



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS  
2000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

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14 Oct 16

From: Director, Energy and Environmental Readiness (OPNAV N45)  
To: Commander, Navy Installations Command (N4)  
Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (M3 and M4)

Subj: NAVY POLICY REQUIREMENTS FOR DRINKING WATER EXCEEDANCES

Ref: (a) OPNAV M-5090.1D, Environmental Readiness Program Manual

1. This letter updates Navy policy related to required actions in response to drinking water exceedances at Navy shore installations worldwide, and will be included in the next revision to reference (a). This policy will ensure that decisions to provide alternate water supplies and take other corrective actions in the event of a drinking water exceedance are approached in a consistent manner at all Navy shore installations worldwide.
2. Effective immediately, all Navy installation commanding officers (ICOs) are required to consult with local Preventive Medicine Authority (PMA) who shall immediately consult the Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center (NMCPHC) in the event of an exceedance of a drinking water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), Action Level, Health Advisory, or other promulgated drinking water quality standard in the United States and overseas. Other promulgated drinking water quality standards include state or local regulatory requirements or the standards set in the applicable Final Governing Standards for overseas locations. They do not include secondary drinking water standards that are non-enforceable. This policy applies to public and non-public water systems, Overseas Drinking Water Systems, and primary systems and consecutive (purchased water) systems including those where Navy is notified by the water supplier of an exceedance.
3. The local PMA, as advised by NMCPHC, will provide recommendations to the ICO on whether to provide alternate water supplies to all Navy consumers or a subset of Navy consumers. The ICO shall also consider input from state or local regulators (in the U.S.), the Installation Water Quality Board (for overseas), the installation Public Works Officer and the environmental and utilities staff prior to making a decision to provide alternate water. If the ICO determines an alternate water supply is required, the ICO will request a formal Public Health Risk Assessment (PHRA) from the NMCPHC on whether the installation water system(s) in exceedance can be used for other specific consumptive purposes.
4. The local PMA cannot override a regulatory requirement to provide alternative water. However, the local PMA can advise the ICO to be more protective than the regulator requires. Regardless of response selected, the ICO must continue to work with state and local regulators until the exceedance is resolved.
5. BUMED is also required to review and provide recommendations to the ICO on all drinking water public notices in the U.S. and overseas.

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6. My point of contact for this policy is Ms. Lindsay Nehm, N452E, at (703) 695-5179, DSN 225-5179, or e-mail Lindsay.nehm@navy.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L.V. Cariello', with a stylized, cursive script.

L.V. CARIELLO

Copy to:  
DASN(E)  
OPNAV N4  
OPNAV N46  
NAVFAC ENV