

Chemicals discovered in Lejeune water wells

By RICHARD F. SMITH
Daily News Staff

A Navy study of industrial contamination has found volatile chemicals in 10 deep-water wells at Camp Lejeune, causing Tarawa Terrace residents to face restrictions on water use while a new line is built.

Substances found in the wells were described today as "volatile organic chemicals" by Gunnery Sgt. John Simmons of Lejeune's Joint Public Affairs Office.

He said he had no information on whether the well water is dangerous to humans.

"According to the memo from the chief of staff, facilities, no federal or state regulations mandate an unacceptable level of these organic chemicals in drinking water," Simmons said.

"The wells were ordered closed pending further study and analysis under the Navy Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants Program," the spokesman said.

"Ten deep-water wells aboard base have been taken off-line since December as a result of a Navy-wide study of industrial contamination aboard Navy and Marine Corps installations," Simmons said.

"Eight of the closed wells are in the Hadnot Point water-supply system, which services the main-side area of the base. The other two wells are in Tarawa Terrace," he said.

"The well closures have not created any water-supply problems for Hadnot Point, but the Tarawa Terrace system can barely meet current demand for finished water.

"As a result, the commanding general (Maj. Gen. Louis H. Buehl III) has imposed some water restrictions on Tarawa Terrace residents," Simmons said.

"A recent bulletin sent to Tarawa Terrace housing residents urged them to conserve water in the following ways: water lawns Monday through Thursday from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. only, do not wash cars, do not let the water run while brushing your teeth or washing dishes and only flush toilets for sanitary purposes," Simmons said.

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Friday, May 10, 1985



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Saturday, May 11, 1985

State officials identify chemical contaminants

A Staff and Wire Report

State officials have identified the chemicals that have contaminated 10 deep-water wells at Camp Lejeune, forcing base officials to close the wells and institute conservation measures at the Tarawa Terrace housing area.

The toxic substances include chlorinated solvents — dichloroethylene, trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene — said Lee Mittelstadt, public information officer for the Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Branch of the state Department of Human Resources. They are found in many types of cleaning products.

The contamination apparently comes from one or more of 72 old waste disposal sites on the base, Ms. Mittelstadt said.

Because Camp Lejeune is a federal reservation, the state cannot fine the base for its old disposal sites, and the base is not eligible for federal Superfund clean-up money, she said.

Chuck Rundgren, head of the state's Water Supply Branch, said the Navy has contracted with a private firm to further analyze the water. Rundgren said Camp Lejeune should not worry about getting bad drinking water.

"I think we kind of caught it right at the beginning," he said. "It's not

something that has been running for two or three years.

Eight of the 10 wells are in the Hadnot Point water supply system, while the other two supply Tarawa Terrace.

Gunnery Sgt. John Simmons of the base Joint Public Affairs Office said Friday that the Hadnot Point closures have not threatened the water supply of the base's mainside area, but that Tarawa Terrace residents have been urged in letters sent by Maj. Gen. Louis Buehl to take several conservation measures.

Among those measures are watering lawns only from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays, not washing cars, not letting the water run while brushing teeth or washing dishes, and flushing toilets only for sanitary purposes.

The letter states that the crisis will be eased early next month with the completion of an auxiliary waterline from the Holcomb Boulevard water plant to Tarawa Terrace.

Simmons said the wells were closed after a Navy study last December of industrial contamination on Navy and Marine Corps bases and will remain closed pending "further study and analysis under the Navy Assessment and Control of Installation Pollutants Program."



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Barrows' employees delivered.

In fact, the operation deserves a chapter
in the next edition of "In Search of
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parently were run with ruthless efficiency
and an emphasis on customer satisfaction.
She required punctuality, conservative
clothes, strict weight control and manicured
nails, while discouraging drugs, alcohol and
kinky improvisations. She also called clients
to check on her employees' performance.
"It was like being at IBM," one of her
subordinates told New York magazine.

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