

Stop 1: Site 5 Landfill 5

Q: What are the contaminants of concern at this landfill?

A: The landfill was used for municipal type waste from housing, offices and dining facilities. Some industrial wastes were also disposed here, including oils, solvents, paints, and empty containers.

Q: What is the off-gas?

A: Methane, as is typical with any municipal landfill.

Q: What is direction of groundwater flow in this area?

A: North to Northwest

Q: Why are there no Monitoring Wells South of the Landfill, near Landfill 4?

A: The waste materials at Landfill 4 were excavated, so there is not a source of groundwater contamination in place at that site.

Stop 2: Site 8 Fire Training Area #2

Q: Where is the Haven Well?

A: The Haven Well is in the grassed infield between the Runway and Taxiway A, north of Taxiway B.

Q: Where are the crash sites?

A: The crash site, which was actually an aircraft fire rather than an aircraft crash is located on a parking ramp/taxiway near the current flightline fire station (refer to Tour Booklet page 29, Potential areas where aqueous film forming foam was released). There have been no other crash sites or aircraft fires reported at Pease.

Q: I understand you are removing other things from this area, but with regard to PFCs, are you removing them here?

A: Yes, in August 2015 we restarted the existing equipment in this area to specifically treat PFCs in the groundwater. The technology is effective and appropriate for treating both the Volatile Organic Compounds and PFCs. Although we completed the job to remove the organic compounds, we restarted the system for PFCs.

Q: My husband was a firefighter and in 61-63 he used to dump and burn all kinds of chemicals. What was the cleanup you started in the 70s?

A: Described the VOC cleanup from the 80s until the present time, as referenced in the Tour Booklet pages 6 – 11.

Q: What are the PFCs you are monitoring here and does the treatment system work on “short-chain” PFCs?

A: PFOS and PFOA are under health advisory requirements, however there are 21 other PFCs that we are analyzing and reporting to the regulatory agencies.

Q: AFFF is not just PFOS/PFOA

A: Correct, there are other per and polyfluorinated compounds in AFFF in addition to PFOS/PFOA.

Q: What is in AFFF? How are we dealing with it in different mixtures?

A: Environmental samples collected as part of PFC response activities at Pease to date include 23 PFCs. The list may be adjusted as we identify the most frequently detected compounds.

Q: Are the levels from the Haven Well which were found in 2013 the same as those found today?

A: Yes. While the Haven Well has been offline since 2013, the concentrations in the vicinity of the Haven Well have remained consistent.

Q: Again PFOS and PFOA are the only ones you are working on, when PFHxS in particular shows up detected in the water also. There are 16 other PFCs that show up. We want all PFCs tested, reported and treated.

A: The focus is on the two PFCs that have published health advisory levels. The Air Force has been testing and reporting the additional PFCs found in Pease groundwater, and our testing shows us that the activated carbon filters remove these other PFCs and not just PFOS and PFOA.

Q: Were fire training areas lined?

A: No

Q: Long-term plans to get this restoration facility at the Fire Training Area high tech?

A: We are evaluating different filter media to design the best system for addressing the PFCs at the FTA.

Stop 3: Portsmouth Drinking Water Treatment

Q: Can you eliminate the chemicals?

A: The technology to treat PFCs is emerging. Right now the best available technology is filtration with granular activated carbon filters.

Q: (Ms Lamson) There are various other treatment systems for drinking water in the area, correct?

A: Mr Goetz explained the treatment systems and clarified the two filters on display for the tour group will be filled with 20,000 pounds of Calgon F400, a coal based carbon filter material.

Q: (Ms Amico) What were the results?

A: The test results were below detection limits for the laboratory. Excellent results.

Q: How long do filters last?

A: Lifespan can be up to 18 months, but depends on various factors impacting water quality

Q: Where do filters go?

A: The only EPA approved disposal method is high temperature thermal destruction. The filter contents are taken off-site and burned.

Q: Testing for filters on Haven Well?

A: Haven Well is off line

Q: Harrison and Smith wells concentrations?

A: Very consistent over the last 2 years, below the EPA Health Advisory Levels. There has been no change in the concentrations.

Q: AFFF replacement, plans to protect future water supplies from firefighting?

A: According to current AF policy, AFFF is approved for use only to save lives. It is no longer used for training. A new replacement formulation is coming.

Q: Training areas lined?

A: No

Q: Efficacy of Carbon Treatment on short-chain PFCs?

A: There are no regulatory requirements for monitoring or treatment of any other PFCs. However, carbon filters are the best available technology and the only EPA-approved treatment technology for PFCs in drinking water.

Q: How long will the demonstration filter test run?

A: The filter demonstration test will last six months.

Q: Dr Carignan wants to understand her role as RAB member regarding early input on treatment of PFCs. She expressed complaints for not being informed about the City's selection and installation of carbon to treat the drinking water. As a RAB member, she was anticipating that she would have been asked for her advice BEFORE the carbon treatment vessels were installed for the drinking water system. She felt it was not an open and transparent process as the RAB was promised.

A: The RAB role is related to restoration technologies and providing advice on restoration matters. The RAB is not responsible for decisions related to treatment of safe drinking water.

However, even so, the RAB and community at large has been informed about the Portsmouth activities. Specifically regarding the Drinking Water Treatment System, the City of Portsmouth has provided the public with extensive communications at each major stage, for example, City officials have sent out news releases about the treatment system, letters to City residents and provided up-to-date information on the City's website, as well as the City holding a seat on the RAB and participating in public meetings, as necessary and appropriate.

Stop 4: Haven Well

NOTE: The group received this information at the Stop 3 site, due to time constraints.

No questions were recorded. The information provided to the tour group regarding this site is in the Tour Booklet on page 28.