



U.S. Air Force

PRESS RELEASE

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Media Release: Air Force tackles contamination at former Reese AFB

A comprehensive Air Force site inspection at the former Reese Air Force Base, Texas, has identified 19 private drinking water wells and one public water well with levels of some perfluorinated compounds at or above an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory and/or Texas protective concentration levels.

The Air Force is providing bottled water to affected well owners, and has been working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), the EPA and affected communities to protect human health and drinking water supplies.

Sampling began in November 2017, and detected perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) at or above the EPA's lifetime health advisory of 70 parts per trillion for drinking water in 15 private wells. Also, perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) and/or perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), and/or Perfluoropentanoic Acid (PFPeA), which are also PFAS, were found in five additional wells in excess of Texas Risk Reduction Program (TRRP) protective concentration levels (PCLs) but below the EPA's lifetime health advisory. To date, 93 drinking water wells have been sampled with preliminary results having been received on 77 of the wells.

PFOS/PFOA are commonly found in many consumer products, and are widely used by industry, commercial aviation and military services as components in Aqueous Film Forming Foam to contain petroleum-based fires.

The site inspections are part of a three-step approach – identify, respond, prevent -- to assess and respond to potential PFOS/PFOA drinking water contamination. The Air Force Civil Engineer Center (AFCEC) is conducting similar site inspections at more than 200 installations.

“We are working hand-in-hand with local community leaders, TCEQ and the EPA Region 6 to continue to test and monitor wells and ensure drinking water supplies meet applicable federal and state standards,” said Paul Carroll, Base Realignment and Closure Environmental Coordinator. “The Air Force’s top priority is to protect human health and we will continue to work closely with impacted residents and members of the community to ensure concerns are addressed.”

More laboratory results are expected in the next week. All drinking water wells tested are located within one mile and in the direction of groundwater flow of the former base. Residents in the current sampling areas, identified on the accompanying map, and who have not been contacted for water sampling are asked to contact Mr. Paul Carroll, at 806-885-5010 or at paul.carroll.1@us.af.mil.

For more information on the Air Force response to PFAS, contact the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center public affairs office at (866) 725-7617 or email afcec.pa@us.af.mil.

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