

From: Tenants Association at Pease

Sent: Friday, December 11, 2015 4:34 PM

To: (Tenants email list)

Subject: Information from NHDES about the use of carbon filters to reduce PFC levels



To: PDA Tenants

Re: Information from NHDES about the use of carbon filters to reduce PFC levels

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) recently received information from Andrea Amico regarding a tenant at Pease that uses a Brita Water filter to remove low level detections of PFCs to levels below the analytical detection limit. She reported that:

"In March of this year, the Air Force tested water samples from GBKC with and without a new faucet Brita filter. The water sample without a Brita revealed low level PFCs in the water and the water sample with a Brita faucet filter revealed non detect PFC levels. Since receiving that data from the Air Force, GBKC has placed Brita faucet filters on all the sinks providing drinking water to the children at the daycare center. Per GBKC director, the daycare is purchasing the Brita filters with the light on them that indicate when the filter needs to be changed. The light indicator is how they decide when to change the filter. Because the quantity of water consumption varies from classroom to classroom (older children consuming more water than younger children), the time frame each filter is on a faucet varies.

Parents again questioned how long the Brita's are effective in making the PFC levels non detect. I reached out to Brita twice this year and they do not have any on their own data on the effectiveness of their products and PFCs. Therefore, GBKC arranged for additional

independent water testing this October and had three samples tested. The first sample was without a filter (water right from tap) and those results revealed low level PFCs in the water. The second sample was with a faucet Brita that had been in place for 3-4 weeks (about mid life) and those results revealed non detect PFC levels. The third sample was with the oldest faucet Brita in the center (approximately 7 weeks old) and those results also revealed non detect PFC levels."

At Ms. Amico's request, NHDES has asked us (PDA) to share this information with you along with the following:

While Brita and other manufacturers of pitcher or faucet based carbon filters do not specifically market their products for PFCs removal, generally available research does show that these type of carbon based filters remove some level of PFCs. It is important to understand that the results may vary with changes in water quality which occur naturally. Also, because the Pease water system currently has PFCs at concentrations below the laboratory quantification limit, labs are reporting results qualified with a "J" meaning the values are estimated. Accordingly, the amount of PFCs actually removed by the Brita Filter is unknown, because even a small amount of removal would probably make the lab change its result from an "estimated value" to a "non-detect" value.

NHDES believes that ultimately, the occurrence of the PFCs in drinking water will best be managed by the water treatment plant the City and Air Force are designing to specifically remove the PFCs. The treatment system will be rigorously tested and maintained to ensure that PFCs are consistently removed from the water. In the meantime and while more investigation of health risks associated with PFCs occurs, use of over the counter filters in accordance with manufacturer's instructions, may lower these levels to non-detect as was the case at the daycare described above.

In closing, please note that there are many brands of carbon filters for drinking water and NHDES does not recommend one brand over another.

Incorporated in October, 1999, TAP is an all volunteer Board formed to create an organized body of people, all of whom work on the Pease Tradeport, to ensure that business can be conducted safely and effectively and to identify and resolve issues that affect the quality of life and business on the Tradeport.