



U.S. AIR FORCE

Pease Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting

Tuesday September 14, 2021 – 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Via webinar only, no in person meeting

Meeting Summary

Meeting in Brief

This RAB meeting focused on an update on the Remedial Investigation (RI) from the Air Force and Wood E&IS. Val De La Fuente provided a general site update which included clean up context and progress. Amy Quintin and Hank Andolsek of Wood gave a more detailed update on the progress of the RI as well the next steps for the next few months. RAB members asked questions and discussed the RI. Brian Goetz from the City of Portsmouth provided an update on drinking water and the Haven Well. The meeting closed with a brief public comment period. The next RAB Meeting will be held on December 7.

This summary was produced by the facilitation team from the Consensus Building Institute. A longer summary provided by Wood can be found in Appendix A. Participants are listed on p3.

Meeting materials: Presentations slides and meeting materials can be found at:

<https://www.afcec.af.mil/Home/BRAC/Pease-Archives/>

Video: Recordings of RAB meetings can be found at

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNWsoVwtYMQvuBBvoBKWTGoTjQzF7YHVb>

The Update on the Remedial Investigation (RI)

Val de la Fuente, Air Force, and Hank Andolsek and Amy Quintin, Wood, gave a presentation on the work done in recent months on the Remedial Investigation (RI) seeking to identify the extent of the groundwater contamination. Hank Andolsek's portion of the presentation focused on summarizing the RI thus far with the various types of ongoing investigations (surface soil, lysimeter, etc.) as well as the various types of samples being evaluated. Amy Quintin presented on the risk assessment related to the RI backyard produce sampling and the work that will be done into 2022. There were technical difficulties during these presentations because of the virtual format at a few points.

RAB member discussion focused on the following key themes:

- *Timeline* - RAB members want a clear timeline about the timeline of the investigation and when they can expect what information. They have asked for this previously and said the technical team is not providing them with enough specificity.
- *Data* – RAB members would like to have the data from the investigation as soon as it is available and to be brought into meetings at which the future of RI is being planned. RAB members said they have extensive knowledge, both personal and professional knowledge, to share at planning conversations about the clean up. The RAB members want a seat at the table.

- *Shellfish* - RAB members were pleased to hear about the shellfish sampling that is occurring in the RI. This was a key issue for many members and they appreciate that sampling of shellfish is planned and underway.
- *AFFF* – Several RAB members are concerned about AFFF source material. Specifically, RAB members would like to know when, where, and how AFFF was used and how it will be regulated going forward. The regulators and Air Force said they do not have records from the 1970s or 1980s relating to AFFF materials when Pease was an active Air Force base. [Addition after the meeting from Chris King: However, the locations of use of these foams have been well delineated. PFAS analytical methodologies target chemicals known or suspected to be widely used in AFFF and other PFAS-containing product manufacturing (reference in footnote)¹.

RAB members asked for Peter Sandin (NHDES) and Mike Daly (EPA) to share their thoughts and opinions on the RI thus far. Peter and Mike said they are living and breathing this work every day. They said the Air Force has been incorporating EPA and DES guidance and jointly working together to design the project in a cooperative way. They also noted that the community’s involvement is greatly appreciated. They agree with other RAB members who have noted the value of topical breakout sessions between meetings on technical topics. Overall, they feel the RI is going well.

Key Takeaways from Discussion on the Drinking Water Update

Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works, City of Portsmouth, provided a drinking water update with a focus on the August starting up of the Haven well after installation of the PFAS treatment system. RAB members discussed the following after Brian’s presentation:

- *Personal experience/learning from the past* – RAB members stressed that there is a human element to the historical exposure to PFAS. Many people have been and still are being affected by the exposure to these chemicals. There is a feeling among community members that it isn’t easy to just switch back to using the same well that was the source of the exposure. Ultimately, RAB members want to know what is being done to prepare for and prevent future toxic exposure. Members of the RAB want to discuss these human impacts more in-depth in future conversations.
- *Incinerator/ash residue* – RAB members mentioned that there had been an incinerator on site and wondered if the ash was on top of the landfill. They are worried about the possibility of dioxins or other contaminants. The regulators were not aware of any ash sampling and said that dioxin was not a chemical of concern. Members of the RAB would like to see more information on ash sampling from the site as it is an area of high concern to them.

