



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
56TH FIGHTER WING (AETC)
LUKE AIR FORCE BASE AZ 85309-1629

18 February 2021

Brigadier General Gregory Kreuder
Commander, 56th Fighter Wing
14185 West Falcon Street
Luke Air Force Base AZ 85309

Dear Valley Utilities Water Customer,

Representatives from the United States Air Force in cooperation with Valley Utilities Water Company, Inc., (VUWCO) collected water samples from several of VUWCO's water supply wells that provide water to your residence. The water samples were submitted for analysis of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), including perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). PFOS and PFOA are components present in a variety of commonly used products, including aqueous film-forming foam widely used by the firefighting industry to extinguish petroleum-based fires.

PFAS are used in a wide variety of products such as furniture fabrics, carpet, non-stick cookware, fire-retardant clothing, floor wax, and certain types of food packaging. Some firefighting foams, including the foam that was used at Luke Air Force Base (LAFB) for emergency responses, also contain these chemicals. The Air Force is actively investigating the extent and impact of PFOS and PFOA in firefighting foam used at LAFB and has determined that it may have impacted the VUWCO water supply wells that provide drinking water to your property.

Information about the Air Force's PFOS and PFOA response program is available at <https://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/> and in the attached Fact Sheet. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) perfluorinated compound information site is at: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

While there are no current drinking water standards for these substances, the EPA developed the Lifetime Health Advisory (HA) for PFOS and PFOA in drinking water to be used by federal, state and local drinking water system operators as guidance while determining potential human health effects to system users if these substances are consumed above specific concentrations throughout one's lifetime. The Air Force has adopted the EPA's Lifetime HA when assessing whether releases of PFOS and PFOA into the environment can pose a threat to public health or welfare. The preliminary results indicate that at least one of the water samples from the VUWCO wells exceeded the EPA's Lifetime HA of 70 parts per trillion (ppt).

The Air Force is taking action to ensure you have access to drinking water that meets the current EPA's Lifetime HA for PFOS and PFOA. Please see the attached for information on how to obtain bottled water for you and your family. During your first bottle water pickup, please bring photo ID and a copy of your water bill and/or this letter so that your identity and address can be verified. We recommend that you use bottled water for drinking and cooking until the Air Force can determine an appropriate remedy and long-term solution and work with VUWCO to implement and install remediation measures in VUWCO's water facilities. The Air Force and VUWCO will continue working with state and local officials throughout this process.

The Air Force remains committed to the health and safety of our Service Members, their families, the Department of Defense (DoD) Civilian Workforce, and the communities in which the DoD serves.

Please contact the LAFB Remedial Project Manager at 623-856-9645 or by email at kimberly.horsley@us.af.mil if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely



GREGORY KREUDER
Brigadier General, USAF

3 Attachments:

1. PFOS-PFOA Toolkit Fact Sheet July 2020
2. How to Obtain Bottled Water
3. COVID Considerations for Pickup and Delivery

Air Force Response to PFOS/PFOA

Fact Sheet

As of July 2020

Background: What are PFOS and PFOA?

Perfluorooctane sulfonate, PFOS, and perfluorooctanoic acid, PFOA, are synthetic fluorinated organic compounds used in many industrial and consumer products such as nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabric and carpet and some food packaging.

Commonly grouped with other synthetic fluorinated chemicals using the umbrella term per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), PFOS and PFOA are the only two compounds with established lifetime health advisories for drinking water.

- In 1970, the Air Force began using Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), which contains PFOS/PFOA. AFFF is mission critical because it meets MILSPEC and is the most efficient extinguishing method for petroleum fires and is widely used across the firefighting industry, to include all commercial airports, to protect people and property. AFFF is being phased out.
- The Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) began a comprehensive assessment process in 2010 to identify locations where PFOS/PFOA may have been released across the Air Force at active, Reserve, Air National Guard and closed installations.
- On May 19, 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency established a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) level of 70 parts per trillion for a combined concentration of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. For context, one (1) ppt is equivalent to one (1) drop of water in 20 Olympic-sized swimming pools. These two compounds are classified as emerging contaminants for which the risk to human health is not yet known and regulatory standards are evolving.

