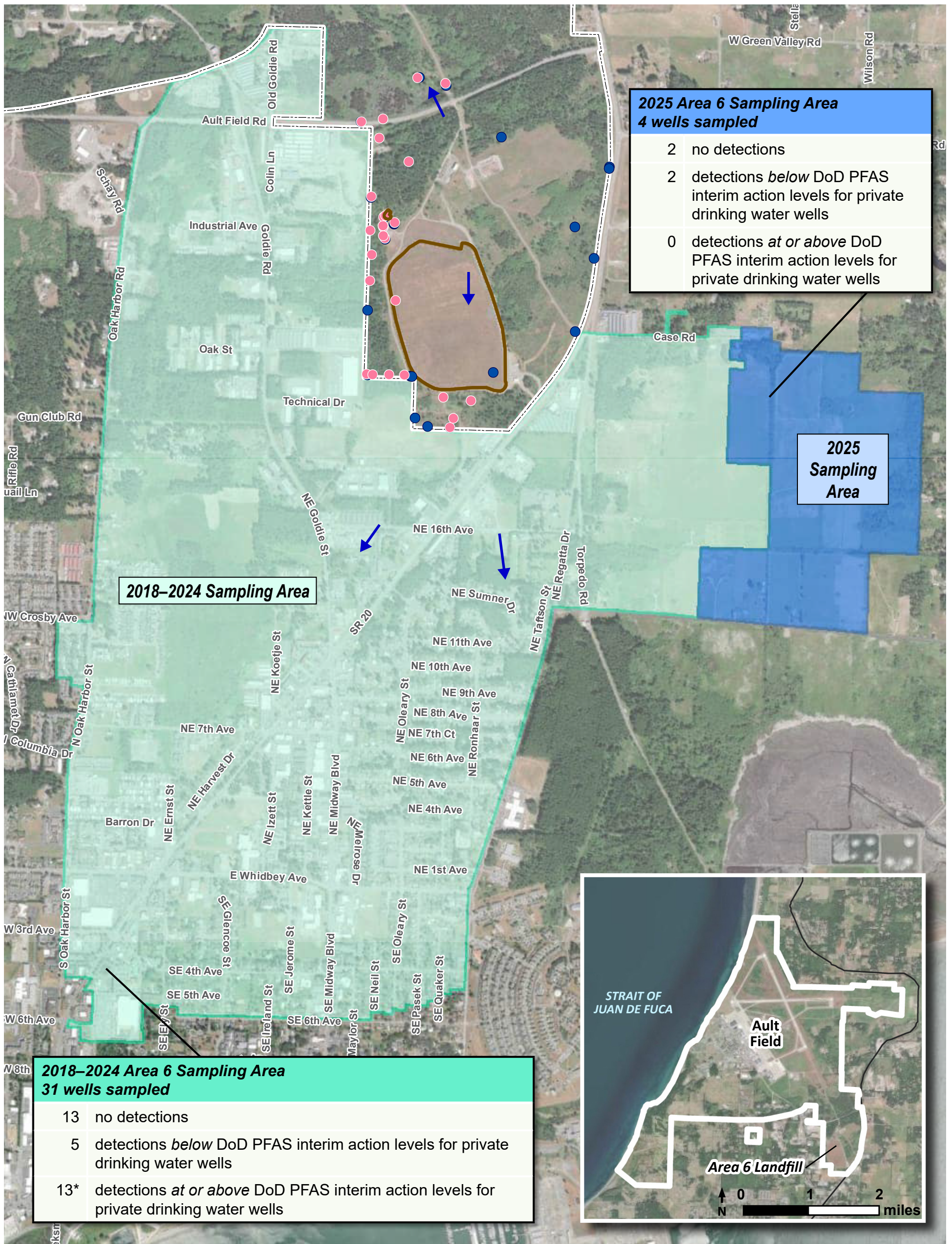
**Table 1: DoD PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells**

PFAS	Level
perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	12 ppt
perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	12 ppt
perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	30 ppt
perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	30 ppt
hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA, or GenX)	30 ppt
hazard index for mixture of at least two of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	3 (no units)

ppt = part(s) per trillion

**The Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to any property owner or tenant in the sampling areas whose well contains drinking water with PFOA and PFOS, individually or combined, above 70 ppt, until an enduring solution is implemented.**

