



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN  
Governor

May 24, 2016

Dear Ms. Amico, Ms. Dalton, and Ms. Davis:

Thank you for your follow-up letter to our recent meeting regarding water contaminated by perfluorochemicals (PFCs) at Pease Air Force Base and elsewhere in New Hampshire. Addressing and understanding the risks posed by emerging contaminants is critical to public health and the well-being of our families, and the continued engagement of groups like Testing for Pease continues to play an important role in our statewide efforts.

With the recent announcement by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of new lifetime drinking water health advisory levels for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), the State of New Hampshire is taking immediate action to expand distribution of bottled water in affected areas to those where the water supply has tested above the health advisory of 70 parts per trillion. In addition, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is working expeditiously to draft emergency rules to help protect the public against consuming water contaminated with elevated levels of these PFCs. It will then engage in a longer-term process on setting permanent state standards for PFCs that will ensure full opportunity for public input while NHDES continues to monitor the evolving scientific knowledge regarding these chemicals, including perfluorohexane sulfonate (PFHxS).

While the EPA's long-awaited announcement of the new health advisories is a welcome step forward, we know that there is still much more work to do. In a recent conversation with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy about emerging contaminants, I specifically brought up PFHxS and Testing for Pease's concerns and emphasized the need for the EPA to conduct further evaluation of this emerging contaminant in order to assess and ensure the safety of drinking water that may contain it. This also included a request that the EPA work with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to engage in long-term health studies on PFHxS.

As we undergo the process of setting new state standards for PFOA and PFOS based on the EPA's new public health advisories – a process that I hope Testing for Pease actively engages in – we are also closely monitoring the progress being made to ensure that PFHxS and other PFCs will be removed using carbon filtration technology from all of the drinking water wells at Pease Air Force Base. This includes the two currently active wells (i.e., Smith and Harrison), which both currently have levels below the new combined advisory for PFOA and PFOS of 70 parts per trillion, even when the level of PFHxS is added to those contaminants and before the water supplying Pease is blended with water from the City of Portsmouth, which then lowers the levels of PFCs.

Based on information provided on May 19, 2016, by the City of Portsmouth, we expect that treatment for PFCs will be installed and operational on both of these wells by the end of this summer. I am heartened by the rapid progress that is being made to ensure that all of the drinking water wells at the Pease Tradeport will be equipped with effective treatment technologies. While the State is not issuing a "Do Not Drink" advisory at this time, we will continue to closely monitor the PFC levels in the wells at Pease Air Force Base and evaluate the best available science as we consider the need for additional advisories.

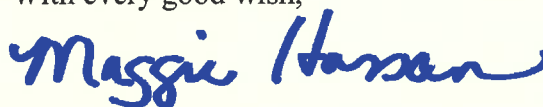
In addition, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS) continues working to provide the most up-to-date resources, guidance and recommendations based on the best available science to ensure that health care providers can effectively monitor the health of those who have been exposed to contaminants. The Division of Public Health is continually reviewing and updating the State's recommendations and is working on updates to the information it provides based on the EPA's new health advisory. At the same time, the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is also currently finalizing national medical recommendations for healthcare providers. Once those recommendations are released, NHDHHS will send out a new Health Alert Network message and make modifications to our recommendations as necessary.

In addition, NHDHHS is working with partners in the medical community such as the New Hampshire Hospital Association (NHHA) and the New Hampshire Medical Society (NHMS) to develop more effective communications with providers. State public health officials will also hold a conference call with healthcare providers in the next few weeks to further discuss medical recommendations and offer providers the opportunity to respond.

Finally, as I indicated during our meeting earlier this month, the State will work to make blood testing available to those who were potentially exposed to contaminated water and would like blood testing but have not yet received it. The Department of Health and Human Services has received some inquiries, and I request that you ask those who are interested to email [peasetesting@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:peasetesting@dhhs.state.nh.us).

Ensuring that all of our residents and visitors have access to safe, clean drinking water is critical to public health, the well-being of our families, vibrant communities and a thriving economy, and I thank you for your efforts to bring awareness to this important issue, as well as your work to push local, state and federal officials to respond appropriately and aggressively. Protecting our water and addressing health concerns raised by emerging contaminants is an effort that requires continued vigilance, and I look forward to continuing to work together to increase understanding about these concerns and to ensure access to clean drinking water now and into the future.

With every good wish,



Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor