

Pease Families,

We are starting to see some movement at the Federal Level on the Pease Water Contamination issue:

The Article below is from the "Military Times"

<https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2018/06/08/dod-explains-whats-being-done-about-water-contamination-on-bases/>

The U.S. government is moving forward on a review of water contamination at military bases, a study that may one day help answer a heartbreaking question: Did exposure to DoD chemicals give troops or their family members cancer?

The study, announced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, will specifically look at the levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, in people in the affected communities.

PFAS are chemical compounds that were used in fire fighting foam on military bases and are also found in everyday household products. PFAS have been tied to cancers and developmental delays for fetuses and infants. The Pentagon released a [review](#) last year that found that scores of military installations had contaminated groundwater and well water.

This first study aims to set a baseline and "provide information to communities about levels of PFAS in their bodies."

That initial review will go through 2020 and be used support a follow-on, nationwide study "that will look at the relationship between PFAS exposure and health outcomes," the agencies said in a statement.

A total of ten locations will make up the initial review. The first two, comprising Bucks and Montgomery counties in Pennsylvania and Westhampton, N.Y., are already underway, due to state grants. The Pennsylvania sites include Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Willow Grove and Naval Air Warfare Center Warminster. The New York site includes the Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base.

On top of those two, the following eight communities will now be added:

- *Berkeley County (W. Va.) near Shepherd Field Air National Guard Base*
- *El Paso County (Colo.) near Peterson Air Force Base*
- *Fairbanks North Star Borough (Alaska) near Eielson Air Force Base*
- *Hampden County (Mass.) near Barnes Air National Guard Base*
- *Lubbock County (Texas) near Reese Technology Center*
- *Orange County (N.Y.) near Stewart Air National Guard Base*
- *New Castle County (Del.) near New Castle Air National Guard Base*
- *Spokane County (Wash.) near Fairchild Air Force Base*

“The assessments will generate information about exposure to PFAS in affected communities and will extend beyond the communities identified, as the lessons learned can also be applied to communities facing similar PFAS drinking water exposures. This will serve as a foundation for future studies evaluating the impact of PFAS exposure on human health,” said ATSDR director Patrick Breysse.

The study participants will be randomly selected and will have their PFAS levels checked through blood and urine samples.

If you would like to read more about the upcoming studies you can click on the link below:

https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/related_activities.html#Exposure-Assessments

Additionally, Pease Leadership is requesting that the National Guard Bureau order its own Health Study for the installation which in addition to PFAS/PFOA; will also address the health concerns related to the occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals.

We are still seeking your assistance getting the word out to all those that may not have been able to attend the Listening Session on December 7th 2018 or who may be unaware of what is going on with the current Pease Health Concerns. Please have those that need to know what is going on; reach out to the New Hampshire Office of Veteran Services to get on our Informational Contact List.

Email:

NHSVC.VBAMAN@va.gov

Call:

(603) 264-9230 Ext 301

Please have them prepared to pass along the following information:

- Veteran’s First Name
- Veteran’s Last Name
- Relation to the Veteran if they are sending the email on behalf of the Veteran
- Full Mailing Address
- Best Phone Number for contact purposes
- Best Email Address for contact purposes
- What Unit the Veteran was assigned to while they worked at Pease
- And the actual years they were assigned (ex: 1980-1984)

For those that are new to this “Contact List”; you can check out past Bulletins as well as the Minutes from the Pease Health Concerns Working Group, on the NH Office of Veterans Services Website at : www.nh.gov/nhveterans.