



20th FIGHTER WING (Air Combat Command) Shaw Air Force Base

Environmental Restoration Program Update - September 2023



Drinking Water Related Activities South of the Base Continue

For more than 3 years the Air Force has been testing well water and distributing bottled water in areas near Shaw AFB. The Air Force is encouraging property owners to accept a long-term solution that will result in clean drinking water flowing from the faucets in their homes and businesses.



Connecting to the local water provider will eliminate exposure to PFAS from well water

The Air Force will connect properties that have well water with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) concentrations at or above 70 parts per trillion (ppt) to High Hills Rural Water Company. Once the connections are completed, and the water quality is confirmed, the bottled water service will end. Property owners that do not accept this connection offer, will not be provided with bottled water indefinitely. While there will be monthly water bills that must be paid by the property owner/ occupant that connect to High Hills, the water connection expense is covered by the Air Force. The Air Force will continue to sample drinking water at properties where PFAS have been detected in well water at concentrations below 70 ppt. We will also sample drinking water in wells that are brought to our attention that have not been sampled before. If a well is not within the area where PFAS have been detected in drinking water wells, we will keep a record of the request and sample those wells if the area expands.

You will also see the Air Force, or contractors working for us, installing connections from homes and businesses to the local water service provider in order to provide a clean and reliable source of drinking water. These activities will take time, but we will complete connections for all the properties that have well water PFAS concentrations at or above 70 ppt.

Do You Have Your Own Drinking Water Well? We are Interested in Testing the Water in Your Well!

The area surrounding Shaw AFB includes private homes, rental homes, mobile home parks, small businesses, schools, and places of worship. Many of these properties have drinking water provided by a local water supplier, such as High Hills Rural Water Company or City of Sumter Water Department. Others have a drinking water well on the property. A few have both water sources- provided from off site by a pipe connection to a water main and from a well on the property. The properties that rely on well water are where the Air Force would like to test the water. If PFAS are detected at concentrations at or above 70 parts per trillion (ppt), the Air Force will temporarily provide you with bottled water for drinking and cooking. The Air Force encourages you to accept the offer to connect your property to High Hills Rural Water Company for your drinking water supply.

Just what is 70 ppt?

Well, it is the same as one drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool!



EPA is Developing Drinking Water Standards for Certain PFAS

EPA proposed national drinking water standards for some types of PFAS in March 2023. The proposal includes standards for PFOS and PFOA, which are the chemicals the Air Force is testing for in well water on and off the base. The EPA expects to finalize the proposed standards in late 2023 or early 2024. Once that happens, the Department of Defense and the Air Force will take steps to address water usage from wells that have PFAS concentrations at or above the newly established national drinking water standard.



Collecting a groundwater sample

Shaw Air Force Base (AFB) and Your Community

Shaw AFB is home to the 20th Fighter Wing and headquarters, Fifteenth Air Force, U.S. Air Forces Central, Third Army and U.S. Army Central. Originally a basic flying school called Shaw Field, in honor of Sumter County resident 1st Lt. Ervin David Shaw, today the base occupies more than 3,569 acres in Sumter, S.C.



Shaw AFB is located north of Broad Street

- Shaw studied past base activities that may have contributed to soil and groundwater contamination.
- Shaw is working to determine the location of the areas requiring clean up and is taking steps to treat or remove contaminated soil and groundwater on the base.
- **Studies and cleanup work related to PFAS that extended beyond the base began in 2020.**

For possible financial assistance with your water bill, contact the Wateree Community Actions, Inc website: www.wcai.org or call (803) 807-9811.



Questions/Comments?

Contact:

20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs
(803) 895-2019 / 20FWPublicAffairs@us.af.mil

If you prefer receiving factsheets by email, please email us your email address.

Q. Where can I get more information about PFAS?

A. More information is available online. If you do not have access to the internet at home, there are three public libraries in Sumter. The closest to Shaw AFB is located at 108 W. Wesmark Blvd. Their hours are Monday-Friday 10am to 6pm. Their telephone number is 803-469-8110. There are computers available for your use at the library.

Helpful internet sites include:

- United States Environmental Protection Agency: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>
- Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Control: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>
- United States Department of Defense: <https://www.defense.gov/Spotlights/pfas/>
- United States Air Force: <https://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/>
- South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control: <https://scdhec.gov/BOW/perfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

Off Base Activity Timeline

2020-2023: testing drinking water wells to identify sites requiring bottled water to remove potential health impacts of consuming water containing PFAS.

2021-2022: reviewed options and selected connection to local water service for removing potential risk to residents from drinking water containing PFAS.

2023 Spring-Summer: continue providing bottled water and periodic well water sampling for impacted residents.

2023 Spring-Summer: install connections to local water supply to remove potential risk to residents from drinking water containing PFAS.

And more to come...



New to the Neighborhood?

We aim to keep newcomers informed about the status of drinking water on their property and efforts to remove exposure to potential health risks from long-term use of drinking water containing 70 ppt or more of PFAS.

Para solicitar una copia de este folleto informativo en español, envíe un correo electrónico a scott.ross@aecom.com.