Public Comment

Members of the public were invited to give up to three minutes of public comment:

- Arnie Leirche presented findings from the Wurtsmith AFB PFAS deer sampling study and mentioned the PFAS foam sampling concern. He invited people to look at the Wurtsmith report from Michigan (2021).
 - Val de la Fuente said the Air Force will review it and make a determination this winter, and that the Air Force is very concerned about people and the wildlife.
- Doris Brock asked if there are concerns related to oyster farms in Great Bay.

¹ Reference <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/pfas-analytical-methods-development-and-sampling-research>.

- Amy Quintin provided findings from the ESI shellfish sampling program in 2019. She stated detections were reasonably low concentrations for exposure scenarios. Peter Sandin added that the risk assessor also did an evaluation, and there were no recommendations made to not eat the shellfish.

Final Thoughts

Members of the RAB were given the opportunity to share final thoughts before the close of the meeting.

Key comments included:

- A desire to learn more about AFFF.
- Appreciation for the progress that has been made in the investigation and process thus far, and especially for the progress on shellfish sampling to date.
- A concern that dioxins have not been sampled and suggestion they be discussed in a technical session.
- Disappointment at not hearing an update on Site 8 mitigation. The Air Force co-lead suggested this topic as ripe for a technical session in the near future.
- An ongoing request for project leads to involve RAB members in decision making and to make RAB members aware of project timelines.

Next Steps/Announcements

See action items list in attached spreadsheet.

Meeting Attendees

The meeting was attended by:

RAB Members Present: Andrea Amico (community member and co-chair), Mike Daly (appointed member: US EPA), Mike Donahue (community member), Val de la Fuente (appointed member: Air Force Civil Engineer Center, DoD Chair), Brian Goetz (appointed member: City of Portsmouth), Joan Hamblet (community member, NH state representative), Dennis Malloy (community member), Mindi Messmer (community member), Peggy Lamson (community member), Jameson Paine (community member), Lulu Pickering (community member), Collin Pio (community member) Col. John Pogorek (appointed member: NHANG), Peter Sandin (appointed member: NHDES)

Meeting Support Staff Present: Hank Andolsek (Wood), Ona Ferguson (Consensus Building Institute, RAB Meeting Facilitator), Linda Geissinger (AFCEC Public Affairs), Dante Gulle, (AGEISS, Public Affairs Support), Cameron Hager (Consensus Building Institute Support), Amy Quintin (Wood), Rob Singer (Wood)

Others Present: Ruben Aponte (USEPA), Grant Austin (Wood), Doris Brock, Madeline Bruno (Wood PLC), Scott Calkin, Matthew Casey (NHANG), Cliff Chase (Absolute Resource Associates), Michael Donahue, Kelsey Dumville (US EPA), Frank Getchell (Weston & Sampson), Jon Green (Office of US Senator Jeanne Shaheen), Tim Green (City of Portsmouth), Brian Havens (Wood EI&S), Christina Hewitt, Kerry Holmes (AFCEC), Arnie Leriche (Wurtsmith RAB Member), Margaret McCarthy (Weston & Sampson), Daniel Medina, Robin Mongeon (NHDES), Albert Pratt (City of Portsmouth), Sam Quattrini (NHDES), Chris Scott (Senator Jeanne Shaheen)

Appendix A: More Detailed Meeting Summary

5:00 Welcome, Introductions, RAB Business – *Ona Ferguson, Consensus Building Institute*

- Cameron Hager of CBI reviewed Zoom technology.
- Ona Ferguson reviewed the agenda/scope of the meeting.
- Ona Ferguson and Val de la Fuente introduced Chris King – new BRAC program manager. Chris King introduced himself stating 21 years of supporting Air Force and Army. Chris stated he is a Chemical Engineer by degree and is looking forward to getting involved with project. Chris stated he is experienced with PFAS-contaminated water systems from his previous assignment in Europe (Germany), understands the communities' concerns, and is looking forward to working with everyone.
- Ona Ferguson introduced the RAB members.
- The summary of the June 2021 RAB meeting was approved. RAB meeting recordings can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNWsoVwtYMQvuBBvoBKWTGoTjQzF7YHVb>
- Ona Ferguson reminded Members of the membership process and timing.

