



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

February 29, 2016

Mr. David Strainge  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
Loring/Pease/O'Hare  
154 Development Drive, Suite G  
Limestone, Maine 04750

Dear Mr. Strainge:

SUBJECT: Residential Well Protection  
Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Chemicals  
Former Wurtsmith Air Force Base  
Iosco County

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has evaluated the perfluorinated chemical (PFC) contamination at the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base (base). It has recently come to our attention that PFC contamination has moved beyond the former base limits and into areas where groundwater is currently used for drinking water. As such, numerous residential drinking water wells and Type I community drinking water wells have been impacted by PFCs.

Under Section, 324.20114(h)(iv), Part 201, Environmental Remediation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994, PA451 as amended, the MDEQ is requesting that the Air Force prevent further off base movement of PFC impacted groundwater so as to protect residents who are using the aquifer for drinking water purposes. In order to achieve this request and document that actions are protective, the Air Force must do the following:

- Regularly monitor (quarterly) existing area residential and Type I community wells for PFCs using the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) method - EPA Method 537 Rev 1.1, September 2009
- Fully characterize the PFC plumes in the areas up gradient of the impacted residential and Type I community wells.
- Implement a sentinel monitoring well system to assure higher level PFC contamination is not moving toward the portion of the aquifer that is used as a drinking water source.
- Evaluate the existing groundwater extraction systems as an interim remedial action to control PFC plume migration toward the impacted residential and Type I community wells.
- Present a plan to the MDEQ that provides for final remedial actions.

Finally, the MDEQ urges the Air Force to provide an alternate drinking water source to affected well users. We urge this for three principle reasons:

- The plumes have not been fully delineated and there is no certainty that higher level contamination will not move into the wells in the near future.
- The wells are impacted with several PFCs for which there is insufficient health based data to determine their toxicity.
- It is unknown how long and at what concentrations well users have been exposed to these contaminants through their drinking water.

The MDEQ stands ready to assist the Air Force in any way possible to address this difficult situation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Bob Delaney, Superfund Section, RRD at 517-284-5085; delaneyr@michigan.gov; or MDEQ, P.O. Box 30426, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7926

Sincerely,



Robert Wagner, Chief  
Remediation and Redevelopment Division  
517-284-5144

cc: Mr. Robert Stalker, Oscoda Township  
Ms. Denise Bryan, District Health Department #2  
Mr. Paul Rekowski, AGEISS  
Ms. Debra MacDonald, ECC  
Ms. Andrea Stawowy, ECC  
Mr. Dale Corsi, DLZ  
Ms. Angela Ayers, Governor's Office  
Ms. Christina Bush, MDHHS  
Mr. Keith Creagh, Director, MDEQ  
Mr. Jim Sygo, Chief Deputy Director, MDEQ  
Mr. David Kline, MDEQ  
Mr. Bob Delaney, MDEQ  
Mr. Matt Baltusis, MDEQ  
Mr. Matt Remus, MDEQ