



# FACT SHEET

## Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

### Off-Post Groundwater Investigation

#### Nevada Avenue Area

#### July 2015



### Overview

The U.S. Army at Fort George G. Meade recently finished an investigation of groundwater in the Nevada Avenue area of Odenton. This fact sheet provides background information on the groundwater investigation and summarizes the work performed and the conclusions of the report. The Army will continue to sample private wells, provide bottled water, and conduct further investigation.

### Investigation Background

The Army, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), and Anne Arundel County Department of Health have been conducting an investigation of groundwater in the Nevada Avenue area of Odenton, just east of Fort Meade.

The Army initially detected groundwater contamination in two monitoring wells on Fort Meade's southeastern boundary. The Army tested nearby private drinking water wells in Odenton starting in 2009. During the 2009 testing, tetrachloroethene (PCE) was detected in private drinking water wells on Nevada Avenue at concentrations near or just exceeding the EPA drinking water maximum contaminant level (MCL). Other compounds were detected at levels below EPA's standards.

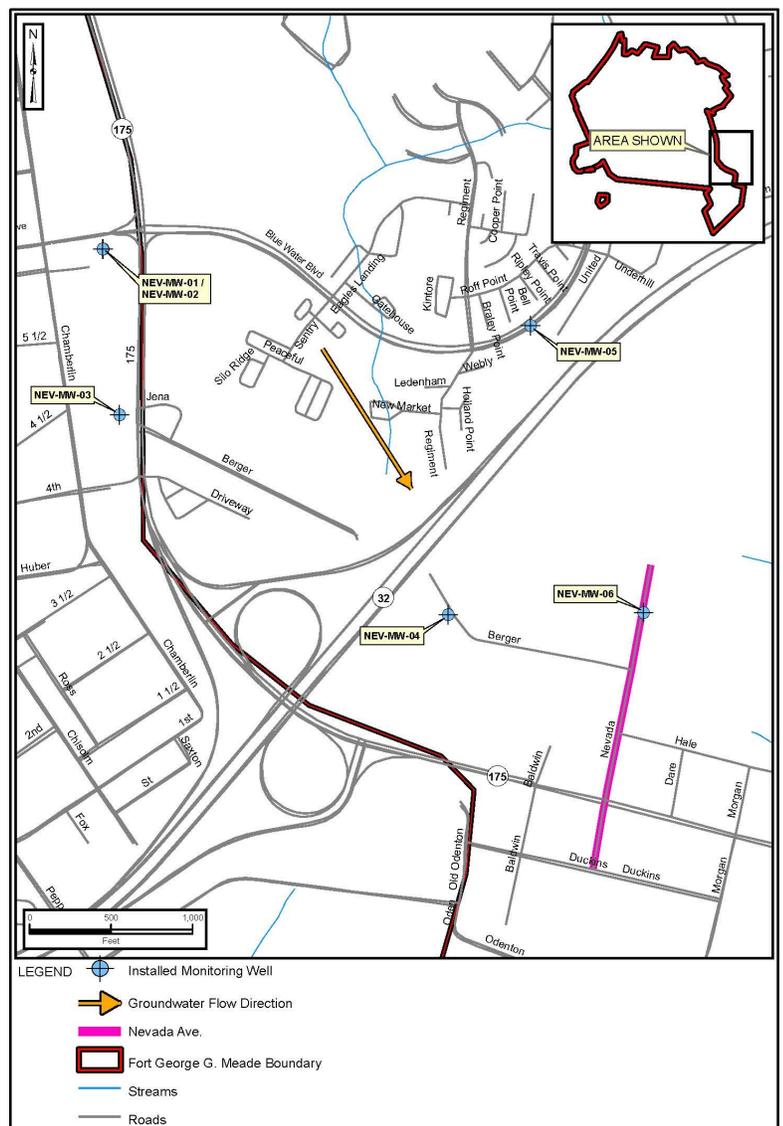
The goal of the Army's most recent investigation was to determine if Fort Meade is the source of the PCE found in the private wells.

