



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS, 55TH WING (ACC)
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA

10 June 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR OFFUTT AFB PERSONNEL

FROM: 55 OMRS/SGXB

SUBJECT: Perfluoroalkyl Substances Addendum to the 2021 Consumer Confidence Report

References: (a) 42 United States Code § 300, *Safe Drinking Water Act*
(b) EPA 800-F-16-003, *Fact Sheet PFOA & PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisories*
(c) Assistant Secretary of Defense Memo, 23 July 2020, Monitoring of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Sampling for Installations with Non-Department of Defense Drinking Water Systems

1. **Purpose:** As of Jul 2020, the Assistant Secretary of Defense developed Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) policy requirements for military installations where the Department of Defense (DoD) is not the drinking water purveyor. Offutt purchases water from Omaha Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) which provides the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), as it would to any other customer. This addendum is supplemental to the CCR for informational purposes in reference to 2021 PFAS sampling results.

2. **Background:** The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) require a community water supplier to provide a CCR to its customers annually, by 1 July. This report must contain information pertaining to the source, possible contaminants within the source, treatment of the drinking water, educational statements regarding possible contaminants of concern in the drinking water, the populations at risk, and where to go for additional information. If additional non-standard testing is conducted, the CCR must only include the results and pertinent information in the year the testing was conducted. Offutt AFB purchases all drinking water from the MUD and does not conduct any water treatment on base. As a result, Offutt is not required to produce its own CCR and may use the information provided by MUD.

PFAS and Perfluorinated Compounds (PFC) are general terms that refer to about 6000 synthetic (man-made) compounds that are composed of carbon chains with fluorine attached. The bond between the carbon and fluorine is incredibly strong and does not break down easily or quickly in nature. These substances may make their way into the water supply by way of runoff.

- a) **Where do PFAS and PFC come from?** These chemicals have been widely used in furniture, clothing and packaging materials because, when treated or made with PFAS/PFCs, these materials become resistant to water, oil and/or stains. Additionally, these compounds are used in Aircraft Firefighting Foam. Since the early 2000s, US

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companies have been decreasing the amount of PFAS/PFC chemicals used in manufacturing. Eight of the major US producers voluntarily agreed to phase out the majority of the use of PFAS and import quantities have also been limited. The majority of exposure comes from consumer products and food but drinking water can be an additional source for communities where the water supply has been contaminated.

- b) What are the regulations regarding these compounds?** The EPA's role in the SDWA is to establish and enforce maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for community (public) water systems in the US. MCLs have not been established for PFAS/PFC; however, the regulatory process has been initiated and research is being conducted. The EPA has issued a health advisory for these compounds. Health advisories establish a level of contamination that is not expected to cause health effects over a specific exposure duration. The advisories also provide guidance on acceptable testing procedures for these contaminants. Currently, the health advisory for PFAS is for two specific chemicals only; Perfluoro octanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The limit is a lifetime Health Advisory (HA) limit of 70 parts per trillion of any one, or combination of the two when tested using EPA method 537.1.
- c) What are the health effects of PFAS/PFC?** Currently, PFOS and PFOA have had the most research conducted and the possible health effects include: developmental defects to fetuses during pregnancy or breastfed infants, cancer, liver effects, immune effects, thyroid effects, and other effects such as cholesterol changes. The health advisory threshold was developed based on these studies and aims to protect the most at risk population (fetuses and infants).

3. **Results:** A post treatment sample was conducted on 28 June 2021. The sample was analyzed using EPA sampling method 537.1, and all but four of the 30 PFAS analytes that were tested were below the detection limit. Trace amounts below the reporting limits, were identified for the following analytes: PFOS, Perfluoro-1-butanesulfonic acid (PFBS), Perfluoro-1-hexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), Perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA). Meaning analytes were detected however they were so low they were unable to be accurately quantified. The levels of all analytes were so low as to pose very little, if any, risk to the populations of Omaha and Offutt AFB.

4. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this addendum or the CCR, please contact Bioenvironmental Engineering at (402) 294-6319 or usaf.offutt.55-mdg.mbx.55-amds-sgpb-bioenvironmental-engineering@mail.mil. Additional information regarding PFAS is available through the EPA website at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>.

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