Outlying Landing Field Silverhill
Silverhill, Alabama
Private Drinking Water Well Sampling for PFAS

June 2026

The Navy is requesting property owner permission to sample private drinking water wells for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, within sampling areas near Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Siverhill.

PFAS have been used in many household and industrial products because of their stain- and water-repellent properties. PFAS are now present virtually everywhere in the world because of the large amounts that have been manufactured and used. Once these compounds are released, many of them tend to stay in the environment for a very long time.

The most common activity associated with the historical release of PFAS to the environment at OLF Silverhill (**Figure 1**) is the use of firefighting foam (specifically aqueous film-forming foam, or AFFF). Due to this historical use, PFAS are present in the groundwater on base and previously warranted the evaluation of nearby private drinking water wells located in the direction that groundwater flows away from the base.

PREVIOUS PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING

From 2021 through 2024, the Navy sampled private drinking water wells near OLF Silverhill. PFOA and/or PFOS were not detected above 70 parts per trillion (ppt), the Department of War (DoW) action level at the time.

SEPTEMBER 2024 POLICY FOR PFAS IN PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELLS

On April 26, 2024, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) establishing nationwide drinking water standards for certain PFAS under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The regulation applies to public drinking water systems. Operators of public drinking water systems regulated by the NPDWR have until April 26, 2029, to meet these standards. In September 2024, the DoW published "Prioritization of Department of Defense Cleanup Actions to Implement the Federal Drinking Water Standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program," which describes the DoW's plans to incorporate the EPA's drinking water regulation into DoW's ongoing PFAS cleanups and prioritize actions to address private drinking water wells with the highest levels of PFAS from DoW activities. **Table 1** shows the DoW PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells and EPA NPDWR Levels.

2026 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for 2026 was signed into law on December 18, 2025. This allows the Navy to offer interim actions (such as connection to public drinking water or a treatment system) for downgradient households in the community that receive water from private drinking water wells where levels of PFOA and/or PFOS exceed the EPA NPDWR Levels. As of that date, at least one home in the community qualified for alternative drinking water from the Navy as a result of a PFAS release at OLF Silverhill.

Table 1: EPA NPDWR Levels for Public Water Systems and DoW PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells

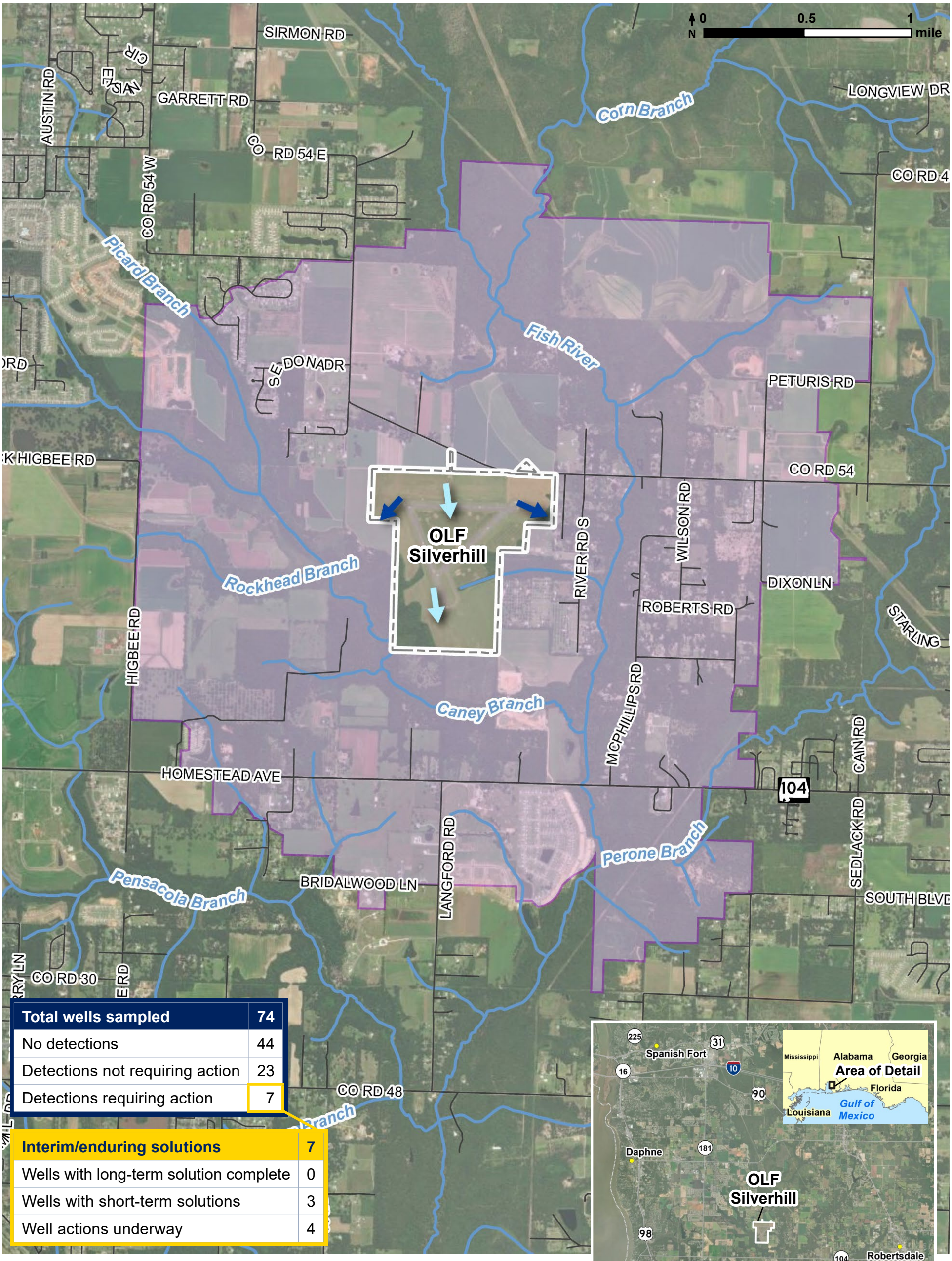
PFAS	EPA NPDWR Level for Public Water Systems	DoW PFAS Interim Action Level for Private Drinking Water Wells[1]
perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	4 ppt	12 ppt
perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)	4 ppt	12 ppt
perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA)	10 ppt	30 ppt
perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS)	10 ppt	30 ppt
hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA, or GenX)	10 ppt	30 ppt
hazard index for mixture of at least two of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS)	1 (no units)	3 (no units)