5:10 General Updates and Remedial Investigation Update – *Val De La Fuente, Air Force*

- Val de la Fuente provided a general site update including clean up context and progress.
 - Val de la Fuente provided short history of the RAB and when it was brought back into service in 2015. Val stated the Portsmouth well and Haven well are over 150 years old, the Collins well is 125 years old, and the Smith and Harrison well are 75 years old. Val stated the importance to keep in mind how the cleanup process takes time, and actions have happened due to the involvement of the community including asking tough questions and providing feedback.
 - Val de la Fuente presented the CERCLA overview chart and discussed the process timeline. Val stated the Air Force has taken some interim actions responding to community concerns at AIMS and Site 8, which are used to protect down gradient wells, and provide some level of clean-up. Val stated this approach is not necessarily a long-term solution but an interim solution and compliments the community on getting the Air Force to this phase.
- Remedial investigation (RI) schedule update
 - Val de la Fuente provided information on RI scoping and schedule of the field work, stating the scoping had been completed and is currently into site characterization activities which includes field investigation, the goal of which is to determine nature and extent of the PFAS contamination. Val de la Fuente stated these activities provide applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) and final risk assessments, included in both processes are feasibility studies.
 - Val de la Fuente suggested that if the RAB is interested in scoping involvement associated with the RI, smaller breakout meetings between the Air Force, Wood technical staff, and the RAB will be considered.
- Remedial Investigation update
 - Amy Quintin presented Wood's RI Work Plan summary, which is developed through previous investigations, questionnaires, interaction with members of the public. Amy Quintin reminded all RAB members can reach out to Wood at any point through the RI email address to discuss questions or ask how their comments have been incorporated into the Work Plan.

- Amy Quintin presented on living media sampling (backyard sampling program) and as detailed in a separate Work Plan published to NHDES One-Stop. Amy Quintin stated both the RI Work Plan and the Backyard Produce Sampling Work Plan both emphasize the collection of data and the difference between the Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA), which is a methodology work plan that includes toxicity values, exposure scenarios (obtained by talking to the public), evaluating exposure assumptions (i.e., average exposure frequency, consumption, how much do they weigh), and references other documents (CERCLA guidance). Amy Quintin stated this assessment plan is still in development and is currently being reviewed by NHDES and USEPA and will be publishing a final copy soon.
- Update on sampling progress since June 2021
 - Hank Andolsek presented field work completed to date for the RI and stated the RI is based on the Conceptual Site Model, which gathers all geologic, hydrogeologic, chemistry, drainage pathways, and any information that could affect migration of PFAS. Hank added the analysis broken into three main areas, source areas (areas where AFFF was discharged to ground), migration pathways, and potential receptors.
- Hank Andolsek presented a summary of RI:
 - Hank Andolsek explained the direct push, lysimeter, and surface soil investigations. Hank Andolsek stated Wood used a drill rig to collect soils down to groundwater depth and installed lysimeters to look at concentration of PFAS in leaching rainwater. Hank Andolsek explained lysimeters evaluate concentrations before rainwater hits the water table and how its partitioned in soil and how data is partitioned within the Fate and Transport models. Hank Andolsek stated soil sampling was conducted in known AFFF discharge areas.
 - Hank Andolsek explained migration pathways included the collection of stormwater system samples beneath installation and discharge points. Hank stated samples were collected during baseflow and will collect additional samples during high rain event.
 - Hank stated Wood is evaluating spring and seep samples and explained these terms are used interchangeably. Seep samples are defined as a surface expression of groundwater. Hank Andolsek explained the samples were located mostly along western boundary of flight lines, along a series of seeps and stated Wood is evaluating potential migration pathways and hydric soil and using input from the RAB to scope this event.
 - Hank Andolsek stated the monitoring well sampling included both new and existing monitoring wells to understand hydrogeology in this area and potential migration pathways.
 - Hank Andolsek presented a figure indicating the completed and ongoing monitoring well locations and offered the following comments:
 - Collected more than 300 groundwater and surface water samples (migration samples)
 - Most data are not validated at this time
 - Additional samples will need to be collected in fall 2021, spring 2022 and summer 2022
 - Data will be shared prior to scoping next event, but data is currently unavailable.
 - Andrea Amico asked when the RAB community will begin to see the data coming back in and would like a clearer timeline to set expectations. Hank Andolsek responded that Wood is expecting there to be data gaps, and once data validation has been performed, we can work together as a group to determine next steps. Mike Daly stated that he understands the questions related to timing of data sharing, but it is a long process that takes time. Andrea Amico also stated that the RAB would like to be part of planning process for what

