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**April 28, 2015**

## **Pease International Tradeport Water System Update**

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The following update is for the February-March 2015 timeframe:

### **Water System Operations**

The Pease Water System water demands are currently being met by supply from the other two Pease wells, the Harrison and Smith wells, supplemented by water boosted from the City of Portsmouth pressure zone. Operating according to these parameters the percentage of water serving the Pease Trade Port from Pease Wells is 50% and the Portsmouth system sources is 50%. Overall water system demands for the combined Pease/Portsmouth water system have been met by the combined resources of the system's surface water supply and eight other wells. System operators continue to track water system demands on a daily basis to assure that our supply meets demand.

### **Water Quality Monitoring**

The Air Force's consultant has been performing continual sampling of the water supply wells in the system near the Haven Well. The Smith Well is sampled weekly for PFCs and the Harrison Well is sampled every two weeks. In addition to the water supply wells, the Air Force's consultant is sampling other monitoring wells in the surrounding area to track the aquifer and monitor for any PFCs moving toward the supply wells. To date, all detected levels of PFCs in the currently operating supply wells remain below the provisional health standards. Data is updated on the City's website once it has been validated by the laboratory and provided to the City by the Air Force's consultant.

### **PFC Contaminant Investigation**

The Air Force is currently working with AMEC, their engineering consultant, to further identify the source areas where the PFC contamination is concentrated. They have also installed additional monitoring wells in the aquifer to develop a profile of the contaminant zone so they can better assess the potential for it to travel beyond the Haven Well area. This information will

provide the basis for the next level of investigation and/or mitigation. Preliminary reports of these assessments have been submitted to the City for our review. The City is currently reviewing those reports and will provide a response to the Air Force's consultant regarding our concurrence and suggestions for improvement of the program.

### **Biometric Monitoring of Potentially Impacted Water Users**

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health Services is offering testing to people who consumed water from the Pease Tradeport water system that was determined in May 2014 to have levels of PFCs (perfluorochemicals) above the provisional health advisory levels set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The contaminated well was immediately shut down by the City of Portsmouth. The testing is being offered as a public service at the request of the affected community. Questions with respect to health effects and/or testing are to be directed to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services Public Information Office at (603) 271-9391. Additional information can be accessed at the DHHS website:

<http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/media/pr/2015/03-mar/03192015pease.htm>

### **Replacement of the Haven Well Supply**

In an effort to replace the volume of water supplied by the Haven Well the City entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Air Force and then employed the services of the hydrogeological consulting firm, Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations (EGGI), to complete field surveys of areas in Portsmouth and Greenland that were previously identified as having potential groundwater supplies to replace the Haven Well water. Surveys were conducted within all three groundwater development zones investigated to provide insights into overburden thickness and to provide information regarding potential water-bearing zones within the bedrock. This data was then analyzed by EGGI's staff using hydrogeologic computer modeling software. Their initial findings show that three separate areas surveyed show promise for new sources of supply. EGGI has proposed 15 test wells be drilled in these areas to verify this potential. Additional access agreements with the landowners will be necessary as will an additional agreement with the Air Force to reimburse the City for the cost of this drilling. It generally takes anywhere from two to five years to investigate, test, permit and then construct a new groundwater source in New Hampshire. City staff are working diligently with EGGI to expedite this process.

### **Further Updates and Information**

The City and the Air Force will continue to provide additional updates. This information will be distributed electronically on the City of Portsmouth's website in the Department of Public Works's "Water" section. If anyone needs additional information or has questions contact Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works at 766-1420.