



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 1  
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OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

July 3, 2018

Maureen Sullivan  
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Environment, Safety & Occupational Health  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Energy, Installations, and Environment)  
3400 Defense Pentagon, Room 5C646  
Washington, DC 20301-3400

Via e-mail to: [Maureen.Sullivan18.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Maureen.Sullivan18.civ@mail.mil)

Re: Fort Devens Superfund Site, Massachusetts  
Next Steps to Address PFAS Impacts to Devens and Ayer Water Supplies

Dear Ms. Sullivan:

On behalf of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1, I would like to express my appreciation to you and your colleagues for facilitating a productive meeting at the Fort Devens Superfund Site (Fort Devens) on June 15. The meeting provided an opportunity to meet with representatives from MassDevelopment (Devens), the Town of Ayer (Ayer), and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), and to further understand the serious challenges presented by the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at Fort Devens and in municipal water supply wells.

We recognize that the Army has done excellent work at Fort Devens and is taking steps to support resolution of this issue by committing to expanded PFAS sampling and monitoring. However, as discussed at the June 15 meeting, this issue requires more immediate action. Devens and Ayer have been struggling to address PFAS in their drinking water supplies since discovery of the contaminant in 2016, and my staff have engaged Army numerous times since then on the need for Army to expedite work and take action. In the absence of federal involvement, the towns have been forced to take extraordinary measures and, in the case of Ayer, plan to take out loans to install treatment to address PFAS contamination and to get the wells back online.

Prior to the June 15 meeting, EPA received letters from Ayer's Board of Selectmen (June 5, 2018), the Commissioner of MassDEP (June 14, 2018), and the citizens group People of Ayer Concerned About the Environment (PACE) (June 13, 2018), all asking EPA to take action to ensure Army funds costs associated with Devens' and Ayer's response actions. Subsequent to our meeting, EPA New England hosted the first regional PFAS Community Engagement Event, at which we reiterated EPA Administrator Pruitt's commitment to taking swift action to provide the regulated community and impacted people the tools and resources needed to address PFAS impacts to drinking water.

To ensure that this issue is resolved as soon as possible, EPA's preference is that the Army move forward and execute agreements with Devens and Ayer to fund and support the towns' efforts to treat the impacted wells and to provide the public with safe drinking water. We request that you provide notification to EPA of such agreements within 30 days from the date of this letter. Should Army not be able to reach agreements with Devens and Ayer within this timeframe, EPA will pursue other options, including issuance of a Safe Drinking Water Act order.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexandra Dapolito Dunn", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Alexandra Dapolito Dunn  
Regional Administrator

cc: Martin Suuberg, Commissioner, MassDEP  
Lauren Liss, President, MassDevelopment  
Jim Moore, Manager of Utilities, MassDevelopment  
Mark Wetzel, DPW Superintendent, Town of Ayer  
Robert Pontbriand, Town Manager, Town of Ayer