



Naval Base Kitsap Manchester Manchester, Washington Drinking Water Sampling for PFAS

June 2023

The Navy is requesting permission to sample drinking water obtained from wells within a sampling area near Naval Base Kitsap (NBK) Manchester for certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS.

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 at installations nationwide, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS).

The most common activity associated with the historical release of PFAS to the environment at NBK Manchester (**Figure 1**) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF) for testing, training, and firefighting. Because of this historical use, PFAS are present in the groundwater on-base, and they may also be present in nearby off-base drinking water wells.

In 2021, a comprehensive Basewide PFAS Preliminary Assessment was completed, which identified areas where releases of PFAS may have occurred. An investigation of the potential PFAS release areas began in September 2022. PFOA and PFOS have been detected above 70 parts per trillion (ppt) in groundwater at NBK Manchester. Additionally, materials containing PFAS may have flowed downhill and infiltrated through the ground into groundwater south of the base. As a result, a sampling area has been established 1 mile in the groundwater flow direction from the locations of the detections of PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 ppt (**Figure 2**).

Records indicate that drinking water for the majority of properties within the sampling area is provided by the Manchester Water District; however, some properties within the sampling area may use a private or community well for their drinking water. The Navy seeks permission to sample drinking water wells within the sampling area to determine if PFOA and PFOS, individually or combined, are above 70 ppt in these drinking water wells.

There is no regulatory requirement to conduct this drinking water testing. We are conducting the sampling in collaboration with partners such as Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR), the

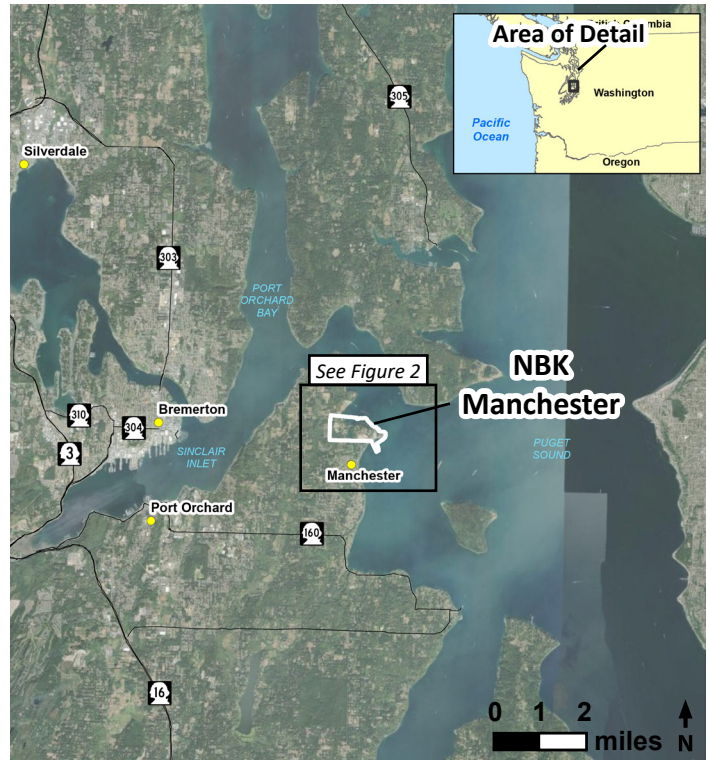


Figure 1 – NBK Manchester

Washington State Department of Ecology, the Washington State Department of Health, and the Kitsap Public Health District.

