

**General Responses to Written Questions Received at JB MDL PFAS Open House**  
**Country Lakes Firehouse (Station 3), Browns Mills, NJ**  
**June 05, 2024**

*Q: Have real estate agents in the area been made aware of the contamination? Is Air Force working with agents to help homes get treatment?*

A: Only those homeowners with private drinking water wells located within the focus areas will be contacted by the Department of the Air Force (DAF) and offered to have their well sampled. DAF is prohibited from sharing personally identifiable information (PII) such as names and addresses of privately owned drinking water wells with non-Federal agencies including real estate agents. If results of the well exceed the action level, the DAF will work with the property owner to provide an enduring solution that may include connecting to municipal water or installing a whole-house filter.

*Q: Base should be working in conjunction with local health department for homes that are contaminated and find out through the private well testing act.*

A: The Department of the Air Force (DAF), in coordination with the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), have identified off-base focus areas where the DAF will be investigating private drinking water wells that may be impacted by PFAS. If a property is located in an off-base focus area, DAF will offer PFAS sampling for private drinking water wells. However, DAF is prohibited from sharing personally identifiable information (PII) such as names and addresses of privately owned drinking water wells with non-Federal agencies including state and county Departments of Health (DOH).

*Q: Homes that obtain filter treatments should be reminded about maintenance even after the home has changed ownership.*

A: If the Department of the Air Force installs a filter system on a private drinking water well to treat PFAS, the DAF will maintain that filter system and collect routine samples to verify the filters effectiveness and determine when the filter media changeout is necessary. If a homeowner sells their property, the DAF encourages the homeowner to notify the DAF about the transaction and inform the buyer to contact the DAF, and DAF will maintain the treatment system even if the ownership has changed.

*Q: Is a wastewater plan in the works? Testing for PFAS in wastewater is coming in the future?*

A: Wastewater treatment plants operate under a permit issued by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. The permit identifies discharge limits for specific chemicals. If

PFAS testing is included in the permit, the wastewater treatment plant would be required to meet permit requirements.

*Q: I feel it would have been very useful and helpful to have locals involved with your maps and presentations. One of the presenters could help people with locations and the maps were not conducive. Having a street-view map with major road names would help. Also the maps did not correspond well to each other so it did not diminish fears. Even the people explaining agreed with this comment. I heard a lot of apologizing by them. I'm sure money was put into the event but it didn't really make sense; mostly it was helpful to speak with fellow participants as they pieced things together.*

A: Thank you for your comment. In the future, the DAF will consider including reference points such as major road names and/or geographic landmarks, and will prepare maps in a format that is easy to use.

*Q: What are the effects, if any, if livestock consumes contaminated surface water and human consumption of livestock raised for food?*

A: The science of PFAS is still evolving, and extensive research is being done to determine where PFAS exist and what possible impacts they may have on human health and the environment. It is unknown what, if any, effects PFAS contaminated surface water has on livestock raised for food. Currently there are no national standards for allowable PFAS in commercial animal byproducts or food products. As part of the remedial investigation, the Air Force will work our regulatory partners to evaluate available data and develop site-specific risk assessment that encompass all relevant exposure pathways including agricultural products.

*Q: How will filtration media, if water treatment is needed, be disposed of?*

A: The Department of the Air Force (DAF) will operate and maintain DAF-installed treatment systems, including the proper disposal of the filter media.

*Q: Is PFAS classified as a hazardous material?*

A: On May 8, 2024, EPA published rules in the Federal Register designating two widely used PFAS chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). More information can be found at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/05/08/2024-08547/designation-of-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa-and-perfluorooctanesulfonic-acid-pfos-as-cercla-hazardous>

*Q: Why have you not supplied or made available the reports, assessments and analysis reports that have been done since 2016. A random QR code that brings me to a website to then search, hopefully using correct terms is a barrier to information.*

A: The Department of the Air Force (DAF) maintains an administrative record for reports and documents on environmental restoration sites. The administrative record is extensive and includes all JBMDL environmental restoration site documents including PFAS sites under investigation, off-base PFAS drinking water investigations, and non-PFAS sites; thus, these reports are not listed within this response.

The electronic administrative record is maintained at the following website <https://ar.afcecc-cloud.af.mil/>. Within the website, first select “JBMDL-McGuire, NJ”, within the Installation List along the left column to access McGuire records. Next, within the full Metadata Search box, suggest using key words such as PFAS, PFC, AFFF, PFOS, and PFOA to locate records. The same can be done for “JBMDL-Dix, NJ” and/or “JBMDL-Lakehurst, NJ” records.

Hard copies of the administrative record can also be accessed at the reference desks in the Burlington County Library (Westampton branch) and Ocean County Library (Toms River branch). The DAF updates the administrative record at the libraries annually or more frequently, if required.

*Q: If I don't receive a sample form, who can I call?*

A: The Department of the Air Force (DAF) is offering PFAS drinking water well sampling in specific off-base focus areas. The DAF has been coordinating with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, local municipalities, and purveyors to identify private drinking water wells within the focus areas. If you live within a focus area, you will receive a sample request letter via mail from the DAF contractor, HAAST. The letter will provide information on how the DAF will sample your water.

*Q: Is my address affected by this?*

A: The DAF is offering PFAS drinking water sampling in specific off-base focus areas. The DAF has been coordinating with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, local municipalities, and purveyors to identify private drinking water wells. If you live within a focus area, you will receive a sample request letter via mail from the DAF contractor, HAAST. The letter will provide direction on how the DAF will sample your water.

The focus areas can be found at the JBMDL PFAS website at <https://www.jbmdl.jb.mil/PFCs/>, in the right column under the “PFAS Site Maps link”. If you are still unsure whether your location will be sampled, please contact [michael.figura@us.af.mil](mailto:michael.figura@us.af.mil)

*Q: Which federal agency will be spearheading the notification of sampling and providing sample results to the property owners?*

A: The Department of the Air Force and its contractor, HAAST, will provide notification of sampling of private drinking water wells, and sampling results to property owners.

*Q: If the Air Force connects my home to municipal water, will the Air Force pay the bill? How much will it cost me?*

A: If the Department of the Air Force (DAF) connects your property to municipal water, the cost associated with connecting your home to municipal water will be covered by the DAF. Monthly charges that occur post connection will be the responsibility of the property owner. Please check with your municipality regarding programs available in your area to assist with utility costs.