



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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September 22, 2016

via electronic delivery

Stan Jones
Senior Environmental Quality Manager
Port of Portland
7200 NE Airport Way
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RE: Request for Investigation of Perfluorinated Compounds
Portland Airport Fire Training Pits
ECSI# 3324

Mr. Jones:

The US Environmental Protection Agency recently established a drinking water health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion for perfluorinated organic chemicals (PFCs), specifically for the combined concentrations of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). PFCs are a group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in a variety of consumer and industrial applications for over 50 years. Perhaps the most notable use has been as a flame retardant in aqueous film forming foam (AFFF). It is our understanding that AFFF has been used for fire training/suppression activities at the Portland International Airport (PIA) property for a number of years, including both historical (ECSI# 3324) and recent training locations.

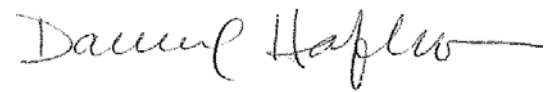
While understanding of the toxicity and behavior of these contaminants is evolving, PFCs have been determined to be highly mobile in the environment, and resistant to (natural) degradation processes. As indicated by the very low drinking water advisory level promulgated by EPA, they represent a significant human health concern.

Given the proximity of PIA to water resources including the Columbia South Shore Wellfield (Wellhead Protection Area), DEQ believes that it is both prudent and necessary to evaluate whether these contaminants have been released at your facility, notably in the fire training pits area referenced above. The historical fire training pits are currently identified in DEQ's ECSI database requiring more detailed site investigation, and a medium priority for state follow-up based on a 2002 recommendation by Cleanup Program staff. DEQ requests that you enter into our Voluntary Cleanup Program with the intent to investigate contaminant releases associated with all historic and current fire training areas on PIA property, including potential release of PFCs.

Please confirm within 30 days of receipt of this letter that you plan to move forward with requested work.

I can be reached at (503) 229-5417 or by email (hafley.dan@deq.state.or.us) if you have questions or comments about the information presented in this letter.

Respectfully,



Daniel Hafley, RG
Senior Project Manager/Hydrogeologist

Ec: Keith Johnson, DEQ
Phil Ralston, Port of Portland

Cc: ECSI# 3324

ⁱ https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-05/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_5_19_16.final_.1.pdf.