the next steps will be. Peter Sandin stated that Wood has received some of the initial data but has also not been shared with the regulatory agencies yet.

- Amy Quintin and Hank Andolsek presented the Risk Assessment related RI backyard produce sampling.
 - Amy Quintin discussed living media and stated biota samples are decoupled from main RI. Amy stated Wood has completed with garden sampling first and needed to collect samples while gardens are producing fruit/tissue. Amy Quintin stated Wood identified 16 properties and obtained access to 12 properties. Hank Andolsek stated sample team spent quite a bit of time meeting with property owners and the data has been collected, with samples currently at lab and Wood is awaiting results.
 - Hank Andolsek stated deep bedrock wells were installed and will be used to collect geophysical and packer data. Hank Andolsek added many wells have been sampled already, mostly shallow wells, and additional work is required to sample deeper wells. Hank Andolsek stated additional shellfish and fish tissue sampling is planned, and an evaluation of other biota will be performed.
 - Amy Quintin discussed previous bivalve sampling and looking at areas where there is a clear source of PFAS in the water and bivalves are present. Amy Quintin stated that Wood hopes to execute bivalve sampling this fall and explained sampling of bivalves has lots of advantages as they live in sediment and don't move very far, and samples collected are representative of the area of discharge from the installation.
 - Amy Quintin stated the following living media/biota sampling objectives:
 - Resample (confirm) areas where we have recently sampled.
 - Sample freshwater fish within the Peverley drainage area. Amy Quintin noted that currently, fishing is prohibited in the area, however that there may be attractive species in the area for poaching at times. Amy Quintin stated Wood is planning a limited sampling event for fish in this area, and a work plan not yet written, but will be prepared in fall 2021.
 - Focusing sampling on largemouth bass and sunfish fish species
 - Amy Quintin stated that there have been dramatic changes to the environment in this area and will need to reevaluate this area to prepare the work plan.
 - Amy Quintin discussed the plan to evaluate potential pathways with respect to maple sap and honey.
 - Mindi Messmer asked if the Air Force could go through a historical review of the AFFF use on the former Pease AFB, so that one could understand the conceptual site model. Chris King noted that it was a valid concern and stated that he will talk internally with the Air Force to get a better understanding of historical practices.
 - Amy Quintin presented the on-going biota evaluation for the RI by Wood, including research from other agencies and studies that are available. Amy Quintin stated that New Zealand has a screening level for honey, but the rationale was not readily available. Amy explained that NH Fish and Game collected deer liver tissue with detected PFOS concentrations in them, so there is a completed pathway and that Wood will continue to evaluate the completed pathways for uptake in surface water and biota tissue.
 - Wood identified lobsters and striped bass as a potential tissue sampling but have completed the evaluation stating that these species are quite migratory, so detections might not be tied back to exposures at Pease, and sampling of these species will not be conducted.

