



U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION (NAS) SIGONELLA – NAS SIGONELLA I 2015 DRINKING WATER CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



Is our water safe to drink?

Yes. Naval Air Station (NAS) Sigonella's drinking water systems provide water that is safe and Fit for Human Consumption (potable) as determined by the Installation Commanding Officer's Record of Decision dated 7 Feb 2014. NAS Sigonella is proud to support the Navy's commitment to provide safe and reliable drinking water to our service members and their families. In fact, NAS Sigonella's four water systems were among the first overseas drinking water facilities to receive Conditional Certificates to Operate from Commander, Navy Installations Command. This annual Consumer Confidence Report for calendar year 2015 includes general and mandatory information to educate everyone about our water source(s), treatment processes, standard requirements, and other details to help assure you that our water is safe to drink.

Our drinking water fully complies with the DoD's Italy Final Governing Standards (FGS), which are derived from the Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Italian drinking water standards. When Italian and U.S. standards differ, the most protective requirement is adopted into the FGS. A detailed list of constituents found in our drinking water is included in this report, along with a comparison to the maximum levels considered safe for the general public by these standards.

NAS Sigonella's Commanding Officer and Naval Facilities Engineering Command EURAFSWA recognize the importance of protecting the health and well-being of our Sigonella Citizens. To further the goal of improving the program, a dedicated Drinking Water Program Manager position within the Public Works Department, Environmental Division was created and staffed in 2015. The main focus of this Environmental Engineer's work is to ensure that NAS Sigonella's drinking water meets the expectations of our community and the safety standards set by the Italy FGS.

Where does our water come from and how is it treated?

NAS Sigonella produces water for NAS I at the NAS I Water Treatment Plant. This water comes from two groundwater wells located off-base. The wells withdraw water from the confined deep aquifer beneath the Plain of Catania at a depth of approximately 45 m. The water is pumped to the Water Treatment Plant and treated using sand filters, an advanced reverse osmosis membrane filtration system, and disinfection prior to distribution. Regardless of differences in the source or the treatment process, all drinking water provided to the NAS Sigonella community must meet the same performance standards.

Why are there contaminants in drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain small amounts of some contaminants. The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring contaminants and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

As a result, some contaminants may be present in source drinking water and may include the following:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from wildlife, sewage treatment plants, septic systems, and livestock;
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources, such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses;

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- **Inorganic contaminants** naturally occurring such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming;
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water from any source may also include **Disinfection by-products**, formed when disinfectants used in water treatment plants react with bromide and/or natural organic matter (i.e., decaying vegetation) present in the source water. Different disinfectants produce different types or amounts of disinfection byproducts. Disinfection byproducts for which regulations have been established include trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, bromate, and chlorite.

The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, regulations limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Regular sampling is conducted to detect the level of contaminants in the water system. If the results are above regulatory limits, you will be notified by an All Hands e-mail, an article in *The Signature*, and/or by Facebook post.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a three tier public notification plan for drinking water, which is summarized in Table 1 below. NAS Sigonella follows this outline to ensure that you are notified in a timely manner if notifications are necessary.

Table 1. The 3 Tiers of Public Notification*		
	Required Distribution Time	Notification Delivery Method
Tier 1: Immediate Notice	Any time a situation occurs where there is the potential for human health to be immediately impacted, water suppliers have 24 hours to notify people who may drink the water of the situation.	Should a Tier 1 notification be necessary, NAS Sigonella will notify you via an All Hands E-mail message and/or Facebook.
Tier 2: Notice as Soon as Possible	Any time a water system provides water with levels of a contaminant that exceed EPA or state standards or that hasn't been treated properly, but that doesn't pose an immediate risk to human health, the water system must notify its customers as soon as possible, but within 30 days of the violation.	NAS Sigonella will notify you of a Tier 2 concern through an All Hands E-mail message, publication in <i>The Signature</i> , and/or by post on Facebook.
Tier 3: Annual Notice	When water systems violate a drinking water standard that does not have a direct impact on human health (For Example, failing to take a required sample on time) the water supplier has up to a year to provide a notice of this situation to its customers.	Tier 3 notifications are published annually in this document, the Consumer Confidence Report.

