

## **CITY OF PORTSMOUTH**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR  
IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE**

**April 8, 2016**

### **Portsmouth Signs Agreement with Air Force to Proceed with Pease Tradeport Well Treatment System Project**

PORTSMOUTH, NH – The City of Portsmouth, the Pease Development Authority (PDA) and the United States Air Force are pleased to announce the execution of an agreement to enable an upgrade of the Pease Tradeport water treatment system in order to remove perfluorochemical compounds (PFCs) from water supplied by the Smith, Harrison and Haven Wells.

In May of 2014, PFCs, which are considered contaminants of emerging concern, were discovered in the three drinking water supply wells located on and servicing the Pease Tradeport. Operated by the City of Portsmouth, the Haven Well was taken off-line immediately due to the PFC levels exceeding provisional health advisory levels; the Harrison and Smith Wells, with the approval of regulators, have remained on line as PFC levels were substantially below provisional health advisory guidelines.

“We are pleased to have reached an agreement that will allow the City to move forward with the installation of carbon filters for the Harrison and Smith Wells, and the eventual design of treatment for the Haven Well, a source of water supply that has been off-line for nearly two years,” said Portsmouth City Manager John Bohenko. “The City has pushed for treatment of all Wells since the contamination was first

discovered, and is committed to providing a safe and adequate supply of drinking water to the Pease tenants. I want to thank the Air Force for their cooperation, our Congressional Delegation, and especially Senators Shaheen and Ayotte for their continued assistance in finding a resolution. It is great news for us to be able to move forward with this project.”

Deputy Director of Public Works Brian Goetz commented that “this agreement will get treatment on-line for the operating Harrison and Smith Wells to allow for demonstration of the technology and performance analysis of the system. This information will help our consultant revise the final design parameters for treatment of the Haven Well. We anticipate having the filters in place and operational within six months. Design of the Haven treatment will follow after that. Portsmouth also continues to support the goals of the EPA and DES with regard to aquifer restoration; our work will continue to be in parallel with the work that the Air Force is undertaking to satisfy the EPA’s administrative order.”

This agreement includes the Air Force’s reimbursement to the City for up to \$58,700 for the system piloting and \$831,000 for the filter installation and demonstration project. Additional agreements between the City and the Air Force for design and construction of the Haven Well treatment system are anticipated to be negotiated later in the year.

Questions can be directed to Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works, at 603-766-1420.