

# Air Force Civil Engineer Center

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Former Pease Air Force Base

## **Restoration Advisory Board Meeting**

April 19, 2016

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*Battle Ready...Built Right!*



# Pease Restoration Advisory Board

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## *Welcome and Introductions*

**The RAB's objective is to create a forum for discussion that facilitates completing environmental restoration activities at an installation in an open and cooperative environment.**



# Agenda

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- **Meeting Ground Rules**
- **Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) History and Objectives**
- **RAB Administrative Items**
- **Pease Environmental Restoration Summary**
- **Perflourinated Compounds (PFCs) at Pease**
- **Public Comment Period**
- **RAB Member Around the Table**
- **Meeting Adjournment**



# RAB Historical Overview and Objectives

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- **RABs established by DoD (IAW 32 CFR 202) to inform and involve communities**
  - May 2006 RAB Rule (March 2007 RAB Rule Handbook) provides legal guidelines
- **Pease Technical Review Committee (TRC) played a key role during height of cleanup activities 1990-2000**
- **RAB stopped meeting after the major Records of Decision were finalized and Pease property was transferred**
  - Majority of restoration decisions (known as Records of Decision) were finalized by 2000
  - Whole Base Transfer Date: 2005



# RAB Historical Overview and Objectives

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- **Air Force reestablished the RAB**
  - To promote awareness about ongoing cleanup activities
  - To address restoration work associated with Perflourinated Compounds (PFCs)
  - To answer questions about entire restoration program
- **RAB members are comprised of:**
  - Government representatives
  - Community representatives
- **Role of RAB members**
  - Review progress and serve as conduit to greater community
  - Provide comments and advice



