



February 18, 2015

Pease International Tradeport Water System Update

The following update is for the January 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. 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. 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 monthly 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. Preliminary reports of these assessments should be available in early spring. That information will provide the basis for the next level of investigation and/or mitigation.

Biometric Monitoring of Potentially Impacted Water Users

According to Rick Cricenti, Director of the Emergency Services Unit at the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services, the working group on the Pease Tradeport/Haven Well contamination held a conference call with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in early February. On that call, they discussed the draft documentation that had been forwarded to the CDC for review and to respond to the State's request for Technical Assistance. The current status is that the CDC will be forwarding their comments relating to the testing to the working group. The working group will review those comments and have a follow-up call to discuss. Upon completion of that call, Mr. Cricenti will forward another update to the City. In the meantime, any information 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.

Replacement of the Haven Well Supply

The City's hydrogeologic consultant, Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations (EGGI), have completed field surveys of areas in Portsmouth and Greenland that were 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.

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.