- Amy Quintin provided an update on living media/biota sampling progress since June and that Wood is working through sampling now and will continue into spring 2022. Amy stated draft reports on this sampling will be written likely in December 2022.
- Question and Answers
 - Michael Donahue stated that it appears that the Air Force is open to collecting additional shellfish tissue samples on the west side of the Newington peninsula and was encouraged by that.
 - Mindi Messmer stated that she normally sees people collecting clams for ingestion at Hilton Point (a prohibited area) and would like to see samples or a sign posted from that area indicating that harvesting is prohibited. Wood stated that we will investigate collecting samples in prohibited areas.
 - Mindi Messmer cited a study by DHHS in which residents of the seacoast were sampled and tracked in community, with results higher than state standards. Mindi Messmer stated a handful of people were sampled, raised her concern level but didn't see anything because we are in the development stages of risk assessment. Mindi Messmer stated she would like to know how exposure of humans will be addressed for residents of the seacoast area. Amy Quintin responded on the question of shellfish, that Wood will consider that area and shellfish poaching will be considered. Amy Quintin stated this was not covered in expanded site inspection.
 - Amy Quintin responded to the question of how the HHRA will evaluate risk. Amy Quintin stated that Wood will present on that at another time as it's a lengthy answer. Amy Quintin stated Wood will not consider blood concentrations and will only consider concentrations in other media and how they affect humans (i.e., concentrations in water consumed by humans, set number of liters per day drank) will set risk thresholds. Amy Quintin stated sampling will be performed for each relevant scenario and Wood will consider multiple exposure scenarios (ex. Drinking, wading, swimming).
 - Mindy Messmer responded that we have data that shows PFAS is accumulating in humans and hopes that it will be looked at. Amy Quintin responded that Wood will use the groundwater samples in the scenarios for drinking water and the volumes used for that and combined with the USEPA screening levels; as well as combining the overall exposure situations where they may also be exposed to surface water and sediment.
 - Andrea Amico asked for clarification on the maple/sap/honey PFAS sampling at Pease. Amy Quintin responded that we have not collected any of those samples and are evaluating that as a potential pathway before determining if we will move forward with sampling.
 - Andrea Amico asked for sampling the foam in the bays arounds Pease. Hank Andolsek stated that sampling of foam would be based on an exposure scenario, and there does not appear to be enough exposure to warrant sampling it at this time.
 - Ona Ferguson relayed a participant question that asked the timing and frequency of the well sampling as part of the RI. Hank Andolsek stated that some are sampled only once and others sampled frequently dependent on the data quality objectives for that area. Wood also stated that we are beginning to look at developing a fate and transport model for PFAS at Pease. Peter Sandin reminded the RAB that there is a private well sampling program, where individuals are sampled either annually or quarterly based on concentrations.
 - Andrea Amico asked about not re-testing the deer but performing the desk top approach to evaluating deer uptake. Amy Quintin stated that Wood will evaluate surface water concentrations that the deer will have in their home range; compare that to other surface water bodies and their concentrations; hunting statistics; how likely it is that deer are being

taken from areas; if there are significant data gaps – there may be other findings that come from that.

- Andrea Amico requested clarification on the backyard produce sampling and what the rationale for sampling was, and what PFAS compounds were analyzed for. Amy Quintin clarified that many of the edible portions of the fruiting vegetables and leafy greens, and they were tested for the 25 PFAS compounds.

