Navy testing finds chemical in wells over advised EPA levels

By JESSIE STENSLAND

The Navy is providing bottled drinking water to at least two Central Whidbey families after tests showed the level of potentially harmful chemicals exceeded the lifetime health advisory set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

A retired Navy doctor, who asked not to be named, said he and his wife were alerted to the test results Friday afternoon and soon afterward Navy officials showed up with bottled water.

“I about fell off my chair,” he said. “It was like a gut punch.”

The couple has lived in their home about three-quarters of a mile from the Navy’s Outlying Field Coupeville for 17 years.

The man said their well tested at six times the advisory level for perfluorooctanoic acid, or PFOA. Testing for the other chemical, perfluorooctane sulfonate, or PFOS, was inconclusive and has to be done again; a positive result could further increase the overall level, he said.

He said his neighbor’s well also tested at far

Town doubles mayor’s salary

By MEGAN HANSEN

The Whidbey News-Times
• Phase I & II sampling completed

• Phase III at Ault Field

• 2 detections above LHA at Ault Field

• 7 detections above LHA at OLF Coupeville
Ault Field

High level detections near former fire fighting school

Phase I & II sampling completed

99 samples collected
2 locations above HAL
2 location below HAL
94 locations not detected

Phase III sampling in process
OLF Coupeville

Initial detections at well located near B/2807

Phase I sampling area was a one mile radius around B/2807

7 detections above LHA located south of airfield

One Town of Coupeville well had detections below LHA

Expanded (Phase II) to the south of OLF

27 monitoring wells installed on OLF

PFOA and PFOS were not detected in the Town of Coupeville's Fort Casey wells. The Town of Coupeville's Water Supply results are less than the LHA.
Standard groundwater investigation (RI/FS) is planned. Current activities are targeting identification and removal of potential risks to public health.
Relative Risk

Currently, there are a total of 9 drinking water wells that exceed the LHA for PFAS.

The PFAS LHA represents a 1:1,000,000 cancer risk if the water is consumed for a lifetime.

How does this PFAS risk compare to Arsenic risk in Island County?

When setting an MCL, the USEPA has a goal of a 1:1,000,000 risk level.

The EPA can deviate from that goal when costs are prohibitive.
The arsenic MCL (10 ppb) represents a 1:2,000 cancer risk.

The 1,000,000 cancer risk arsenic concentration is 0.02 ppb.
Groundwater Wells Mapping

Up until recently, our mapping system used a icon scheme that provided information about chlorides and water level elevations.

There were 144 possible combinations for this scheme, these were created manually.

In addition to the seawater intrusion parameters, there are two other ‘contaminants of concern’ here in Island County: Arsenic and Nitrate

Adding these to the prior scheme yielded 2304 icons. Adding the ability to provide information regarding abandoned wells yielded 4608 icons.
Groundwater Wells Mapping

Creation of 4608 icons manually was not a viable option.

Computer code was written that programmatically built the icon images, saving them according to a specific coding / naming convention so that they could be mapped automatically.
Internal Database Mapping

Disclaimer: Data presented has been collected from a variety of sources. Island County makes no guarantee as to the validity or accuracy of the data.