

March 24, 2017

Office of U.S. Senator Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hassan,

As members of a community in New Hampshire that has faced a significant water contamination, we are reaching out for your assistance as we approach a stalling point in our efforts to evaluate the public health impact of the PFAS contamination at the Pease International Tradeport. Last year, we were all nominated by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to serve the impacted Pease community on a Community Assistance Panel (CAP). Our group of local impacted citizens, elected officials and technical experts have volunteered their time for over a year now to work with ATSDR to gather and review data and express our health concerns regarding the PFAS contamination that led to the closure of the Haven well in 2014 that served drinking water to the Pease Tradeport. Some have been personally impacted by the contamination, some are concerned citizens who want to help, but all have made significant commitments through lengthy meetings, monthly phone calls and personal investments to assess our situation and establish a plan to understand the potential effects these emerging contaminants may have had here in Portsmouth.

Unfortunately, the process to evaluate our exposures has been long and painstakingly slow, and any progress we have made with ATSDR recently came to a standstill. ATSDR has been working on preparing the feasibility assessments for the Pease community for a little over 12 months now stating that health studies for both children and adults who have been exposed may be possible. The feasibility assessment discussion was listed on our February 7th CAP meeting agenda, but the meeting was unfortunately cancelled at the last minute due to weather. The cancelled meeting was re-scheduled for a month later (March 28th) with plans to review ATSDR's feasibility assessments then. It's important to note that the CAP meets with ATSDR in person just three times a year, with conference calls held monthly.

This week we were informed by Dr. Breyse, the Director of ATSDR, that the March 28th meeting must be cancelled because the feasibility assessment still has not been released from review at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). When asked to reschedule, ATSDR responded that they cannot commit to a date as they are uncertain if or when the feasibility assessment will be released from the CDC. In addition, we were told that the document previously underwent review by the Department of Defense (DoD), the party responsible

for the contamination. It is unacceptable and a possible conflict of interest that the DoD would be allowed to review a document regarding a health study of our community prior to our being allowed to see it.

The CAP and the community have planned for this stage of the process for 12 months and feel strongly that now is the time to begin at least the early stages of this process; gathering feedback and providing input to ATSDR to help our community study the possible health impacts of our exposures. Failure of CDC to release the assessment after this extended time is incredibly disappointing and very frustrating considering we cannot move forward until we are able to review and provide feedback to ATSDR on the prepared assessments.

In addition, ATSDR has stated that it could still be a year or more before the studies are implemented once the assessments are approved and we move on to the next phase, so we cannot afford to be delayed any longer. We have a community that was exposed to contaminants that are linked with cancer and other serious health conditions, adults and children that have elevated levels of these harmful chemicals in their blood compared to the general population that will not be eliminated for many years (possibly decades), and the assessments are the first step in finding answers on what this all might mean for us.

We urgently ask for your support and assistance in contacting ATSDR and CDC requesting immediate release the feasibility assessments to the CAP (and our community) so that we can move forward in this process to understand what this contamination means for our families. It has been three years since our contamination was discovered, and we fear that continued delays will rob us of our ability and opportunity to fully understand the health impacts. Further delays will mean that we are missing out on capturing the highest exposures and gain the necessary information to be proactive in protecting our health and the health of our children.

We greatly appreciate any assistance you are able to provide to help us move forward as quickly as possible in this process, and as NH constituents, are thankful for your dedication to our state and our country.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

Andrea Amico
Alayna Davis
Michelle Dalton
Lindsey Carmichael
Nancy Pearson
Mark Sullivan