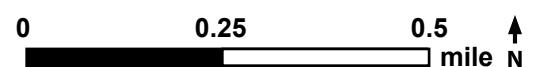
Figure 1 – Area 6 Landfill PFAS Sampling Areas



**LEGEND**

- On-base monitoring well groundwater sample *below* DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells
- On-base monitoring well groundwater sample *at or above* DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells
- Base boundary
- PFAS release area

- ➔ Groundwater flow direction
- 2018–2024 Sampling Area
- 2025 Sampling Area
- \*Three are inactive/backup drinking water wells



**2025 OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING**

During the re-evaluation due to the September 2024 policy, the Navy determined that the off-base drinking water sampling area near the Area 6 Landfill should be expanded (Figure 1).

The Navy also identified drinking water wells sampled in February and August 2018 that should be resampled because the laboratory method at that time could not detect PFAS at the current lower levels. Because of the laboratory method limitations, PFAS previously reported as not detected may now be detectable at low levels in these drinking water wells.

The Navy continues to request property owner permission to sample drinking water wells in the sampling areas that have not previously been sampled by the Navy. The Navy also continues to request property owner permission to resample certain drinking water wells sampled in February and August 2018.

Drinking water well sampling was conducted in early 2025. PFAS were not detected at or above DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells during the early 2025 sampling event. To date, 35 wells have been sampled near Area 6 Landfill (Table 2) including the 31 wells sampled from 2018 through 2024.

**Table 2. Area 6 Landfill – Drinking Water Wells Sampled 2018 – 2025**

<b>Total drinking water wells sampled</b>	<b>35</b>
No detections	15
Detections <i>below</i> DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells	7
Detections <i>at or above</i> DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells	13*

\*Three are inactive/backup drinking water wells

The Navy continues to conduct the sampling in collaboration with partners such as EPA Region 10, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Washington State Department of Health, and the Island County Public Health Department.

Records indicate the City of Oak Harbor water system provides drinking water for most of the properties within the sampling areas (Figure 1). If your drinking water is provided by the City of Oak Harbor water system, the Navy does not need to sample your drinking water.

**RESULTS COMMUNICATION**

Preliminary drinking water sample results were received from the laboratory within 30 days after the samples were collected. Property owners (and tenants, if present) were notified of their preliminary drinking water sample results.

Final drinking water sample results have been mailed or will be mailed to property owners (and tenants, if present) within 3 months after sample collection. They will also be available online at: <https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/map/pfasmap.html>. Individual results cannot be linked with the sampled property on this website. This website also contains information on planned DoD PFAS sampling of off-base drinking water wells.

**ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS**

The Navy will continue to address PFAS in private drinking water wells in keeping with DoD policy:

- **PFAS at or above DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells (Table 1).** The Navy will work with property owners to implement an enduring solution as soon as possible. For drinking water wells with PFOA and PFOS, individually or combined, above 70 ppt, the Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to property owners or tenants until an enduring solution, such as a treatment system or connection to public water supply, is implemented.
- **PFAS below the DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells (Table 1).** The Navy will work with regulators to initiate remedial actions to address private drinking water wells and public water systems with concentrations above the EPA’s NPDWR but below the DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water levels in accordance with Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act requirements.

The Navy will continue to investigate the presence of PFAS at the Area 6 Landfill and evaluate if actions are needed. The Navy is committed to ensuring the safety of its neighbors. To find out more about all on-base environmental investigations, visit <https://go.usa.gov/xh2Rd>.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER SAMPLING, VISIT:**

<https://pacific.navfac.navy.mil/NASWIPFAS>

**IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest  
Public Affairs Officer

(360) 340-5592 or [navfacnwpaoo@us.navy.mil](mailto:navfacnwpaoo@us.navy.mil)

**HEALTH INFORMATION**

Federal agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and EPA continue to conduct and support research into health effects associated with PFAS exposure. More information about health effects can be found online at:

ATSDR: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

EPA: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>