



September 12, 2016

This correspondence replaces a prior letter dated September 9, 2016. Please disregard prior version.

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon
Room 4D652
Washington, DC 20350

Re: Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Groundwater Contamination, Horsham, PA
Former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NASJRB) Willow Grove, PA
Horsham Air Guard Station, Horsham, PA
Former Naval Air Warfare Center, Warminster, PA

Dear Mister Secretary,

As you are aware, Horsham Township is one of a growing number of communities across the nation where perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), believed to have originated from the historical use of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) at local military facilities, have contaminated the local drinking water supply. The groundwater contamination in Horsham has been attributed to the former Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS-JRB) and the adjoining Horsham Air Guard Station (HAGS).

PFOS and PFOA has been detected in all 14 of the Horsham Water and Sewer Authority's (the Authority) public supply wells. Five of the wells have been suspended from service due to concentrations exceeding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) health advisory. Similar actions were necessitated in the neighboring communities of Warrington and Warminster. The former Johnsville Naval Air Warfare Center located just five miles from Horsham represents a third originating source of the PFOS and PFOA contamination.

The Authority's Cooperative Agreement with the Department of the Navy (Navy) provides funding for the installation and operation of treatment systems on the five public supply wells, as well as public water connections for over 80 properties with private wells that have been similarly affected. However, this funding applies strictly to water sources exceeding the health advisory level, excepting reimbursement of costs associated with actions designed to reduce the PFAS contamination below that level.

Nevertheless, the Authority and Horsham Council adopted a short term plan with a goal of attaining an average concentration of PFOS and PFOA in the public water supply far lower than the lifetime health advisory. This plan involves a combination of treatment and increased water purchase and is currently estimated to cost at least \$1.2 million per year.

This action, which received the overwhelming support of the public, was necessary due to the growing concerns, which the Township and Authority share, that the recently issued lifetime health advisory is based upon emerging and incomplete science and may not adequately account for the chronic and excessive levels of these contaminants to which the residents of Horsham have been exposed through their drinking water. Additionally, given the bio-accumulative properties and extended half-life of these contaminants, there is concern that continued ingestion of the contaminants through Horsham's public and private drinking water, even at levels below the health advisory, may outpace natural excretion from the body. Aside from these legitimate health concerns, the citizens of Horsham are being further impacted by secondary consequences such as decreased quality of life and declining property values.

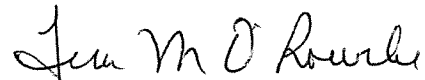
Mister Secretary The Honorable Ray Mabus
September 12, 2016
Page 2

The implementation of the Authority's short term plan to address the contamination is underway and long-term options towards the same goal are currently being evaluated. A comparable approach is being taken at the former Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where treatment systems are being installed on two supply wells with PFAS concentrations *below* the health advisory, *but at USAF expense*. In the meantime, in the Horsham community, the unwillingness to cover costs associated with levels of these contaminants below the health advisory, has necessitated the institution of a surcharge to all of Horsham's public water ratepayers. The additional surcharge translates into a 38% increase in the average residential water bill, sparking further public outrage over having to pay for an issue caused by the federal government.

The Navy has collaborated with the Authority and Horsham Township since the day these contaminants were discovered in the public water supply in 2014. However, the Authority implores the Navy to reconsider its position and reimburse all costs relating to this contamination, regardless of the concentration levels. Where similar contamination has been caused by private industry, such as in the Hoosick Falls area of New York, the responsible party is not only expected to pay for treatment of the public supply sources and to provide a redundant source free of contamination, but also for the installation of point of entry treatment at homes with private wells containing *any* level of these contaminants. We'd like to see the Navy expand its commitment to the Horsham community by holding itself to the same standard.

We hope and trust that the Navy will give this message its most serious consideration, and do the right thing for the people of Horsham, Pennsylvania; on their behalf, we anxiously await your response.

Respectfully,



Tina M. O'Rourke
Business Manager

cc: The Honorable Bob Casey
The Honorable Pat Toomey
The Honorable Pat Meehan
The Honorable Brendan Boyle
The Honorable Mike Fitzpatrick
Governor Tom Wolf
The Honorable Stewart Greenleaf
The Honorable Todd Stephens
The Honorable Bernie O'Neill
The Honorable Kathy Watson
Gregory C. Preston, BRAC
Colonel Howard L. Eissler, PA ANG
Dick McCoy, ANG

Board Members
Paul G. Mullin, Esquire
Alexander Dyke, P.E.
William T. Walker, Township Manager
The Honorable Deborah Lee James, AF
General Joseph Lengyel, NGB
The Honorable Ashton Carter, DOD
The Honorable Dennis V. McGinn