



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109-3912

May 5, 2016

RECEIVED
MAY 09 2016

Mr. Jim Maggiore, Chair
Mr. Larry Miller, Vice Chair
Mr. Rick Stanton, Member
Town of North Hampton, Select Board
Municipal Offices
233 Atlantic Avenue
North Hampton NH 03862

Dear Mr. Maggiore, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Stanton,

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns about potential drinking water impacts from the Coakley Landfill Superfund Site. Your letter also discusses the increased rate of pediatric cancer identified by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), and your concern about a possible link to drinking water contaminants.

First, we want to assure you that EPA has already committed to conduct an additional investigation of the Coakley Landfill to determine whether any perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) have been released from the landfill, and whether any potential PFC releases from the landfill may impact private or public drinking water supplies. EPA is working with the potentially responsible parties for the Coakley Landfill to ensure that they conduct the necessary investigation in an expeditious and comprehensive manner. EPA will step in and do the work if we are not satisfied with the pace or scope of that work. The work will begin with the sampling of monitoring wells immediately adjacent to the landfill to determine whether a release of PFCs has occurred, and will then sample away from the landfill as far as is necessary to further delineate any identified release of PFCs.

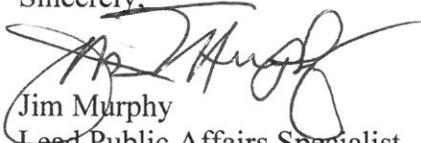
Your letter also suggests a more comprehensive sampling strategy be undertaken for PFCs throughout the watershed. EPA will not be able to conduct a watershed based sampling effort unless other specific potential sources of PFCs are identified. EPA has been working to identify potential sources of these compounds throughout New England, and to prioritize investigations based on those sources most likely to impact drinking water supplies. For example, PFC-based foams that have been used historically to train for and fight tanker truck fires have been found to create localized groundwater contamination in many cases. We are happy to work with our partners at NH DES and your community to identify other potential sources of these compounds, and determine whether additional investigations beyond the Coakley Landfill are warranted.

We want to stress the fact that EPA's investigation of the Coakley Landfill does not suggest a connection between the landfill and the elevated pediatric cancers identified by the New Hampshire Department of Human Health Services (NH DHHS). Their investigation, which included an analysis of the NH State Cancer Registry data and a thorough review of the available scientific literature looking at environmental causes of Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS), did not reveal an environmental connection. However, we do have separate and sufficient rationale to prioritize the Coakley Landfill for PFC sampling. First, we know that the landfill took in many different waste streams that could have contained PFCs. In addition, we know that there are potential downgradient drinking water wells within a relatively close proximity to the landfill that we routinely sample for other compounds. Finally, EPA is conducting a regularly scheduled Five Year Review of the landfill later this year to review the remedy's overall protectiveness. It is EPA's normal practice to investigate whether new or emerging contaminants have impacted the protectiveness of our cleanups.

Please note that Mr. Rudy Brown is no longer the Community Involvement Coordinator. I have assumed that position and can be reached via telephone at (617) 918-1028 or via e-mail at Murphy.Jim@epa.gov.

We at EPA Region 1 would like to commend you for your concern for the health and well-being of the people of the New Hampshire Seacoast. We share that concern and look forward to working with you as we continue our investigation of the Coakley Landfill site.

Sincerely,



Jim Murphy
Lead Public Affairs Specialist
Office of the Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 1

Copies:

Her Excellency, Margaret Hassan, Governor The State of New Hampshire
The Hon. Jeanne Shaheen, United States Senator
The Hon. Kelly Ayotte, United States Senator
The Hon. Frank C. Guinta, United States Representative
Gina McCarthy, Administrator U.S. EPA
Gerardo Millan-Ramos, Remedial Project Manager U.S. EPA
Tom Burack, Commissioner, NH Department of Environmental Services
Eugene J. Forbes, P.E. Director, NH Department of Environmental Services Water Division



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RECEIVED

MAY 02 2016

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
Governor

April 27, 2016

The Honorable Jim Maggiore
Chair, Select Board
Town of North Hampton
233 Atlantic Ave.
North Hampton, NH 03862

Dear Chair Maggiore and members of the Select Board:

I read with interest about your request to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to test for perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs) around Coakley Landfill. While that area is a Superfund site and under the control of the EPA, New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services (DES) works closely with the EPA on issues regarding the site. As you may be aware, DES has also been working extensively on issues around PFCs, and has been specifically discussing with the EPA testing for PFCs in that area.

It is our understanding that the EPA has committed to testing for PFCs in the area around the Coakley Landfill, and is in the process of finalizing a plan for conducting such tests. The Department of Environmental Services continues to consult with EPA on this issue, as well as the larger issues around the Coakley Landfill, and DES, as well as my office, will continue to call for the EPA to move forward quickly on this effort.

We will continue to watch this issue closely, and please let us know if we can be of assistance in this matter.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maggie Hassan".

Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor

KELLY A. AYOTTE
NEW HAMPSHIRE

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
COMMERCE
HOMELAND SECURITY &
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
BUDGET
SMALL BUSINESS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3324

144 RUSSELL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

1200 ELM STREET, SUITE 2
MANCHESTER, NH 03101

144 MAIN STREET
NASHUA, NH 03060

14 MANCHESTER SQUARE, SUITE 140
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801

19 PLEASANT STREET, SUITE 13B
BERLIN, NH 03570

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy:

I write regarding the ongoing water contamination issues affecting several New Hampshire communities.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Select Board of North Hampton's April 25, 2016, letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which raises serious concerns that merit the Agency's immediate attention. I encourage the EPA to address the Select Board's request to test for contaminants within the Coakley landfill and the watershed testing sites. The absence of a health advisory standard for these contaminants, as well as public concern that their presence could be contributing to increased pediatric cancer rates only heightens the need for an expedited release of a health advisory standard for each of these contaminants. New Hampshire residents deserve to know whether their water is safe, local officials need to be able to respond to concerned residents, and water treatment professionals who are working to design treatment systems need to have clearly defined objectives.

I respectfully request that you respond promptly to the Town of North Hampton and work to address the Town's concerns as soon as possible. Please copy my office on your response to the Town of North Hampton and keep me informed of the Agency's efforts in New Hampshire on this imperative issue.

Thank you for your attention to this critically important matter, I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Kelly A. Ayotte
U.S. Senator