



YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER

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(253) 278-5491

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May 16, 2022

Public open house and media availability May 26 with Yakima Training Center and Army environmental officials regarding drinking water testing near YTC

YAKIMA TRAINING CENTER, Wash. – Yakima Training Center and U.S. Army Environmental Command officials will hold a Public Open House and media availability May 26 at the Yakima Convention Center regarding drinking water well testing on private properties near YTC. The Yakima Convention Center is at 10 N 8th Street, Yakima Wash., 98901.

- 12 p.m. – 12:30 p.m. Media Availability
- 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Public Open House
- 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. BREAK (Open House site closed)
- 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. Public Open House

The open house will provide the community the opportunity to gain additional information regarding Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) studies done at YTC, PFAS potential health effects and recommendations, the Phase 3 water well testing plan, and explanation of the YTC Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) intents.

Media: to RSVP, please contact Joint Base Lewis-McChord Public Affairs by 4 p.m., May 25 at (253) 278-5491 or by email at gary.dangerfield.civ@army.mil.

Background:

Phase 1 Testing: In October 2021 the U.S. Army tested 22 drinking water wells on private properties near YTC and found eight wells serving 12 residences with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) levels that exceed the EPA Lifetime Health Advisory.

Phase 2 Testing: In January the U.S. Army tested 86 drinking water wells on private properties near YTC, and found 30 wells serving 44 residences with PFAS concentrations that exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's Lifetime Health Advisory.

Phase 3 Testing: Letters requesting permission to sample and test additional drinking water wells on private properties near YTC were sent out on May 16. The sampling is expected to occur in July and August, and the results are expected four to six weeks later, or in late-August/September.

The testing looks for concentrations of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), which are part of a larger group of chemical compounds known as PFAS. The Environmental Protection Agency issued a health advisory for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water of 70 parts per trillion.

The Army has offered and continues to provide bottled water to the property owners and residents for drinking and cooking at the locations with the wells that showed concentrations of PFAS above the EPA health advisory.

Yakima Training Center Public Open House regarding drinking water testing 2-2-2

PFAS are present in aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF), a critical firefighting agent used to quickly suppress petroleum fires at airports. AFFF was previously used at Yakima Training Center. PFAS are also found in many everyday products, such as food packaging, cookware, carpet protectants and waterproofing chemicals.

Yakima Training Center is following the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) process to identify the source of the PFOA and PFOS in the groundwater and take appropriate action. The Army assesses if past activities may have resulted in a release and the potential for human exposure, and takes action to protect human health and the environment. Further CERCLA actions are prioritized and sequenced based on risk.

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