ppt = part(s) per trillion

[1] These levels are based on current EPA NPDWR Levels. If EPA updates applicable requirements, DoW will review and update its policy as appropriate.

PFAS are a family of thousands of different chemicals widely used in many household and industrial products since the 1950s. The Navy and DoW have developed proactive policies to address past releases of PFAS, including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), at installations nationwide.

Figure 1 – Sampling Area



LEGEND

- Base boundary
- Confirmed groundwater flow direction
- Potential groundwater flow direction
- 2021–present sampling area

CURRENT EFFORTS

The Navy is requesting property owner permission to sample private drinking water wells in the sampling areas near OLF Silverhill (**Figure 1**). Due to improvements in laboratory methods, the Navy is also requesting property owner permission to resample private drinking water wells that were sampled from 2021 through 2024.

Additionally, the Navy is requesting property owner permission to take interim actions to address PFAS at private drinking water wells sampled from 2021 through the present where PFAS were detected at or above the DoW PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells or PFOA and/or PFOS were above EPA NPDWR Levels (**Table 1**).

2026 PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELL SAMPLING FOR PFAS

The Navy re-evaluated the 2021 through the present private drinking water well results. Based on this information, the Navy has determined that private drinking water wells sampled near OLF Silverhill contain PFAS at or above the DoW PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells or PFOA and/or PFOS above EPA NPDWR Levels. The Navy is requesting property owner permission to implement interim actions to address PFAS in drinking water at the locations where PFAS exceeds the DoW PFAS Interim Action Level for Private Drinking Water Wells. The Navy will also offer to implement interim actions at locations where PFOA and/or PFOS exceed the EPA NPDWR Levels.

Additionally, the Navy is requesting property owner permission to sample private drinking water wells within the sampling area (**Figure 1**). The Navy has also determined that private drinking water wells sampled from 2021 through 2024 should be resampled. Because of improvements in laboratory methods, PFAS previously reported as non-detectable may now be detected at low levels in these private drinking water wells. **If your drinking water is provided by Belforest Water, the Navy does not need to sample your drinking water.**

RESULTS COMMUNICATION

Preliminary drinking water sample results are typically received from the laboratory within approximately 30 days after sample collection. The Navy will call property owners (and tenants, if present) to provide preliminary drinking water sample results. Final drinking water sample results will be mailed to property owners (and tenants, if present) within 3 months after sample collection.

Final results will also be available online at: https://www.acq.osd.mil/eie/eer/ecc/pfas/map/pfasmap.html. Individual results will not be linked with the sampled property on this website to ensure continued privacy of property owners and tenants. This website also contains information on the DoW's planned sampling of private drinking water wells for PFAS.

ACTIONS BASED ON RESULTS

The Navy will address PFAS in private drinking water wells in keeping with the DoW policies and the 2026 NDAA:

- **PFAS at or above the DoW PFAS Interim Action Levels for Private Drinking Water Wells (Table 1).** The Navy will work with property owners to implement an enduring solution as soon as possible. Options for enduring solutions may include connection to public water or installation of a drinking water treatment system. For any drinking water wells with PFOA and PFOS, individually or combined, above 70 ppt, the Navy will provide bottled water for drinking and cooking to property owners or tenants until a more enduring solution is implemented.
- **PFOA and/or PFOS at or above the EPA NPDWR Levels (Table 1).** Where PFOS and/or PFOA levels in private drinking water exceed the EPA NPDWR Levels due solely to Navy activities on its installation, the Navy will offer an enduring drinking water solution as soon as possible.

For final remedial actions, the Navy will address PFAS in private drinking water wells down to EPA NPDWR Levels or background levels in accordance with Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) requirements.

The Navy will continue to investigate the presence of PFAS at OLF Silverhill in partnership with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management. To find out more about all on-base environmental investigations, visit https://www.navfac.navy.mil/NASWF.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Federal agencies such as the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the EPA continue to conduct and support research into health effects associated with PFAS exposure. More information about health effects can be found online at:

ATSDR: https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html

EPA: https://www.epa.gov/pfas

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PRIVATE DRINKING WATER SAMPLING

- **Visit our website at https://www.navfac.navy.mil/NASWFPFAS or scan the QR code →**
- **Leave a voicemail at 844-NASWFLD (844-627-9353), or**
- **Send an email to cnic_se_whtg_pao@us.navy.mil**