



Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor Silverdale, Washington Addressing PFAS in Private Drinking Water Wells



April 2025

The Navy is requesting property owner permission to sample certain drinking water wells for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, within sampling areas near Naval Base Kitsap (NBK)-Bangor.

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 Department of Defense (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 NBK-Bangor (**Figure 1**) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF). 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 United States 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 the 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.

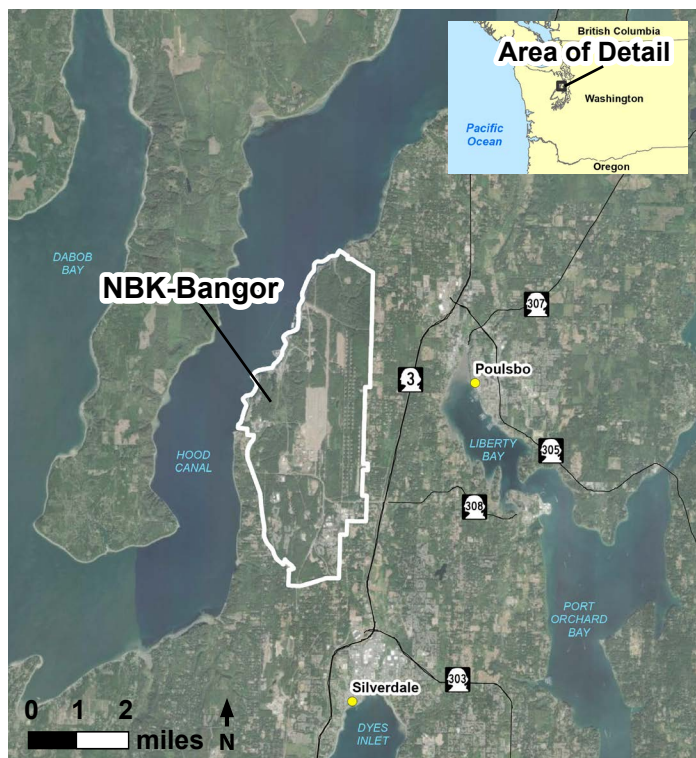


Figure 1 – NBK-Bangor

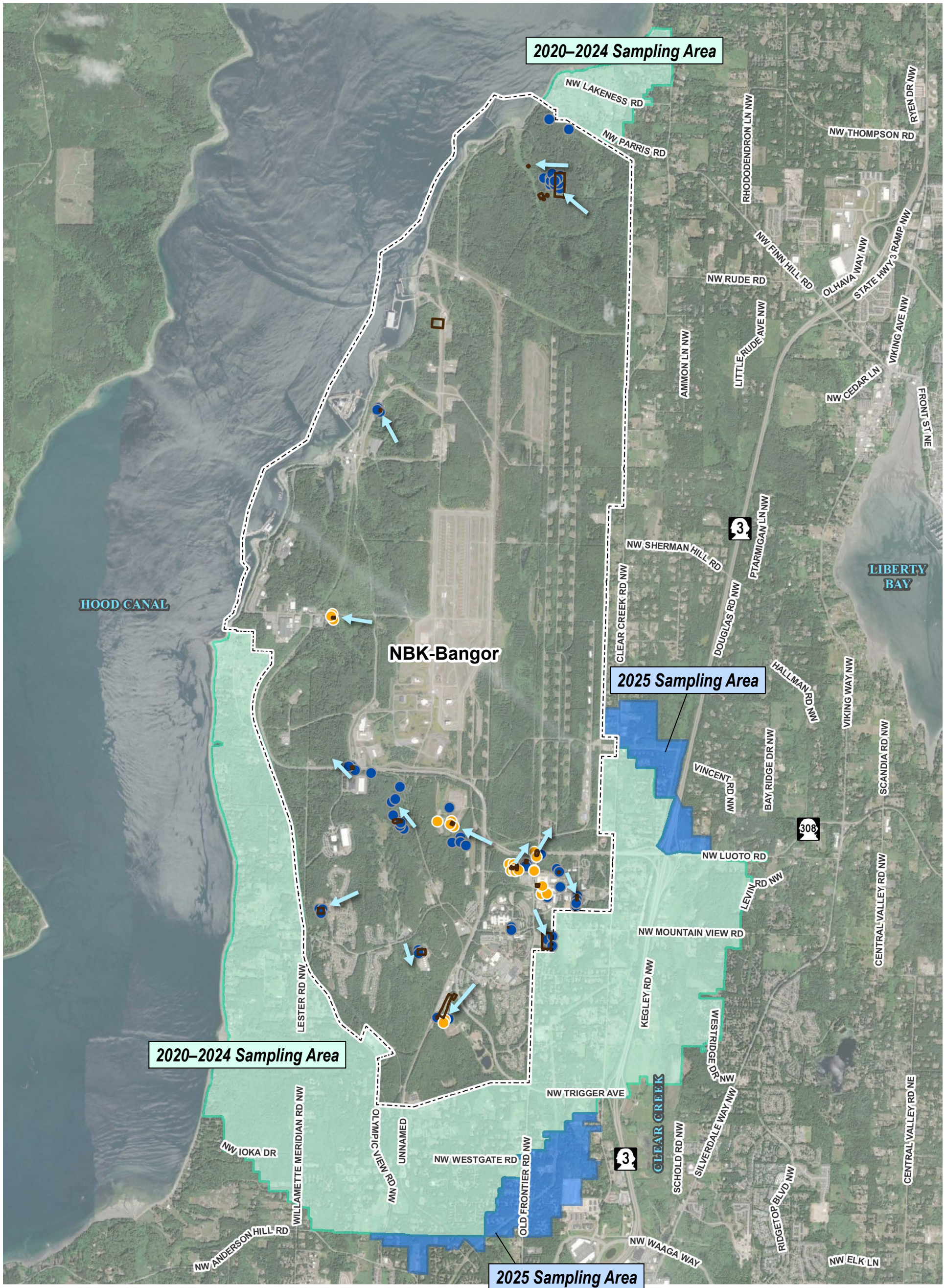
Table 1 shows the DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells.