6:00 Open Discussion

- Opportunity for RAB members to share thoughts, questions and concerns related to the cleanup
 - Ona Ferguson asked the regulatory agencies to speak on their thoughts on how the RI is progressing and if their level of happiness with the investigation
 - Mike Daly stated his appreciation for the RAB's input and mentioned the input from Lulu Pickering and is happy she continues to participate, although not present in tonight's meeting.
 - Peter Sandin stated that while the agencies may not be the most vocal group in the RAB meetings, him and Mike Daly are very involved and ensured that these plans have been a very collaborative effort between the stakeholders. Peter Sandin stated the Air Force has been very forthcoming and appreciates the community involvement. Peter stated the RAB meetings may be too short for all the information available and encourages the topical breakout sessions. Peter stated we are waiting for additional data/information to come in to define the conceptual site model, agrees with the approach, and think that the investigation is going well overall.
 - Mindi Messimer requested that the regulators speak on the AFFF source material and how they may enforce getting that information. Peter Sandin did not recall the Air Force having records going back to the 1970s and 1980s. Peter Sandin stated there is only conjecture about heavier PFOA foams being used, and that it really relates to what the mass is in the environment and controlling migration using the newly installed groundwater treatment plants in place. Peter queried how is the contamination being mobilized and how can we remediate it, and are the treatment systems adequate to hydraulically control migration or do we need to expand it? Peter Sandin stated that they will look at future technologies that are developed over the RI, and to understand that there are 100's or 1000's of compounds out there. Mike Daly concurred with Peter Sandin's approach.
 - Andrea Amico noted that the RAB might want to think about pre-recording these presentations and then sending them out in advance of the meeting for folks to watch. It would limit the technical issues that we have currently and allow for members to digest the information prior to the meeting to be more prepared.

6:30 Dinner Break

7:00 Drinking Water Update – Brian Goetz, City of Portsmouth

- Brian Goetz provided an update on drinking water related activities in Portsmouth:
 - Activities date back to the Administrative Order in 2015, which required treatment on Haven well and systems be designed and built to protect wells.

- Shared process schematic. How water flows from the three wells into the facility. Combined into one pipe and then runs through treatment process. Booster pumps are needed to push water through the treatment system consisting of 6 sets of 2 resin filters and 12 total carbon filters.
- Haven well was recently reactivated, and pumping tests were performed with samples collected for water quality and PFAS. Results indicated only PFAS was detected, and results were significantly less than results from 2014. The design of the system was intended for 2014 levels.
- Haven well Approval – NHDES was very involved in Haven well approval. All the information is available on the Public Works website.
- Shared pictures of staff and consultants at office on August 3rd during system start up.
- Shared timeline showing watershed moments of the treatment plant.
- Haven well has been operating since August 3rd. First time in 8 summers supplemental water from Portsmouth system was not needed.
- No PFAS detected after water processed through the system using lab method 533.
- Andrea Amico asked if the City of Portsmouth sees breakthrough and how long the weekly sampling is on-going. Brian Goetz stated that there is no breakthrough, and the weekly sampling has been completed.
- Andrea Amico stated that there is a human element to the historical exposures to PFAS in the Pease Tradeport public drinking water system and asked why we are allowing water from a superfund site to be continued to feed the water into the public supply. Andrea Amico stated real people were exposed to this water, including large groups of children who must grapple with the long term affects and hopes that this is not lost on this group. Andrea Amico stated we are still left with community that didn't give permission to drink contaminated water and hope it weighs heavily that you decided to turn the Haven well back on and provide water from a superfund site. Andrea asked how we are preparing for the next PFAS and how we are learning from the history to make sure this doesn't happen again. Andrea asks how you are planning for new chemicals at the superfund site that you are potentially exposing the residents to and hope you understand the human level, and that maybe you should reconsider using water from a superfund site. Brian Goetz responded that he shares their concern and does not speak for the regulators or the Air Force. Brian stated as a water system, we have done all we can to say that what we do know, we test for everything we know of, will continue to do our best, and certainly does not want to be the one who must stand up and announce another PFAS. Brian stated he was at a conference last week with water operators and the question of how do you recover damages, money, from polluters was discussed, and no one is saying anything to the water operators who have to stand up in front of the public and say we have an issue with PFAS. Brian Goetz stated the chemical manufacturers are not up there and fortunately we had the Air Force.
- Andrea Amico asked the regulators to respond on what they are doing to prepare for this to happen again. Peter Sandin stated whenever information is out there that additional lab tests can be run, we run them. Peter Sandin added drinking water is not his area and is focus is on groundwater. Peter Sandin stated this is the best available technology, and at this point there is no reason not to rely on it and it comes down to personal choice. Peter asked to think about the chemicals that were used on the base in large quantities with lots of jet fuels used at the base, and it is tested for. Peter Sandin stated AFFF is used at the base and is tested for. Peter stated he is not aware of any other chemicals used in a large scale historically on the airfield. Andrea thanks Peter and stated it wish it made her feel better.