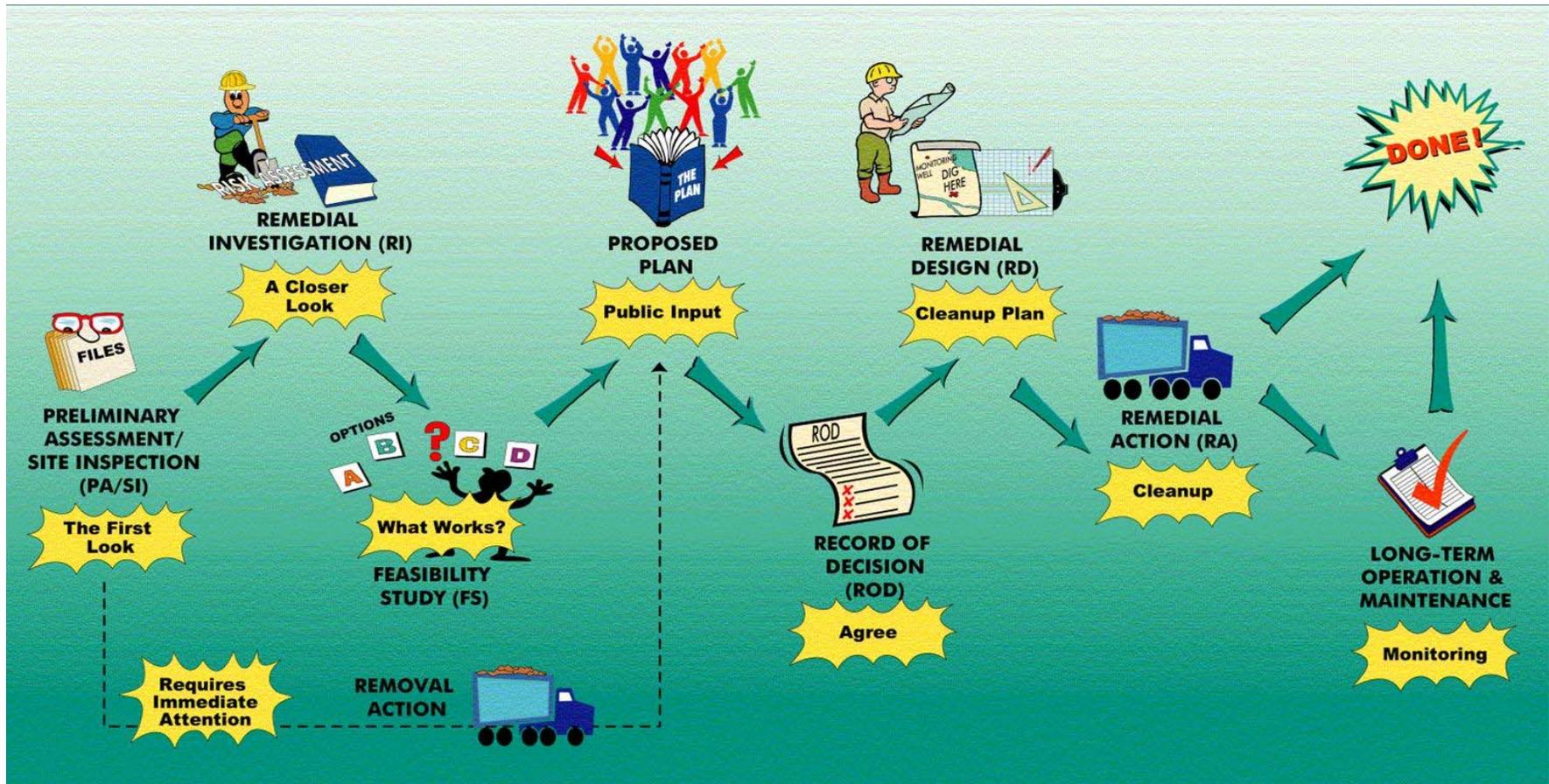
# RAB Administrative Items

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- **Purpose of the RAB**
  - Provide opportunity for stakeholder involvement
  - Provide a forum for early discussion and information exchange
- **Operating Procedures**
  - A draft version is in the works
  - All members will receive a draft copy for review and input
- **Meeting Minutes**
  - Summary notes to be provided by Air Force for RAB review and comment within 3 weeks of meeting
  - Approval at following meeting
- **Comment Cards for Public**
  - Available for those wishing to make public comments
  - Questions will be answered in writing in Meeting Minutes and individually, if you leave email contact information



# Environmental Restoration Key Regulations



- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)
- NH Code of Admin Rules Env-Or 600, Contaminated Site Management



# Environmental Restoration Summary

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- **Pease Air Force Base Opened in 1954**
- **Base Closure process started in 1988**
- **Pease AFB added to National Priorities List (NPL) in 1990**
- **Technical approach to cleanup is site specific**
  - **Records of Decision (ROD) govern how sites are addressed**
  - **Each ROD requires regulatory approval and a 30-day public comment period**
  - **Pease has 11 Records of Decision in place for soil and groundwater areas**



# Environmental Restoration Summary – 83 Sites

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- **Air Force has closed 51 restoration sites meaning restoration is done and the site is suitable for unrestricted use**
- **Of the remaining 32 sites**
  - **11 have clean up activities complete (monitoring continues)**
  - **21 have active clean up ongoing**
    - **Air Sparging/Soil Vapor Extraction**
    - **Permeable Reactive Barrier**
    - **Monitored Natural Attenuation**
    - **Long-term Monitoring**



# Environmental Restoration Summary

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- **Records Of Decision and Remedial Action Plans**
- **are in place to address environmental issues at Pease**
- **Since the mid-1990s, all 83 sites have been addressed in decision documents (RODs or RAPs) that have been fully coordinated with USEPA and NHDES**



# Environmental Restoration Summary

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- **Activities planned at all 21 sites this year**
  - **Sampling**
  - **Operation of existing treatment systems**
  - **Acceleration of treatment**



# PFCs at Pease

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- **Perflourinated compounds (PFCs)**
  - “Emerging contaminant”
  - In 1970, the Air Force began using Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), a firefighting agent that contains PFCs, to extinguish petroleum fires
  - AFFF was also used in fire training activities and in hangar fire suppression systems
  - In 2009, EPA developed Provisional Health Advisory (PHA) for two PFCs in drinking water
    - Perflouroctanoic acid (PFOA) - concentrations > 0.4 parts per billion (ppb)
    - Perflouroctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) – concentrations > 0.2 ppb



# PFCs at Pease

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- **In 2012, the Air Force established guidance for responding to possible releases of PFCs**
- **This led to a nationwide comprehensive assessment process in 2014**
- **At Pease, PFCs were discovered at levels above EPA's Provisional Health Advisory at the Haven Well**
  - **City of Portsmouth took Haven Well off-line immediately (May 2014)**
  - **In coordination with the USEPA and NHDES, the Air Force initiated an investigative program to better understand the location and extent of the problem at Pease.**