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 area whose well contains drinking water with PFOA and PFOS, individually or combined, above 70 ppt, until a more enduring solution is implemented.

Figure 2 – NBK-Bangor PFAS Sampling Area



LEGEND

- Groundwater sample at or above DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells

●

Groundwater sample below DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells

Base boundary
- PFAS release area

→

Shallow groundwater flow direction

■

2020–2024 Sampling Area

■

2025 Sampling Area
- 0

0.5

1

mile

PREVIOUS OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING SUMMARY

From 2020 through 2024 the Navy sampled drinking water wells near NBK-Bangor (**Figure 2**). PFOA and/or PFOS were detected in two drinking water wells above 70 parts per trillion (ppt), the DoD interim action level at the time.

In 2024, the Navy connected one property to the Silverdale Water District public water system. No further action was recommended for the remaining property based on multiple rounds of sampling with no additional exceedances above the September 2024 DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells.

Due to the September DoD 2024 policy, the Navy reevaluated on-base groundwater results and off-base drinking water well results. Based on this information, the Navy has determined that four additional drinking water wells have detections above the DoD PFAS interim action levels for private drinking water wells (**Table 1**). The Navy will implement an enduring solution for these properties as soon as possible.

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 NBK-Bangor should be expanded (**Figure 2**).

The Navy requests property owner permission to sample drinking water wells in the certain areas that have not previously been sampled by the Navy.

The Navy is conducting the sampling in collaboration with partners such as EPA Region 10, the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Washington State Department of Health, and Kitsap Public Health District.

Records indicate the Silverdale Water District water system provides drinking water for most of the properties within the sampling areas (**Figure 2**). **If your drinking water is provided by Silverdale Water District, the Navy does not need to sample your drinking water.**

RESULTS COMMUNICATION

Typically, preliminary drinking water sample results are received from the laboratory within 30 days after the samples are collected. Property owners (and tenants, if present) will be notified of their preliminary drinking water sample results. Final drinking water sample results 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/eeer/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 address PFAS in private drinking water wells in keeping with the DoD policy:

- **PFAS at or above the 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).**
For final remedial actions, the Navy will address drinking water down to EPA NPDWR levels or background, in accordance with Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act requirements.

The Navy will continue to investigate the presence of PFAS at NBK-Bangor 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/xh29v>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER SAMPLING

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

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest
Public Affairs Officer

(360) 340-5592 or navfacnwpao@us.navy.mil

HEALTH INFORMATION

Federal agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the 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>