

September 7, 2016

Jameson Paine, Co-chair
Pease Restoration Advisory Board

Subject: Drinking Water Treatment at Pease Tradeport

Dear Mr. Paine:

As members of the Pease Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and Community Assistance Panel (CAP), we are committed to representing the Pease community in efforts to provide clean drinking water to Pease Tradeport. First, we would like to say that we greatly appreciate the City of Portsmouth Department of Public Works' knowledge (most notably Mr. Brian Goetz, Deputy Director) of the water systems in Portsmouth and their commitment to assuring there is sufficient water to serve both the City and the Tradeport. We are also very pleased that all water at Pease will pass through the new water treatment system and that the City is striving to provide water that is as free of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) as currently feasible.

Concerns have been raised by Pease RAB and CAP members at public RAB meetings and the recent RAB Pease site walk that the granular activated carbon (GAC) water treatment system that is being installed at Pease may be less effective in removing short-chain PFASs, if they are present, than in removing long-chain PFASs such as PFOS. We are pleased to see that the City has been testing for some of the short-chain PFASs and hope such testing will continue. While there is currently no health advisory provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) for the short-chain PFASs, we have discussed the Pease situation with professionals in this field and see little evidence to believe it is safe to ingest them in drinking water.

We understand that the PFAS contamination at Pease poses many challenges, as scientific understanding of PFAS groundwater contamination from historic releases of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) is continuously evolving, both in regard to health advisories and water treatment. Therefore, we would like to meet with NHDES senior staff, as the lead in water quality reviews in New Hampshire, and EPA staff regarding the following points:

1. Review the range of PFASs that are used in AFFF, detected in AFFF-contaminated drinking water, and currently being monitored;
2. Discuss a mechanism for consulting with experts in the field of PFAS analytical chemistry and water treatment;
3. Review water treatment technologies currently approved by the State and discuss technologies that may be considered in the future, particularly with regard to the short-chain PFASs;
4. Develop a plan for involving the Pease community in decisions regarding drinking water treatment at Pease moving forward.

Thank you again to the City of Portsmouth for all their hard work on this issue. We look forward to meeting with NHDES and EPA staff.

Sincerely,



Courtney Carignan, Ph.D.
Pease Restoration Advisory Board
Pease Community Assistance Panel



Andrea Amico
Testing for Pease
Pease Community Assistance Panel

Cc:

Senator Jean Shaheen (Cara_Osborn@shaheen.senate.gov)

Peter Forbes, United States Air Force (peter.forbes@us.af.mil)

Jack Blalock, Mayor of Portsmouth (mayorblalock@gmail.com)