

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

The South Carolina National Guard is a community-based organization that remains committed to the health and safety of our men and women in uniform, their Families, and the communities in which we live and serve. This is why it is important to the South Carolina National Guard to take the necessary steps to identify any contamination in the groundwater in proximity to our facilities and coordinate with higher authorities to develop steps to lower the risk of contamination and conduct cleanup activities as directed by the Department of Defense. To date, the South Carolina National Guard has conducted tests of the groundwater outside multiple facilities in 2018 and 2019 that are owned or operated by the organization. The South Carolina National Guard environmental office is currently coordinating with the National Guard Bureau PFAS management office for a plan of remediation in response to the test results identifying the PFAS levels, which includes steps to limit the use of the product, and phase it out to be replaced with an approved qualified product, based on guidance from appropriate authorities.

McEntire JNGB specific information:

#1: At McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB), a preliminary assessment and Site Inspection (SI) has been completed on the Air Guard side, with a preliminary assessment completed on May 1, 2016 and a site inspection completed on July 19, 2018. The Army Guard side of the base is in the process of their assessment and inspection. Once this process is finished, McEntire JNGB will have completed joint efforts of McEntire JNGB's preliminary Site Inspection (SI). PFAS status remains that McEntire has no confirmed detection levels off base and are awaiting DOD direction and guidance.

#2 McEntire JNGB was not identified as a priority base nationwide for cleanup and remediation. The ANG is in the process of evaluating data from bases across the country in order to prioritize expanded Site Inspection (SI) efforts. In general, McEntire Joint National Guard Base had some of the lower levels of PFOS/PFOA in soils, groundwater, sediment, and surface water relative to other bases. The ANG has identified and released the list of the first 10 Remedial Inspection (RI) sites nationwide and McEntire was not on that list. (i.e. not in the top priority of highest PFAS levels or need).

#3: There have been no identified threats to drinking water on McEntire JNGB.

#3a: Although all of McEntire JNGB's preliminary Site Inspection results are not available at the moment, McEntire JNGB receives its drinking water from the City of Columbia and there have been no known drinking water impacts from PFOS/PFOA.

#3b: Should PFOS contamination be detected, the next phase in the process is a RI which defines nature and extent of the contamination.

Remedial investigations will be prioritized across the DoD based on risk to human health

Removal actions can be performed at any time during the investigations, if there are hazards/risks to human health

#4: The South Carolina National Guard is following provisions of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to guide PFOS/PFOA clean up actions.

#5: The South Carolina National Guard has been in close coordination with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) and the Air Force Civil Engineer Center among others related to the PFOS/PFOA issue.

For more information on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

SC DHEC info Per– and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

<https://www.scdhec.gov/BOW/perfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

SC DHEC info Department of Defense Facilities in SC

<https://www.scdhec.gov/environment/land-management/hazardous-waste/resource-conservation-recovery-act-rcra/department-defense-facilities>

National Guard and PFOS/PFOA

<https://www.nationalguard.mil/Leadership/Joint-Staff/Personal-Staff/Public-Affairs/CommunityRelations/Environmental/>

EPA Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas>

DoD PFAS: A national issue that needs national solutions

<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/pfas/>

Air Force response to PFOS/PFOA

<https://www.afcec.af.mil/WhatWeDo/Environment/Perfluorinated-Compounds/>