



State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

34 Swett Ave.
Portsmouth, NH 03801

April 14, 2017

Agency for Toxic Substances
and Disease Registry
c/o Dr. Pat Breysse
1600 Clifton Way NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Breysse,

As the State Representative from Ward 3 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, I have followed closely the developments surrounding the discovery of the PFO contaminated wells on the former Pease Air Force base property. Many of those families that may have been exposed to the PFOs are my constituents. In 2014, some of the wells were found to have PFO levels 12 times the EPA advisory limit (which has since been lowered). Those possibly exposed included the children attending 2 child care centers and another 9000 employees working at the Pease tradeport.

Up until recently, I had the impression that the local Pease Community Assistance Panel (CAP) and your agency were working collaboratively to develop a feasibility assessment for a potential health study. However, as of this week, according to reports in the Portsmouth Herald, this process seems to have come to an abrupt standstill. Numerous promised meeting dates and the release of at least a shorter version of the assessment, which you stated would give the community an "essence" of the approach a health study would take, have now been cancelled indefinitely. At the same time that our local community has been excluded from your assessment process, it seems that the Air Force, which is the polluter in question, has already been given the opportunity to discuss the assessment with your agency. This process has seriously eroded the trust that our Portsmouth community had in your agency's ability to deal with the PFO contamination issue in a speedy and fair manner. How do you expect the same community to now trust your agency and cooperate in any proposed study, without the needed level of trust? In addition, don't these serious delays also jeopardize the quality of any data gathering, if the process takes so long to begin?

Finally, I certainly hope that the current delays and ineffective communications between our Portsmouth community and your agency, ATSDR, as well as the CDC is not a direct result of a new management direction put in place by the new administration, which may have a lower priority when it comes to issues of environmental harm and health and safety.

Our community is resilient and as stubborn as granite. We have no intention to stop demanding that the responsible parties take responsibility for their actions regarding the PFO contamination. That is why I respectfully ask that you provide the local CAP with near term meeting dates as well as a clear and reliable timeline for the release of your announced assessment without delay, so that discussions can begin regarding a potential health study. Your agency's actions have already created a significant amount of mistrust. It is now your burden to redeem some of that trust by your actions.

I look forward to your response, and request that you keep me informed.

Respectfully,



Dr. Peter Somssich, State Representative / District 27
603-436-5382

Cc: US Senator Jeanne Shaheen, US Senator Maggie Hassan,
Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, Governor Chris Sununu, CDC Director Dr.
Schuchat, Mayor Jack Blalock, Andrea Amico