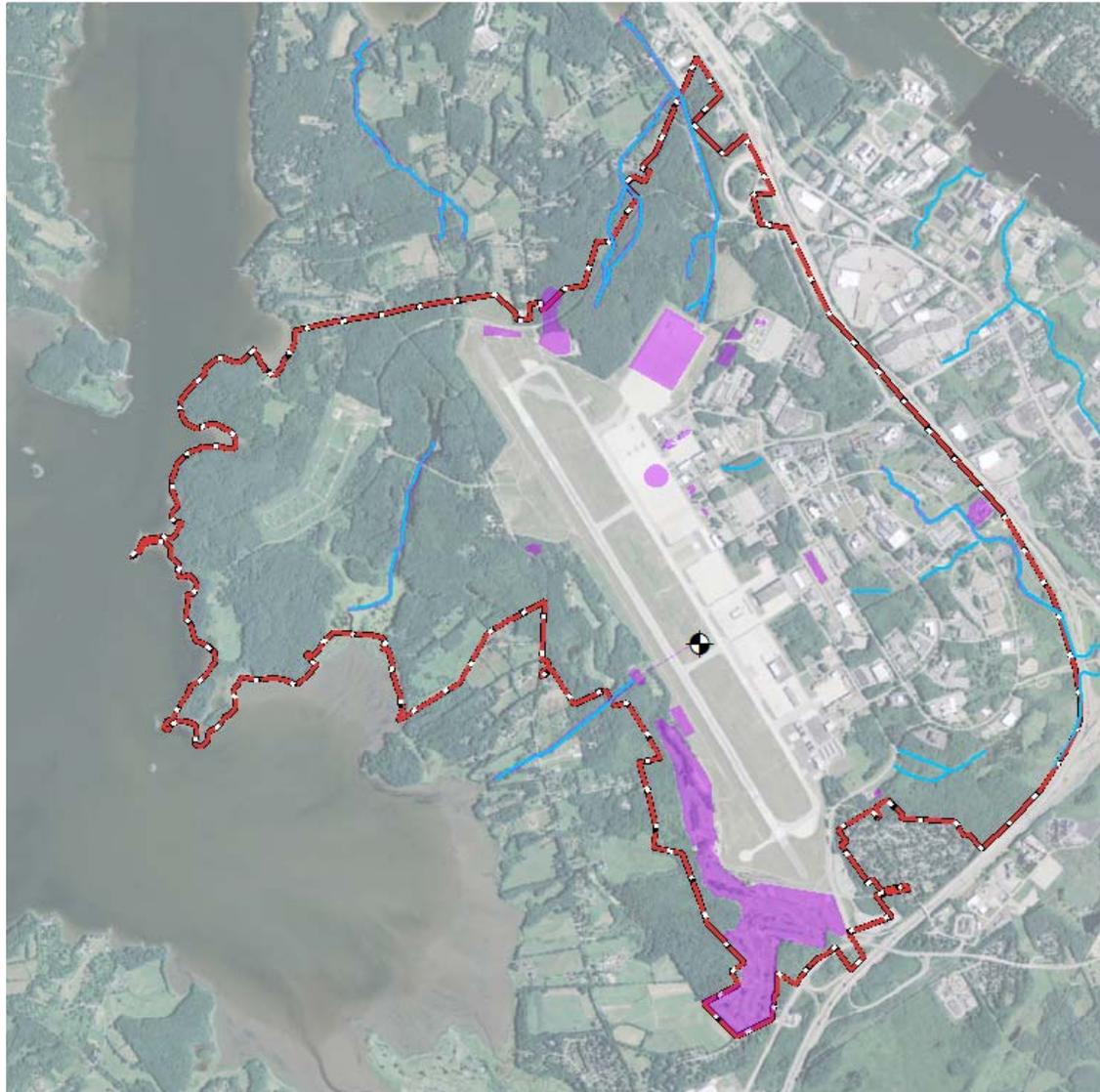
# Protecting Drinking Water

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- **PFCs were detected in the Harrison, Smith, Collins, and Portsmouth #1 wells at concentrations that were never more than 20% of the PHA for PFOS, and never more than 5% of the PHA for PFOA**
  - **Air Force has monitored public water supply wells *weekly* for the past 90 weeks and concentrations have not changed**
  - **Air Force continues to monitor public drinking water wells in accordance with the Sentry Well Monitoring Plan**
- **Sampled all private drinking water wells within an approximately one-mile radius of Pease where access was granted.**
  - **One private drinking water well had PFCs above PHA**
  - **Air Force immediately provided water to the homeowner and installed an in-home treatment system**
  - **Air Force continues to monitor private drinking water wells in accordance with the Long Term Residential Well Monitoring Plan**



