

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH



PRESS RELEASE

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November 17, 2015

Portsmouth, Pease Development Authority and the United States Air Force reach agreement regarding Pease Tradeport well treatments

PORTSMOUTH, NH – The City of Portsmouth, the Pease Development Authority (PDA) and the United States Air Force are pleased to announce the execution of an agreement that will expedite the development of a water treatment system to remove perfluorochemical compounds (PFCs) from water supplied by the Smith, Harrison and Haven Wells.

In May of 2014, PFCs, which are considered contaminants of emerging concern, were discovered in three drinking water supply wells located on the Pease Tradeport and operated by the City of Portsmouth to supply water to Pease Tradeport tenants. The Haven Well was taken off-line immediately due to the PFC levels exceeding provisional health advisory levels; the remaining two wells, Harrison and Smith, with the approval of regulators, remained on line as PFC levels were substantially below provisional health advisory guidelines.

“We are pleased that the Air Force has accepted the City’s offer to let the City take the lead in designing and constructing a PFC removal treatment system for all three wells impacted by the PFC contamination, and is providing the funding to make that possible,” said Portsmouth City Manager John Bohenko. “The City is committed to providing a safe and adequate supply of drinking water over the long-term for the Pease tenants. I want to thank the Congressional Delegation, and especially Senators Shaheen and Ayotte for their assistance. I also want to recognize the efforts of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) and acknowledge the efforts of outgoing Mayor Bob Lister and City Councilor Stefany Shaheen who serve on the CAB. The City had been pushing for treatment of all wells since the

contamination was first discovered last year. It is great news for us to be able to move forward in that respect.”

Dave Mullen, Executive Director of the Pease Development Authority added: “the PDA is appreciative of the City’s efforts to undertake this design and construction effort of a PFC removal system for the benefit of the Pease tenants. The Air Force’s continued financial support of this effort will be key.”

Deputy Director of Public Works Brian Goetz commented that “the focus of this initial agreement is to initiate a design process which will have a PFC removal system in place at the earliest time possible. Portsmouth continues to support the goals of the EPA and DES with regard to aquifer restoration; this design work for a drinking water treatment system will be in parallel with the work that the Air Force is undertaking to satisfy the EPA’s administrative order.”

According to Stephen TerMaath, Chief, BRAC Program Management Division, Installations Directorate, Air Force Civil Engineer Center, this agreement is a significant step towards providing a treatment system for PFCs affecting the water supply for the Portsmouth area. “This is a product of a committed and successful collaboration among the Air Force, City of Portsmouth, and other dedicated members of the community. The Air Force will continue to work with these parties and provide financial support to address the PFC contamination in drinking water from the wells affected by Pease Air Force Base operations.”

This initial agreement with the Air Force will reimburse the City for up to \$60,000 in preliminary design work to be completed no later than the end of February 2016. Additional agreements between the City and the Air Force for design and construction are anticipated to be negotiated as the design work progresses.

Questions can be directed to:

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- For the Air Force: Mark Kinkade, Acting Chief, Public Affairs, Air Force Civil Engineer Center. 210-395-7410