Air Force Response

AFCEC is taking a three-step approach – identify, respond, prevent – to assess and respond to potential PFOS/PFOA drinking water contamination.

- In 2017, the Air Force completed enterprise-wide sampling of drinking water at all installations — stateside and overseas — to ensure drinking water supplies meet EPA guidelines. The Air Force is currently resampling all drinking water on Air Force installations in 2020.
- In the United States, AFCEC is conducting additional sampling to identify potential AFFF releases, determine the extent of the PFOS/PFOA contamination and map possible pathways to drinking sources.

CERCLA

The Air Force's investigation work and response actions are guided by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), applicable state laws and the EPA's lifetime HA for drinking water.

The Air Force is moving forward aggressively in accordance with the CERCLA process to fully investigate releases, prioritize responses, and determine appropriate cleanup actions based on risk. Following the CERCLA process makes certain thorough investigative work is done; the process also promotes accountability, community involvement and long-term protectiveness.

Identify — Respond — Prevent

The following chart outlines the Air Force's three-step approach to identifying releases, investigating and responding to drinking water contamination and preventing future contamination.

IDENTIFY releases, investigate PFOS/PFOA

Preliminary Assessment

In the United States, the Air Force is conducting base-wide records reviews to identify fire training areas, crash sites and areas at installations where AFFF was used.

** As of May 2020, 100 percent of PAs are complete.*

Site Inspection

Once the PA identifies potential AFFF release areas, AFCEC conducts groundwater, surface water, soil and sediment sampling to verify releases and map possible pathways to drinking water sources.

If SI sampling indicates potential pathways to off-base drinking water supplies, AFCEC may test public water systems and private wells.

Once the SI is complete, AFCEC determines if more investigation work is needed.

RESPOND to drinking water contamination

Response Action

When AFCEC determines PFOS/PFOA levels exceed the lifetime HA in drinking water due to the Air Force mission, the Air Force will reduce risk and, if needed, provide an alternate drinking water source, like bottled water, until a permanent solution is in place. Permanent solutions may include installation of a filtration system or connecting private well owners with PFOS/PFOA over the EPA lifetime HA level to a public drinking water supply.

If sample results are detectable but below the lifetime HA in drinking water, the Air Force may conduct additional sampling as needed to track concentration changes and determine if further action is necessary.

PREVENT future contamination

AFFF Replacement

The Air Force has replaced legacy AFFF in fire vehicles, stockpiles and hangar systems with a more environmentally responsible formulation.

Retrofit fire vehicles

The Air Force has retrofitted fire vehicles with a system that prevents foam discharge during equipment testing and training. Approximately 850 fire trucks were retrofitted in 2019.

Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center
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2261 Hughes Ave, Ste 155, Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland TX 78236-9853
(210) 925-0956 AFIMSC.PA.Workflow@us.af.mil

ATTACHMENT 2

HOW TO OBTAIN BOTTLED WATER

The Air Force will provide you bottled water in two phases as follows:

- Phase 1:
 - Will consist of a bottled water pick-up station to supply you with bottled water while a routine bottled water delivery service is scheduled during Phase 2.
- Phase 2:
 - Will consist of routine bottled water delivery to your home.

If at any time you have questions about this process, please call **844.610.8899** for assistance.

