

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: 4:30pm, Friday January 29, 2021

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ONWASA RESPONDS QUICKLY TO INFORMATION ON PFAS RELEASE ABOARD MCOLF CAMP DAVIS SOUTH

The Onslow Water and Sewer Authority (ONWASA) has halted operation of two water production wells in the Holly Ridge area following receipt of information on the presence of per-and-polyflouroalkyl substances (PFAS) at nearby Marine Corps Outlying Landing Field Camp Davis South (MCOLF Camp Davis South). The two ONWASA wells are within one (1) mile of the landing field. ONWASA has ordered laboratory testing to determine if there is any presence of PFAS within the wells. There is no evidence as of this date that PFAS reached the well sites.

On Wednesday, January 27th at 5:23pm ONWASA received information about the PFAS release area aboard the base and determined that two (2) of the ten (10) deep aquifer wells in the Dixon well field were within one mile of the area of concern. The two wells were taken offline less than one hour later, at 6:16pm. Water samples were gathered from the wells on January 28th and delivered to an independent laboratory (Enthalpy Laboratory in Wilmington) for testing. Test results should be returned to ONWASA by 5:00pm on February 4th. Results of the testing shall be made available to the public on February 5th.

The two ONWASA wells were new and operated from November 19, 2020 until January 27, 2021. During their time of operation, they produced only 2.2% of the raw water supplied to the Dixon Water Treatment Plant. In 2019 ONWASA tested all its water sources for PFAS and found no reportable levels of the substances.

The main mission of ONWASA is to provide safe, healthy drinking water for the citizens of the community. The well sites near the area of concern at MCOLF Camp Davis will remain shut down until they are proven to be safe for the public.

No water advisories are being issued at this time. ONWASA water meets all USEPA standards and is considered safe to drink. Citizens who have questions about the ONWASA water system may contact ONWASA at (910) 455-0722.

Citizens who have private water wells in the area or who have questions regarding the release of PFAS aboard MCOLF Camp Davis may contact the MCI-EAST Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Nat Fahy at (910) 451-7413.

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