



# The Town Of Newington New Hampshire

Established 1713

OFFICE OF  
SELECTMEN

April 8, 2019

Mr. Harrison Mackey, Drinking Water Quality Manager  
NH Department of Environmental Science  
29 Hazen Drive  
P. O. Box 94  
Concord, NH 03302-0095

Harrison.Mackey@des.nh.gov

Re: Public Comment, Proposed Drinking Water Standards for PFAS Chemicals

Dear Mr. Mackey,

The Town of Newington appreciates the attention and concern you and the agency have for the protection of drinking water in New Hampshire. As you are aware, Newington is home to the former Pease Air Force Base and has been subjected to large amounts of contaminants into the drinking water system we rely on, as well as into the private wells many of our residents still must utilize. We know that the fire-fighting foam used at the base has been determined to be one source of the PFAS chemicals. We thank you for your diligence in proposing new water standards for four of the PFAS chemicals.

The proposed limits of .38 ppt for PFOA, .70 ppt for PFOS, .85 PFHxs and .23 ppt PFNA are better than what currently exists, although Newington believes that New Hampshire should pay careful attention to the Minnesota Department of Health's study (Goeden et al., 2019) that shows that those limits may still be too high to be safe. Minnesota's important study has opened up new scientific information that needs to be reviewed. The safe level for infants, as determined through blood serum levels would be the most protective for all residents. A combined limit should also encompass all four of the listed PFAS chemicals.

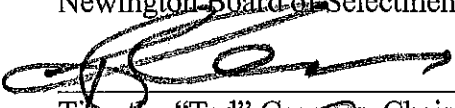
The Newington Board of Selectmen appreciate the difficult position you are in, understanding that the lower the limit the larger the impact on New Hampshire towns and cities that operate water systems and wastewater systems. Expensive upgrades will likely be required throughout the state and residents with septic systems will be impacted with increased difficulties in disposal of the septic waste. We are confident that you are looking carefully at all of the unintended side effects. Financial impacts to cities and towns should not outweigh the protection of the health of

the state's residents. This Board does not know all of the impacts a lower limit will cause, but we urge you to adopt the most stringent limits that you can to protect all of our residents.

We also request that you stay focused on this important matter as information becomes available about the other PFAS chemicals not currently included in this amendment and be prepared to add limits for them as soon as reasonably possible.

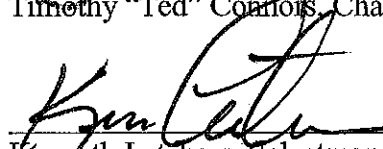
Sincerely,

Newington Board of Selectmen



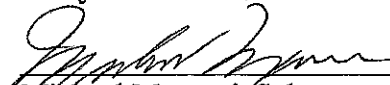
---

Timothy "Ted" Connors, Chairman



---

Kenneth Latchaw, Selectman



---

Michael Marconi, Selectman

cc:

Anne Atwell, Haz. Waste Remediation Bureau, Emerging Contaminants Coordinator,  
LeaAnne.Atwell@des.nh.gov

Mike Daly, EPA Remedial Project Manager, Daly.Mike@epa.gov

Clarke Friesé, NH DES Clark Assistant Commissioner, Clark.Freise@des.nh.gov

Stephen Roy, DWGB Technical Section Manager, Groundwater Permitting,  
Stephen.Roy@des.nh.gov