Phase 1: Bottled Water Pickup Station

The bottled water pick-up station is located at the following address:

- 7011 North El Mirage Road
Glendale, AZ 85307

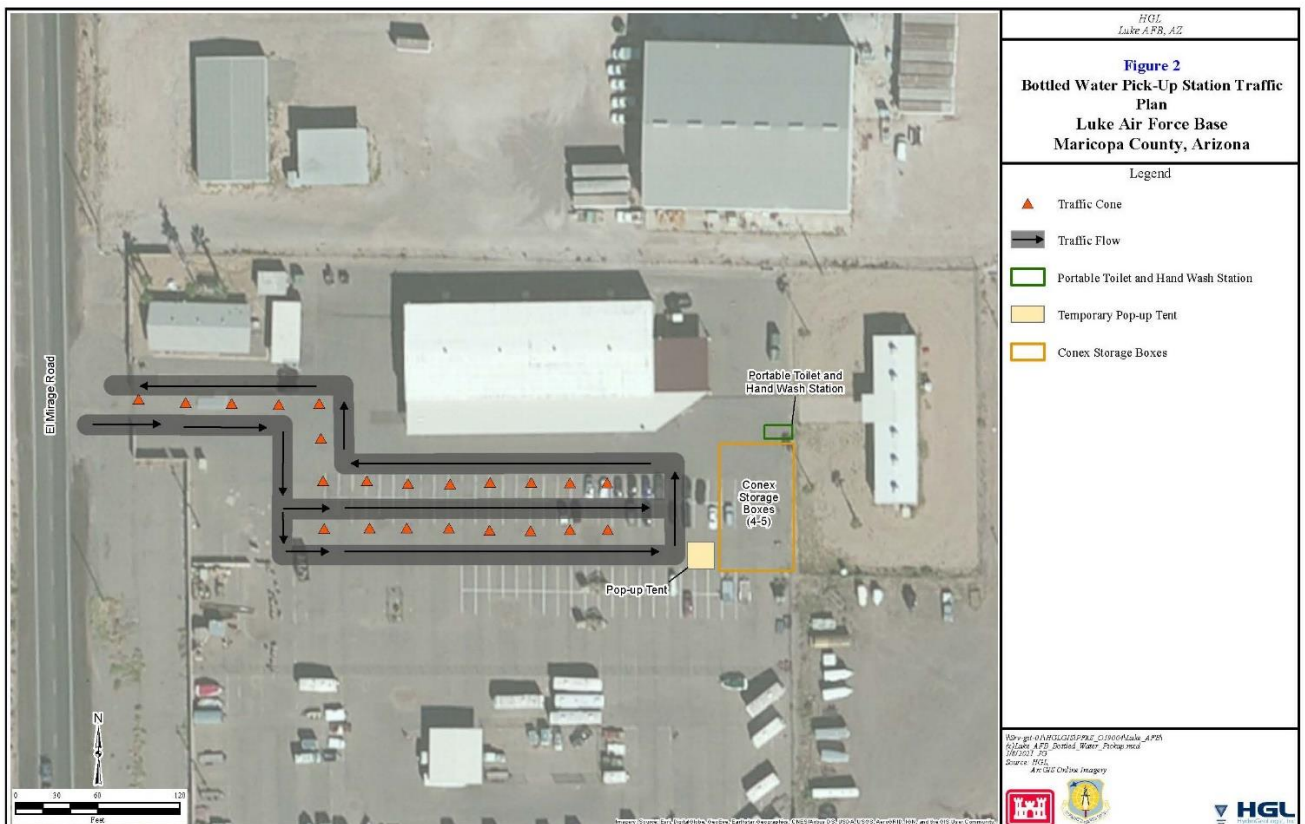
Two maps (Figures 1 and 2) of the pick-up location are provided on Page 2.

The dates and hours of operation for the bottled water pick-up station are as follows:

- Dates of operation:
 - 23 February 2021 to 22 March 2021
- Days and hours of operation:
 - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays
 - 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays

Please follow the instructions below to pick up bottled water:

