



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

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The Pease International Tradeport Water System and Wells

On Monday May 12, 2014, City of Portsmouth staff were notified by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) that water sampling results for the Haven Well showed that perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, an unregulated contaminant, exceeded the provisional health advisory levels recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency. The Smith and Harrison wells also had levels of this unregulated contaminant in their water but they were well below the advisory levels. As a precautionary measure, the City took the Haven Well immediately off line as recommended by NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau.

The Pease International Tradeport Water System was originally constructed as part of the Pease Air Force Base in the 1950s. The City entered into a long term lease and operation agreement with the Pease Development Authority (PDA) in 1992 to operate and maintain the public water system. This system includes three groundwater sources of supply; the Smith, Haven, and Harrison wells. A booster pump station was constructed in 2000 to provide backup water to the Pease system from the Portsmouth system. All of these water sources are combined and blended at the Pease Water Treatment Facility prior to entering the water distribution system where it is delivered to Pease customers. Two elevated water storage tanks are located in this system, the Hobbs Hill Landing water tank and the Air National Guard tank. Each tank holds approximately 366,000 gallons of water when full. The water level goes up and down daily based on water system demand. The wells are turned on and off based on these tank levels. Normal operation has all three wells turning on and off together, therefore, water delivered to water customers is a blend of all sources. The normal operating rate in Gallons per Minute (GPM) for the wells and booster are as follows; Smith: 275 GPM, Haven: 440 GPM, Harrison: 225 GPM, and Portsmouth Booster: 400 GPM. Historical operation of the percentage of contribution from these sources is as follows: Haven – 46%, Harrison – 32%, and Smith – 22% (2007 to 2013 data). All of these sources are monitored in compliance with State and Federal requirements.

The water system is regulated by the NHDES under Public Water Supply ID# 195120 and is operated by the City's certified water treatment staff. Routine water quality testing is performed as required by the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act and set forth in the NHDES's master schedule of sampling. The Haven Well is monitored more extensively by

the United States Air Force. Monthly water quality samples are taken by its consultant at the Haven Well and the surrounding area. Reports of this sampling are generated monthly by the consultant and sent to various agencies including the City of Portsmouth. Information with respect to drinking water quality is provided annually to all customers of the water system through the Portsmouth Water Division's Annual Water Quality Report.

The Pease and Portsmouth water systems consist of two zones that are isolated, but interconnections exist between the two systems for temporary back up and emergencies. With the Haven Well off line, the City is pumping supplemental water through the Portsmouth booster to provide additional water to Pease. The City's water staff is working with NHDES, the PDA, and the Air Force regarding the next steps toward treating or replacing the Haven Well water supply.