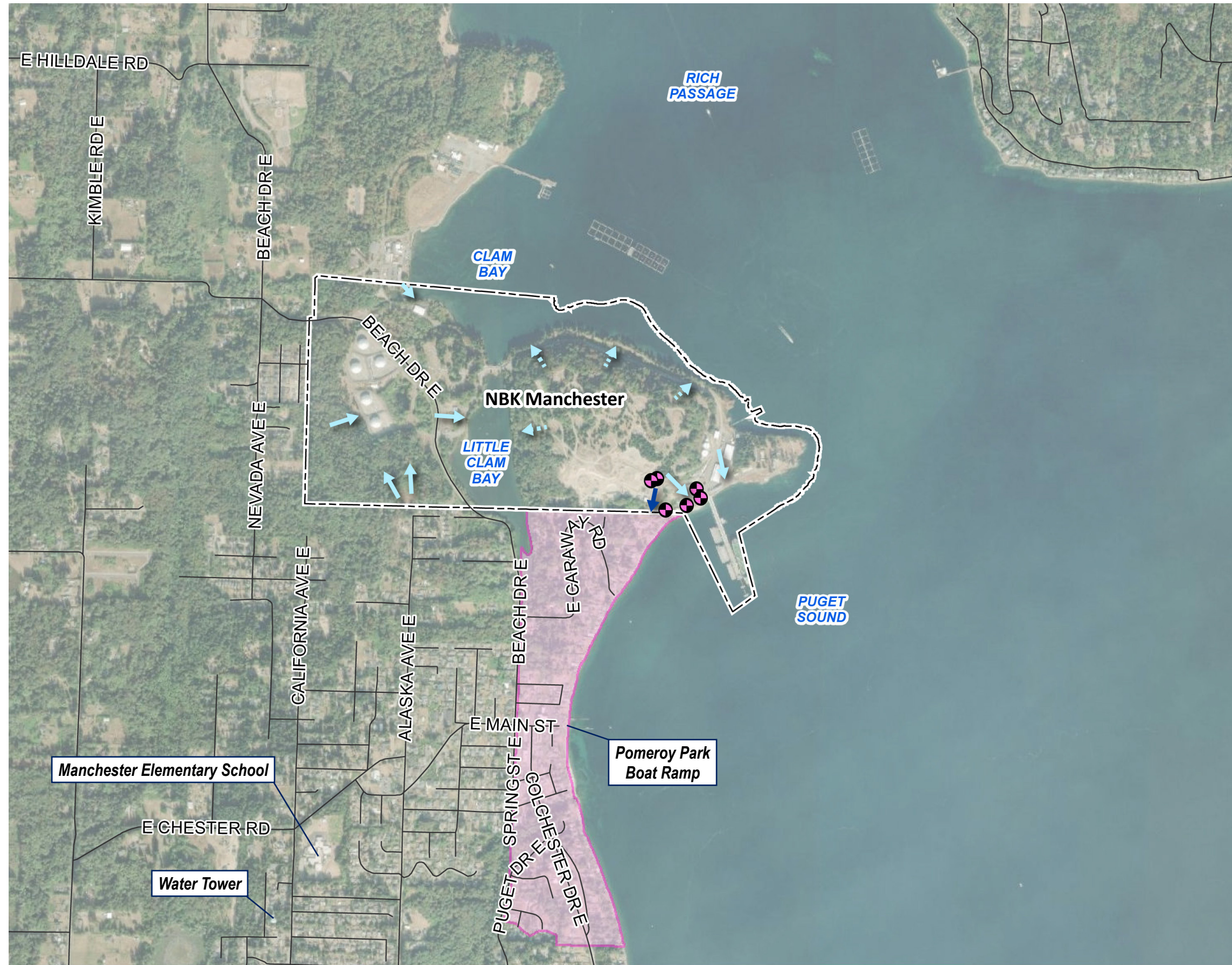
PFAS

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. Several PFAS are chemicals of emerging concern. Although the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has started the process to establish regulatory levels

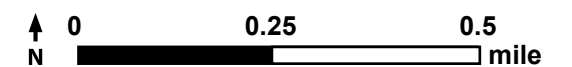
The Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to any property owner or tenant in the sampling area whose well contains drinking water with PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 ppt. The Navy will provide bottled water until a long-term solution is implemented.

Figure 2 – Sampling Area



LEGEND

- Installation boundary
- Monitoring well with detection of PFOA and/or PFOS above 70 ppt
- Downhill flow direction
- Confirmed groundwater flow direction
- Anticipated groundwater flow direction
- Sampling area



for several PFAS in drinking water, there are currently no Safe Drinking Water Act regulatory standards. The EPA has developed drinking water health advisories for a small number of PFAS; these advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. The advisories provide technical information to states and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies.

On March 14, 2023, the EPA proposed a draft regulatory drinking water standard for certain PFAS, including PFOA and PFOS. In response, the DoD has issued the following statement:

“DoD respects and values the public comment process on this proposed nationwide drinking water rule and looks forward to the clarity that a final regulatory drinking water standard for PFAS will provide. In anticipation of the final standard that EPA expects to publish by the end of 2023, the DoD is assessing what actions DoD can take to be prepared to incorporate EPA’s final regulatory standard into our current cleanup process, such as reviewing our existing data and conducting additional sampling where necessary. In addition, DoD will incorporate nationwide PFAS cleanup guidance, issued by EPA and applicable to all owners and operators under the federal cleanup law, as to when to provide alternate water when PFAS are present.”

More information about EPA’s actions for PFAS in drinking water is online at: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>.

NAVY POLICY

For now, the Navy is continuing to follow the policy it issued in June 2016 to conduct investigations at installations where there has been a known or suspected release of PFAS to the environment. The first priority with these investigations is to ensure that concentrations of PFOA and/or PFOS, whether individually or combined, in drinking water wells are not above 70 ppt, as a result of a Navy PFAS release.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
 ABOUT THIS OFF-BASE DRINKING WATER SAMPLING

<https://www.navfac.navy.mil/manchesterpfas>

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Northwest
 Public Affairs Officer

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ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS

Preliminary drinking water sample results are typically received from the laboratory within approximately 30 days after the samples are collected, and final laboratory reports are typically available within approximately 3 months. Property owners and tenants will be called to notify them of their preliminary drinking water sample results. Final drinking water sample results will be mailed to property owners and tenants. Property information will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. Final drinking water sampling results are also available online (<https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/map/pfasmap.html>) for transparency with the public. Individual drinking water sample results cannot be linked with the sampled property on this website.

The Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to any property owner or tenant in the sampling area whose drinking water well contains PFOA and PFOS, individually or combined, above 70 ppt, and the Navy will continue to provide bottled water until a permanent solution is implemented.

The Navy will continue to investigate the presence of PFAS on NBK Manchester and evaluate if actions are needed on base. The Navy is committed to ensuring the safety of the residents who live in our community. The public can find out more about all on-base environmental investigations, including those for PFAS, by visiting <https://go.usa.gov/xh25r>.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Studies on PFOA and PFOS have found both compounds in the blood samples of the general population. Research to better understand health effects from exposure to low levels of PFOA, PFOS, and other PFAS is ongoing. Federal agencies such as the 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>