*Definitions taken from EPA website. See

<http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/publicnotification/basicinformation.cfm> for more information.

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You can learn more about contaminants and any potential health effects by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: +1-800-426-4791 or by visiting the EPA's Drinking Water Standards web site: <http://permanent.access.gpo.gov/lps21800/www.epa.gov/safewater/standards.html>.

Source Water Assessment

In January 2013 the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) conducted a comprehensive sanitary survey of the NAS I drinking water system. This survey provided an evaluation of the adequacy of the drinking water source, facilities, equipment, operation and maintenance for producing and distributing safe drinking water. NAVFAC is continually improving the drinking water system based on the recommendations in the report.

Some People Must Use Special Precautions

There are people who may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline: +1-800-426-4791 or by visiting www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa.

Additional Information for Bromate

If present, elevated levels of bromate can cause serious health problems. Some people who drink water containing bromate in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. Information on bromate in drinking water and the steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water website, www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa.

Additional Information for Lead

Corrosion of household plumbing systems and erosion of natural deposits are the typical sources for lead and copper in drinking water. To meet the EPA and Italy FGS action level for lead and copper, 90 percent of the buildings tested must have lead levels below 15 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$) and copper levels below 1.3 milligrams per liter (mg/L). This measurement is referred to as the 90th percentile. Of all NAS I's Lead and Copper Rule sampling sites, 100% of the buildings tested were below these limits. If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. NAVFAC Sigonella Public Works is responsible for providing high-quality drinking water and has direct control over the materials used in plumbing components on the facility. This ensures that no lead service lines or components are used in the drinking water system. As a general safety practice, whenever - and wherever - you plan to use tap water for drinking or cooking, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing the tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes prior to use. Information on lead in drinking water and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water website: www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Water Quality Data Table

The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants and relevant sampling data collected during the 2015 calendar year (unless otherwise noted). NAS Sigonella samples for many more chemicals than are found in this table; only those contaminants detected in the water are presented in the table. The presence of contaminants in the water does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. For those contaminants that are not sampled annually, sample results in this table are the most recent required by the applicable regulations.

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Table 2. Results of Latest Required Drinking Water System Testing

<u>Contaminants</u> (Units)	<u>MCLG</u> or <u>MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL,</u> <u>TT, or</u> <u>MRDL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low-High</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical</u> <u>Source</u>
Inorganic Components							
pH ¹	N/A	6.5-9.5	7.64	6.1-8.0	2015	NO ¹	
Conductivity (µS/cm)	N/A	2,500	200	72-250	2015	NO	
Nitrate (as Total N, mg/L)	N/A	10	1.70	1.4-2.48	2015	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Barium (mg/L)	N/A	2	0.007	N/A	2015	NO	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Boron (mg/L)	N/A	1	0.34	N/A	2015	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Bromate ² (µg/L)	N/A	10	43.9	0-43.9	2015	YES	Leaching; By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chloride (mg/L)	N/A	250	19	N/A	2015	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Dry Residues (mg/L)	N/A	1500	114	N/A	2015	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium (mg/L)	N/A	200	12	N/A	2015	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Sulfate (mg/L)	N/A	250	3.7	N/A	2015	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Hardness (mg/L as CaCO ₃)	150-500	N/A	78	N/A	2015	NO	Erosion of natural deposits

¹ On March 16th, the compliance sampling team collected a single sample which registered a pH of 6.1 at the lab. This is the only sample that was below the MCL limit for pH at NAS I during the calendar year and is suspected to be the result of a sampling error. Operational data taken every four hours that day at locations in the distribution system show a pH range of 7.62-7.90, well within the required range. pH is monitored to prevent corrosion of the piping. It is not considered an acute or chronic health risk.

