

South Carolina CODEL Notification

For

PFOS/PFOA Sampling

(Shaw AFB, SC)

As part of the Air Force's ongoing Site Inspection process to evaluate PFOS/PFOA at Shaw AFB, SC, monitoring wells installed down-gradient of known Air Force source areas detected groundwater levels of PFOS and PFOA warranting investigation of off-installation water wells.

The Air Force began conducting PFOS/PFOA sampling at nearby off-base private and public drinking water wells on 10 February 2020, and has received preliminary laboratory results for five residential drinking water wells. At two residential wells, the preliminary results were below the EPA's 70 parts per trillion Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA). At three residences, preliminary results indicate PFOS+PFOA in drinking water at concentrations above the LHA.

Because Shaw AFB is a likely contributor to the PFOS/PFOA in this water, the Air Force is proactively taking immediate measures based on the preliminary test results to provide bottled water to the residents of three homes in the Cherryvale neighborhood of Sumter, SC.

Please note that Air Force sampling of public and private drinking water wells in the off-base area down gradient of Shaw AFB is ongoing, and that test results are forthcoming for additional residences and businesses.

Our focus is on ensuring no one is drinking water above the EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA). In the event any additional human drinking water wells believed to be impacted by Air Force activities are found above the LHA, the Air Force will take immediate measures to provide bottled water or other alternative sources until more permanent mitigation can be installed. We will keep you apprised of significant developments.

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The Air Force began conducting PFOS/PFOA sampling at nearby off-base private and public drinking water wells on 10 February 2020. On 24 March 2020, new validated laboratory results were received. Nine additional residential wells and one commercial drinking water well were found to have PFOS+PFOA at concentrations above the EPA's 70 parts per trillion Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA).

Because Shaw AFB is a likely contributor to the PFOS/PFOA in this water, the Air Force is proactively taking immediate measures to provide bottled water to the residents of these ten homes/businesses in the Cherryvale neighborhood of Sumter, SC.

Air Force sampling of public and private drinking water wells in the off-base area downgradient of known PFOS/PFOA areas is ongoing, and test results are forthcoming for additional residences and businesses.

Our focus is on ensuring no one is drinking water above the EPA's LHA. In the event any additional human drinking water wells believed to be impacted by Air Force activities are found above the LHA, the Air Force will take immediate measures to provide bottled water or other alternative sources until more permanent mitigation can be installed. We will keep you apprised of significant developments.

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Additionally, tap sampling of the Crescent Trailer Park adjacent to Shaw AFB by a local newspaper appears to show PFOS + PFOA at 136 PPT in drinking water.

A review of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control's well registry indicates domestic use water wells are located down-gradient and adjacent to the Shaw AFB installation boundary.

The Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) completed a preliminary well inventory in November 2019, and will engage with regulators to receive approval of the required work plan. If well inventory data is found to be incomplete, a door-to-door survey/sampling effort will follow to verify if there are additional privately owned wells used for human drinking water purposes. If any private wells found are used for human drinking water, with the owner's consent, they will be sampled to determine if any are above the EPA's 70 parts per trillion Lifetime Health Advisory (LHA).

The door-to-door survey will be conducted by government personnel, contractors, and military members (pending availability) and will take approximately 1-2 weeks depending on the number of wells and the ease of coordinating appointments with residents. Results are anticipated in June 2020.

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South Carolina CODEL Notification

For

PFOS/PFOA Remedial Investigation

Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina

During the Air Force's Site Inspection to evaluate PFOS/PFOA at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, our focus was to determine if a release of PFOS/PFOA occurred and ensure no one is drinking water above the EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory (HA) of 70 parts per trillion. Where concentrations of PFOS/PFOA in drinking water wells were found to be above the Lifetime HA attributable to Air Force activities, the Air Force took immediate action to provide alternative drinking water.

The Air Force is now moving into the Remedial Investigation (RI) phase of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process. A contract to begin the RI at Shaw Air Force Base was awarded on September 25, 2020.

The RI is a multi-year effort that involves collecting data to characterize site conditions, determine the nature and extent of PFOS/PFOA, assess the exposure pathways to potential receptors, and assess risk to human health and the environment. During the RI phase we collect information necessary to adequately characterize the site for the purpose of developing and evaluating effective remedial alternatives.

It is important to note that the Air Force is not precluded from implementing cleanup actions during the conduct of the RI if warranted. If during the course of the RI, or at any time during the CERCLA process, data is gathered that indicates a response, including a removal action or an interim remedial action, is needed in the near term, that response may be implemented.

The Air Force remains committed to identifying and addressing environmental impacts of PFOS/PFOA for communities surrounding our installation. The safety and health of our Airmen, their families, and the surrounding community is our priority.

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