- Bring a photo ID and a copy of your water bill and/or the letter you received from the Air Force so that your identity and address can be verified.
- Bring the completed Routine Bottled Water Delivery Contact Information form provided on Page 4 for setting up routine bottled water delivery.
- When you arrive at the pick-up station, a representative from the Air Force or the Air Force's contractor, HydroGeoLogic, Inc. (HGL), will direct you in and out of the bottled water pick-up location.
- Once you are parked, please remain in your vehicle. A representative from HGL will approach your driver's side window to verify your information and collect your completed Routine Bottled Water Delivery Contact Information form.
- Once confirmed, you will be asked to pull up near the storage boxes and tent (see Figure 2), and HGL staff will load water into your vehicle.
- You will receive 12, 1-gallon bottles of water during your pick-up. It is recommended that you use the water for drinking and cooking.
- If you need additional water prior to your scheduled routine delivery (Phase 2) described on Page 3, you can return to the pick-up station for additional bottled water during the dates and times referenced above.



Phase 2: Routine Bottled Water Delivery

Shortly after your initial pick-up, you will be contacted with a date for your routine bottled water delivery, which may be as early as two weeks following your initial pick-up. During routine bottled water delivery, the Air Force will deliver a cooler system and 5-gallon bottles of water for drinking and cooking. The amount of water delivered will be determined based on the number of people in your household as you indicate on the Routine Bottled Water Delivery Contact Information form. Typical routine deliveries will consist of 5-10, 5-gallon bottles of water. Bottled water delivery will continue until the Air Force and Valley Utilities Water Company, Inc., (VUWCO) can determine and implement an appropriate remedy and long-term solution.

**ROUTINE BOTTLED WATER DELIVERY
CONTACT INFORMATION
LUKE AIR FORCE BASE, ARIZONA**

Name_____

Address_____

Phone Number_____

Number of People in the Household_____

Special Notes/Instructions for Delivery

ATTACHMENT 3

COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS FOR BOTTLED WATER PICKUP AND ROUTINE DELIVERY

This information is intended to provide guidance to prevent and reduce transmission during bottled water distribution at the bottled water pick-up station and routine delivery described in Attachment 2. HydroGeoLogic, Inc. (HGL) has developed these prevention procedures based on Centers for Disease Control and Arizona Department of Public Health guidance. The following list highlights the steps that we will take as well as the steps that we ask you to take at the bottled water pick-up station and during routine delivery.

Bottled Water Pick-Up Station:

- Please do not come to the bottled water pick-up area if you have had a COVID-19 positive test result or suffered symptoms (fever, cough, tiredness, out-of-breath, body aches) within the last 10 days.
- Please wear a face mask over your nose and mouth when at the bottled water pick-up area, even while in your vehicle. HGL personnel will wear face masks over their noses and mouths and will wear gloves to prevent and reduce transmission. If you do not have a face mask our personnel will provide one.
- Please stay in your car when at the bottled water pick-up area. HGL personnel will greet you at your vehicle and will load the containers of water into the back of your vehicle. If it is necessary for you to exit your vehicle, please stay at least 6 feet from other people.
- If you do not have the completed Routine Bottled Water Delivery Contact Information form provided in Attachment 2, HGL personnel will ask you to complete a form. Clipboards and pens issued for this process will either be new or recently disinfected with an EPA-approved disinfectant.
- HGL personnel will place signs in the bottled water pick-up area to remind everyone to wear masks, maintain distance, and wash hands.

Routine Bottled Water Delivery:

- During bottled water delivery, in-person visits to your home will be required by HGL and/or HGL's bottled water vendor.
- HGL and their bottled water vendor will maintain a 6-foot distance and will wear face masks that cover their nose and mouth during the delivery activities.
- Please wear a face mask over your nose and mouth while HGL and/or their bottled water vendor are delivering water to your home.
- You may choose to have bottled water brought into your home or it can be placed outside your home at your request. Please note any Special Notes/Instructions for Delivery in the Routine Bottled Water Delivery Contact Information form provided in Attachment 2.
- Please call HGL at **844.610.8899** if you have had a COVID-19 positive test result or suffered symptoms (fever, cough, tiredness, out-of-breath, body aches) within the last 10 days, so HGL and/or the bottled water vendor can leave the bottled water outside your home or reschedule your bottled water delivery.