

June 26, 2025

To: Barnstable Town Council

From: Hyannis PFAS Community Working Group

RE: Barnstable DPW PFAS Forum - Key Learnings & Next Steps

Hyannis PFAS Community Working Group members very much appreciated Barnstable DPW's recent public forum and information session addressing primary and secondary sources of PFAS contamination impacting our sole-source aquifer and the health and well-being of many residents.

Speakers and their presentations together provided a comprehensive perspective on the pervasive nature of the contamination across Barnstable and into Yarmouth and on the significant ongoing concerns of the community while also emphasizing that Hyannis area water supplies are safe to drink.

Following on our June 6th communication (attached), HPCWG presents two additional takeaways from DPW's June 18 forum:

- The Airport's expansion of PFAS sampling, health exposure assessment, and overall site characterization activities is welcome, and the just-announced plan to investigate a permeable reactive barrier for controlling off-site PFAS migration is extremely encouraging.
- Community-based public health interventions are needed to help mitigate the health impacts of past PFAS exposures occurring through the town's public water supplies, as well as secondary exposure pathways.

Direct involvement by the Town Council will be necessary to ensure that adequate resources are available—across multiple governmental entities and town departments—for accelerating Airport site characterization, control, and remediation *and* for building community awareness, improving information access, and coordinating with medical and public health providers to expand surveillance testing and improve the standard of care for at-risk individuals.

We look forward to further dialogue toward community-approved PFAS mitigation as our second TAG grant kicks off on July 1st, this one addressing PFAS contamination at both the Airport and the former Barnstable County Municipal Firefighter Training Academy.

June 6, 2025

TO: Barnstable Town Council
FROM: Hyannis PFAS Community Working Group

RE: Mass DEP Meeting on Airport PFAS Site - Key Learnings & Next Steps

On June 3rd, Hyannis PFAS Community Working Group (HPCWG) members met with officials from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to get their perspective on our work under a 2024-25 DEP Technical Assessment Grant focusing on PFAS contamination at, and down-gradient from, state-designated sites at Cape Cod Gateway Airport, as one important piece of a much larger challenge.

The meeting began with a brief recounting of key HPCWG findings regarding the performance of the Airport's cap as an on-site remedial option and the presence of the Airport's signature compound in groundwater down-gradient from the Maher wellfield and in Mill Creek in Yarmouth. HPCWG asked DEP officials to explain the relevance of these findings to the Phase V "final stage: operation and performance monitoring of remedial action" status of the Airport's sites under the state's waste cleanup framework, the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP).

DEP officials indicated that only a portion of the Airport's on-site responsibilities under the MCP are in Phase V, and that other aspects are in much earlier stages of site characterization and comprehensive assessment. HPCWG also learned the following:

- DEP officials have been more closely engaged with the Airport's licensed site professional (LSP) than on any other site in the state, and they have strong and long-running disagreements with the Airport's assessment of the extent of contamination.
- DEP officials share the concern that the Airport's cap may not be functioning properly, and they agree that on-site cleanup options should be given a fresh look.
- DEP officials believe that the Airport's approach, likely driven by liability concerns, is starting to show some cracks.

Enough is enough.

We are encouraged by recent developments at the PFAS-contaminated site at the former Barnstable County Municipal Firefighter Training Academy. County officials hired a new LSP to accelerate site characterization, assessment, and cleanup, and they authorized the funding required to conduct pilot testing and support near-term implementation of a full-scale permeable reactive barrier, with the aim of preventing additional off-site PFAS migration into our sole-source aquifer. This complements previous County efforts to remove contaminated soil, as well as ongoing operation of a pump-and-treat system at the County site.

We urge the Barnstable Town Council to take action in communication with the Airport Commission.