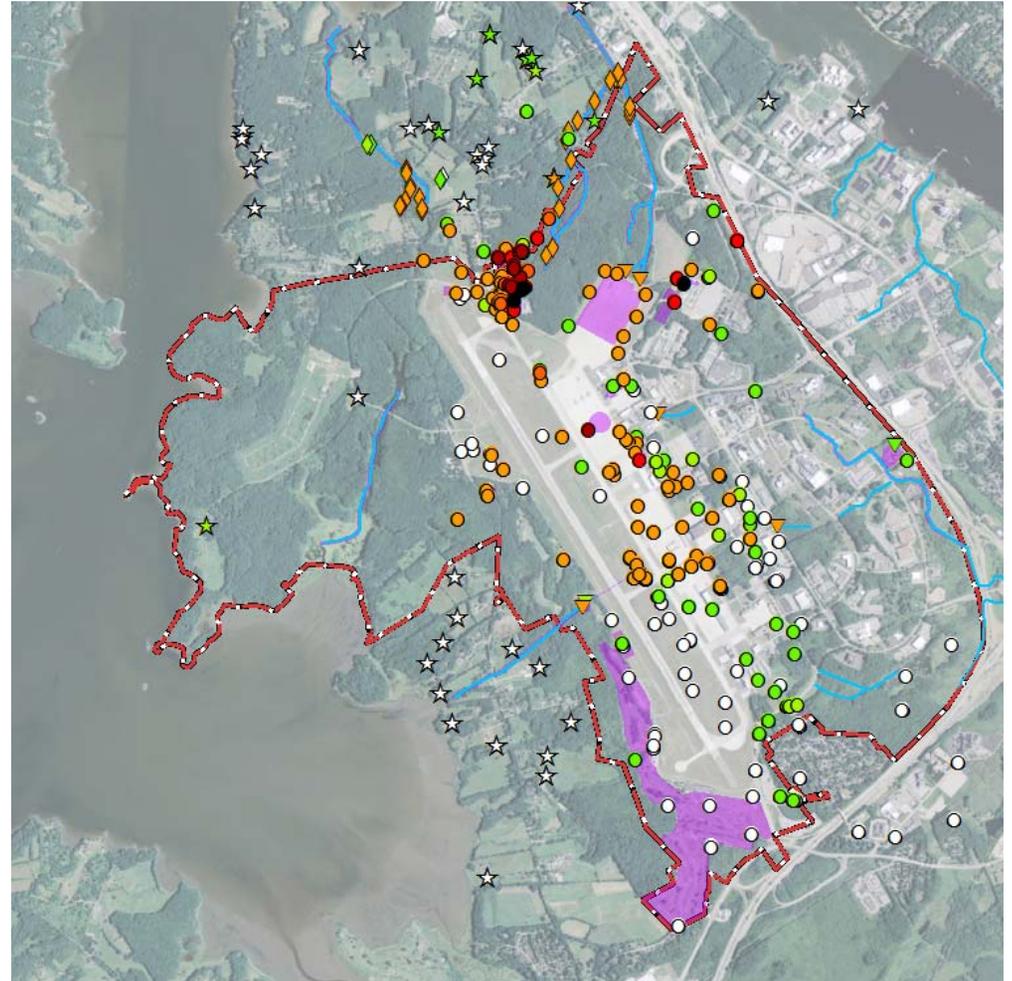
# PFCs at Pease





# PFCs at Pease

- Each of the 21 potential PFC sites identified at Pease have been investigated.
- PFC sampling and groundwater flow patterns have identified four areas that are likely the primary contributors to the PFCs in the Haven Well
- PFC concentrations in monitoring wells are not changing – PFCs moving slowly





# PFCs Next Steps

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- **Working with USEPA and NHDES to comply with the Administrative Order**
- **Existing groundwater treatment system at the Pease Fire Training Area (FTA) was modified and re-activated in Fall 2015 to control migration of PFC-impacted groundwater from the FTA toward Newington.**
- **The City of Portsmouth is to construct a drinking water treatment system, with AF funding, to remove PFCs from the Haven, Smith and Harrison wells**
  - **Anticipate the demonstration treatment system to be active in Fall 2016**
  - **Construction of final treatment system due in Fall 2017**
- **Initiate construction of new interceptor treatment system at Fire Training Area in Fall 2016**
- **Initiate construction of new interceptor treatment system north of Haven Well in Fall 2016**



# PFCs at Pease Summary

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- **The Air Force is committed to the protection of public and private drinking water supplies.**
- **The Air Force, USEPA, NHDES, and City of Portsmouth are working together to address the presence of PFCs at Pease both short and long term.**
- **Restoration Advisory Board is a key forum for continued communication on progress of PFC work.**



# RAB Discussion

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**Questions?**



# Public Comment

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**Goal:** Provide opportunity for members of the public to comment.

**Process:** Public members fill out a comment card indicating they wish to speak. Statements are timed and are limited to 3 minutes for each speaker. The timer will notify the speaker when they have 30 seconds remaining and when they have reached 3 minutes.

**Outcome:** Questions will be answered in writing in Meeting Minutes and individually, if you leave us an email address



# RAB Around the Table

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**Goal:** Solicit advice from each RAB member for upcoming agendas, and provide an opportunity for RAB members to express brief comments or make announcements.

