



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

EMAIL ONLY

July 21, 2020

Michael Houghton
Select Board Chair, Town of Stratham
10 Bunker Hill Avenue
Stratham, NH 03885

Subject: **Stratham** – Stratham Fire Department, 4 Winnicutt Road
DES Site #199507007, Project #39022

Focused Site Investigation Report, Stratham Fire Department, 4 Winnicutt Road, Stratham New Hampshire, prepared by Wilcox & Barton, Inc., dated February 24, 2020

Dear Mr. Houghton:

The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) has reviewed the above-referenced submittal prepared on behalf of the Town of Stratham by Wilcox & Barton, Inc. (WBI) for the Stratham Fire Department (Site) located at the 4 Winnicutt Road in Stratham. The report documents the focused site investigation (FSI) work completed to evaluate the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in groundwater, as requested by NHDES in a letter dated April 26, 2019.

WBI attributes the source of PFAS in groundwater (and soil) to past use of Class B firefighting foam at the site. According to the report, the fire department switched in 2000 from a foam product that contained PFAS to a product that is 'fluorine free' and wash water for fire apparatus/equipment is contained in underground tanks for offsite disposal at the new fire station building. No specific release area has been identified at the site, though two cross gradient monitoring wells (MW-102 and MW-105) on either side of the site both contain elevated PFAS, indicating overburden groundwater contamination extends cross-gradient from the north to the south side of the present and past fire station buildings. PFAS detected in onsite monitoring wells are consistent with a historic release of Class B firefighting foam and, based on the information presented, there does not appear to be an on-going release related to current use of foam at the site.

Properties in the area surrounding the site use wells for their water supply. According to WBI, 50 samples collected from 48 water supply wells were analyzed for PFAS. PFAS were detected in all of the samples, and groundwater samples from 27 wells have elevated PFAS concentrations that warrant additional confirmation sampling and potential future treatment.

Based on a review of the information submitted to date, additional site investigation work does not appear warranted at this time; however, NHDES strongly encourages confirmation sampling be conducted prior to remedy implementation. NHDES requests submission of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for implementation of a presumptive remedy to address impacted water supply wells. NHDES' expectation, unless you indicate otherwise, is that Point-of-Entry (POE) treatment

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systems will be installed at impacted properties to mitigate groundwater contamination above the applicable standards. The RAP should include general details of the proposed POEs for the water supply wells. In addition, a Groundwater Management Permit (GMP) Application should be submitted as part of the RAP that provides for performance monitoring of treated water supply wells combined with the monitoring of contaminant trends and compliance with the Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS).

NHDES appreciates the Town's efforts to conduct this investigation and provide bottled water to affected well users. Should you have any questions about the focused site investigation discussed herein, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at NHDES' Waste Management Division. Please provide NHDES with a schedule for submission of the RAP as soon as it is available.

Sincerely,



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