² In 2015 the 10µg/L MCL for bromate was exceeded only at Building 157, “Connections”. All other buildings sampled below the MCL. The level ranged from 7.85 µg/L to 43.9 µg/L. After each quarterly sampling event, public notifications were distributed in *The Signature*, All Hands E-mails, and on Facebook in accordance with EPA’s Tier 2 guidance. NAS Sigonella’s Water Quality Board is working with experts from Command Navy Region EURAFSWA and across the U.S. to determine the cause of these exceedances. The levels of bromate found at these locations do not pose an immediate health risk. However, some people who drink water containing bromate in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer. In 2016 the pipes in Building 157 are being replaced. This is expected to resolve the problem.

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Table 2. Cont.

<u>Contaminants</u> (Units)	<u>MCLG</u> or <u>MRDLG</u>	<u>MCL,</u> <u>TT, or</u> <u>MRDL</u>	<u>Your</u> <u>Water</u>	<u>Range</u> <u>Low-High</u>	<u>Sample</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical</u> <u>Source</u>
Disinfectant and Disinfection By-Product Components							
Chlorine (mg/L)	N/A	4	1.21	0.40-1.75	2015	NO	Water additive used to control microbes
Haloacetic acids (µg/L)	N/A	60	6.87	N/A	2015	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes (µg/L)	N/A	30	0.5	N/A	2015	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Organic Components							
Xylene (mg/L)	N/A	1.0	0.0008	0-0.004	2015	NO	Discharge from petroleum factories; Discharge from chemical factories
Microbiological Components							
Turbidity (NTU)	TT	N/A	0.41	0.30-0.60	2015	NO	Soil runoff
Total Coliforms		0	0	N/A	2015	NO	Naturally present in the environment
Radiological Components							
Gross Alpha (pCi/L)	N/A	15	0.45	N/A	2013	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross Beta (pCi/L)	N/A	50	0.52	N/A	2013	NO	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Lead and Copper Components							
	<u>AL</u>	<u>Your Water</u> <u>90th Percentile</u>		<u>Sample Date</u>	<u>Violation</u>	<u>Typical Source</u>	
Lead (µg/L)	15	3.1		2013	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits	
Copper (mg/L)	1.3	0.22		2013	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing; Erosion of natural deposits	

Table 3. Unit Descriptions

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
mg/L	milligrams per liter (mg/L) or parts per million
µg/L	micrograms per liter (µg/L) or parts per billion
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
pCi/L	picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
µS/cm	Microsiemens per centimeter

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Table 4. Important Drinking Water Definitions	
<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
MCLG	Maximum Contaminant Level Goal: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT	Treatment Technique: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL	Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions	EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG	Maximum residual disinfection level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL	Maximum residual disinfectant level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
ND	Not Detected, also below the PQL
N/A	Not Applicable
PQL	Practical Quantitation Limit, the lowest limit at which the contaminant can be detected reliably.

Monitoring Violations

This section provides the Tier 3 notification in accordance with EPA procedures. Tier 3 notifications do not have an impact on human health but are required by the EPA (See Table 1).

In July the Italy FGS was revised to include periodic monitoring of taste, color, and odor. Odor was monitored once in 2015 but color and taste were not analyzed. No odor was detected by the lab. These components are difficult to monitor due to the long distance the drinking water samples must be shipped. A lab has been identified to analyze color and odor. A feasible lab certified to analyze taste has not yet been found. We are working to resolve this issue and will begin sampling in 2016.

Points of Contact

If you have any questions regarding this report or about the drinking water processes, please contact the NAS Sigonella Installation Water Quality Board by calling 095-86-7220 or E-mailing the Drinking Water Program Manager, Rachel Methvin, at rachel.methvin@eu.navy.mil.