**Homes and businesses receiving their water from the public water supply (Anne Arundel County) are not impacted by the solvents found in the private wells.**

### Comprehensive Investigation Completed

The investigation included:

- Review of historical information for the area upgradient and adjacent to the Nevada Avenue private wells;
- Installation of six groundwater monitoring wells (three on Fort Meade's boundary and three in the area between Fort Meade and the Nevada Avenue private wells) as shown on the map;
- Collection of two rounds of groundwater samples from the new monitoring wells;
- Collection of two rounds of groundwater level data from the new and existing monitoring wells to determine groundwater flow direction; and,
- Collection of samples from the three private wells on Nevada Avenue on a monthly basis and provision of bottled water.



## Summary of Investigation Results

Groundwater monitoring conducted during this investigation determined that groundwater flows to the south-southeast, which varies from the overall regional flow to the southeast. The highest concentrations of PCE were found in one deep well (MW-05) upgradient of the private wells, and the concentrations were consistent with those detected in the private wells. Therefore, it is believed the source of contamination is located north-northwest of the Nevada Avenue private wells. A source is typically “upgradient” as groundwater tends to flow from higher elevations to lower elevations.

The three new monitoring wells installed on Fort Meade’s boundary did not indicate the presence of a PCE source at Fort Meade in the study area. Other existing Fort Meade wells are not screened at the same depths where PCE was detected, so they do not provide an accurate representation of upgradient groundwater quality. Additionally, two areas on Fort Meade, located upgradient, require additional investigation as potential source areas.

PCE is a common dry cleaning fluid, and at dry cleaners, it would have been used without any other industrial solvents or petroleum products as compared to a use on Fort Meade such as a motor pool. This profile matches the contamination profile in the Nevada Avenue private wells which primarily includes PCE and its breakdown products. Historical research found current and former off-post dry cleaners upgradient that are using or may have used PCE as a cleaning solvent.

Based on this investigation, the Army, in consultation with EPA, MDE, and Anne Arundel County, has determined additional investigation is needed to determine if the source of the Nevada Avenue contamination is another area of Fort Meade. The Army is developing the specific scope, including actions and durations, which will be reviewed and approved by the stakeholders prior to implementation. The Army will continue to sample the private wells on Nevada Avenue and provide bottled water for properties associated with the investigation.



*The wells were installed using a drill rig similar to the one pictured above.*

## Additional Information Available

A copy of the “Fort George G. Meade Off-Post Groundwater Investigation: Nevada Avenue Area Report” dated March 2015 is available on Fort Meade’s web site at [ww.ftmeade.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environment/index.html](http://ww.ftmeade.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environment/index.html) (click on the links for Clean-Up Program, Superfund/Program Sites).

Fort Meade has established two information repositories which contain various documents available for the public’s review: 1) Fort Meade’s Environmental Division, please call 301-677-9648 to make arrangements to review the documents; and 2) Odenton Regional Library, 1325 Annapolis Road, Odenton, MD, 21113, call 410-222-6277 for library hours.

This project and other environmental projects are discussed at meetings of Fort Meade’s Restoration Advisory Board. These meetings are held every other month. Meetings are announced in local papers and on the Fort Meade web site ([www.ftmeade.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environment/index.html](http://www.ftmeade.army.mil/directorates/dpw/environment/index.html)); click on the link for Clean-Up Program and then the link for RAB). Interested community members are always welcome at the meetings and to consider applying to be a Board member.

## Contact Information

- **Fort Meade Public Affairs Office:** 301-677-1361
- **Fort Meade Environmental Division:** 301-677-9648
- **US Environmental Protection Agency:** Bob Stroud, Project Manager, 410-305-2748
- **Maryland Department of the Environment:** Lis Green, Project Manager, 410-537-3346 or Public Affairs, 410-537-3003
- **Anne Arundel County, Dept of Health:** Kerry Topovski, Environmental Director, 410-222-7191