



Army Aviation Centre Oakey – Groundwater Investigation

About the Investigation

The Department of Defence (Defence) is undertaking a long-term environmental investigation and assessment of the groundwater beneath the Army Aviation Centre Oakey (AACO) base and surrounds.

The initial investigation has involved targeted sampling and testing of local water bores to the west and south-west of the base and desktop studies.

It is anticipated the investigation may take several years to complete. The purpose of the investigation is to understand how groundwater may have been impacted by fire-fighting foams, used as part of training activities on the AACO between 1970 and 2005. These foams contained perfluorooctane sulphonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA).

The information collected will assist Defence to understand the groundwater impacts and contribute to developing appropriate management strategies in relation to any potential human health and ecological risks.

Using groundwater for drinking

As a precaution, Defence recommends not drinking water from any underground sources within the investigation area (see map over page) or using bore water to re-fill rainwater tanks that supply drinking water, until further notice.

Landholders and residents within the investigation area, who use groundwater for drinking water or household use, should contact Defence in order to discuss possible management strategies. Each household's drinking water requirements will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to select the most appropriate assistance that Defence may be able to provide.



Invitation - community information session

Defence will provide an update about the project on:

Tuesday 2 December 2014

6.00 – 7.30pm

Oakey RSL, 76 Campbell Street, Oakey

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to 1800 136 129 or defence.oakey.anz@aecom.com before 5pm. Monday 1 December 2014.



About PFOS and PFOA

PFOS and PFOA have been used for many years in a wide variety of common household and industrial products such as cleaning products, textiles and paper and packaging products and are present at trace concentrations throughout the environment.

PFOS and PFOA are 'emerging contaminants' and to date, limited research has been completed in Australia or overseas into the possible health impacts of these chemicals. Research in Australia and overseas continues to be undertaken and Defence is actively engaged with industry professionals to review the information from these studies and its applicability to the site conditions.

Keeping the community informed

Defence is committed to regularly updating the community throughout the investigation.

The project website will be updated as the investigation progresses. Community information sessions, direct mail and information sheets will occur as required.

Enquiries or requests relating to individual properties will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.





Investigation and detection areas





The map (right) shows the current investigation and detection areas.

The 'detection area' (indicated in shades of blue) shows the current understanding of the area, in which concentrations of PFOS have been reported in the groundwater. This is inferred from bore sample results and may change over time as more samples are tested.

The 'investigation area' (indicated by the black dotted line) is the broader area beyond the detection area, which is being studied as part of assessing the extent of the contaminated groundwater.

This may also change as more information becomes available.

Contact

-  1800 136 129 freecall (business hours)
-  www.defence.gov.au/id/oakey
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