Peter Sandin stated if you look at the current lab method, if it expands, we will expand with it. Andrea responded that we get “what we don’t know we don’t know”, but how many times do you take a risk with the same water source?

- Mindi Messimer mentioned that there was an incinerator on site and maybe some of the incinerator ash was placed on top of one of the landfills. Peter Sandin responded that he was not aware of any incinerator ash sampling programs at Pease, the building was investigated, ash was detected, and dioxin was not a chemical of concern.
- Brian Goetz added that he understands the concern and not only have the resin, but have the carbon that can treat legacy contaminants if they occur.
- Mike Daly adds how important the water supply has been and Brian Goetz has always been on top of the water supply and has done an amazing amount of work on the water supply. Brian Goetz adds that it sounds and rings hollow, but understand the personal impact the water has had and can say what we know and continue to learn about the site. Brian Goetz stated a lot of investigation and remediation has been done to protect the water supply, the aquifers are not numerous, and even sparser in the seacoast. Brian Goetz stated it is an important resource and understands it is a bit odd that a supply well is at a superfund site, but a lot of work has been done, and cites all the due diligence on chemicals used at the base related to toxicity levels. Brian Goetz stated from a regulatory standpoint, they are trying to look at and relate to the next contaminant, and the City of Portsmouth did not look at PFAS because when it was starting to become a contaminant of concern we asked the Air Force to sample. Brian Goetz stated with a fair amount of confidence the intention is to continue to protect the aquifer and hears what the community is saying and does not think we are cheering and saying we won, and there is still a lot of work to be done. Brian Goetz stated we have taken a lot of steps to address the PFAS issue.

7:30 Public Comments

- Members of the public may request up to 3 minutes to speak
- Arnie Leirche presented findings from the Wurtsmith AFB PFAS deer sampling study and mentioned the PFAS foam sampling concern and asked had anyone looked at the Wurtsmith report from Michigan 2021. Arnie Leirche stated the Michigan report showing deer sampling over multiple years over 5-mile area, which shows elevated PFOS, and hexane sulfate. Arnie Leirche stated the study came out in July 2021 and sent Linda Geissinger a link to the study. Val de la Fuente reiterated the deer desktop study at Pease and noted Wurtsmith used to be his base. Val de la Fuente stated a desktop study is being performed with data to determine later if sampling will be considered. Val de la Fuente stated if there is a risk concern, we will sample it and that this is just the first round of sampling, and after we do the “should of, could of, would of’s, we will regroup of the winter and come up with a new plan. Val de la Fuente stated the Air Force will discuss it, get opinions, and then will require regulatory approval, and that the process must be done accurately and ethically before any determination will be made. Val explained why the process takes a while and everything must be iterative and stated the Air Force is very concerned about the receptors (people) and the wildlife.
- Doris Brock asked if there are concerns related to oyster farms in Great Bay. Amy Quintin provided findings from the ESI shellfish sampling program in 2019 and shared previous samples collected across the bay. Amy Quintin stated Wood did not sample any oysters from farms, sampled outfalls directly connected to Pease, and detections were identified from outfalls at Pease. Amy Quintin stated detections were reasonably low concentrations for exposure scenarios, under 10-percent of

safe levels. Peter Sandin added that our risk assessor also did an evaluation, and there were no recommendations made to not eat the shellfish.

7:45 Meeting Recap and Next Steps – Ona Ferguson

- Ona Ferguson stated the RI is capturing what we need to have to prevent damage and exposure on a broad scale. Ona Ferguson stated in terms of process, it takes time, and to keep bringing key moments to the RAB. Ona added breakout sessions have been especially helpful and asked if presentations be prerecorded.

8:10 Adjourn