

FAQs: NBK Bangor PFAS Study

Q: Why is the Navy investigating the groundwater near Bangor for PFAS?

A: Recently PFAS has been discovered in groundwater near various military bases. In Washington, these include Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Joint Base Lewis-McChord and Fairchild Air Force Base. These PFAS contaminations have been linked to the use of fire-fighting foam. As a result, the Navy has undertaken a nationwide initiative to screen groundwater near facilities that have used this fire-fighting foam.

Q: What is PFAS?

PFAS stands for polyfluoroalkyl substances. These are a class of man-made chemicals used in products like non-stick cookware, food packaging, furniture upholstery and fire-fighting foams.

Q: Has PFAS been detected in the groundwater near NBK Bangor?

No. The Navy sampled NBK Bangor wells in 2014-2015 for PFAS. There were no detections. As part of a new nationwide initiative (see Question #1 above), the Navy will be sampling wells around NBK Bangor in early 2020.

Q: Has KPUD detected PFAS in any water samples?

No. We have only sampled source wells that serve our North Peninsula Water System and our Keyport Water System for PFAS. North Peninsula was sampled as part of the federal Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 in 2014 and 2015. There were no detections. The Keyport Water System was sampled in 2017. There were no detections. In response to the Navy's plan to sample wells adjacent to NBK Bangor, Kitsap PUD sampled the source wells of two water systems we have in the area. Results are expected in late February.

Q: Will other systems be tested for PFAS?

Washington Department of Health is currently drafting a rule that will require all Group A Public Water Systems to test, regularly, for PFAS. The rule is expected to take effect in 2020 with regular sampling taking place after that.

Q: Where can I find more information on PFAS?

More information on PFAS can be found at Washington Department of Health's webpage at <https://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Contaminants/PFAS>.