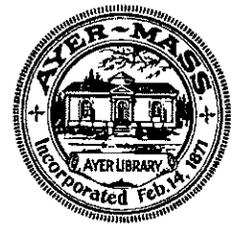


**Office of the Board of Selectmen
Office of the Town Manager**



Town of Ayer | Ayer Town Hall | 1 Main Street | Ayer, MA 01432 | 978-772-8220 | www.ayer.ma.us

June 5, 2018

Ms. Alexandra Dunn, Regional Administrator
EPA New England, Region 1
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Re: PFAS Impacts to the Town of Ayer Drinking Water Supply and Request for Compensation from the U.S. Army

Dear Ms. Dunn,

On behalf of the 7,500 Residents of the Town of Ayer, we the Ayer Board of Selectmen are writing to you to seek the full support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 1 in compelling the U.S. Army to compensate the Town of Ayer for the approximately \$5 million dollars appropriated and/or spent to date by the Town of Ayer to proactively address the PFAS contamination of our drinking water supply as a direct result of activities conducted by the U.S. Army on the former Fort Devens (now Devens) which has contaminated our wells.

Recent PFAS sampling by the U.S. Army at the Fort Devens Superfund Site in Massachusetts indicated PFOA/PFOS levels above EPA's 70 ppt Lifetime Health Advisory in Ayer's Grove Pond drinking water wells; at 145 ppt at Grove Pond Well No. 8; and above 230 ppt in upgradient water monitoring wells. Upon notification of PFAS contamination of drinking water suppliers by Massachusetts DEP, Grove Pond Well #8 was shut down by the Town of Ayer. Additionally, a public notification/advisory was issued to all Town of Ayer residents and businesses. Similar contamination has been detected at Deven's McPhearson Water Supply Well which has also been taken out of service.

The shutting down of Grove Pond Well #8 came at considerable costs to the Town of Ayer and has a significant impact(s) on the Town of Ayer's drinking water supply and well network. Well #8 is a relatively new well and one of primary significance in terms of water source for the Town's water supply. Prior to Well #8 being shut down, the Ayer Water Department proactively was blending Well #8 with two other wells which resulted in PFOA/PFOS levels being below the EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory levels. It is important to note that ongoing pumping of Well #8 to prevent contamination has resulted in in Well #6 and #7 which are downgradient from Well #8 to show increased levels of PFOA/PFOS. Until the Ayer Grove Pond Well network can be fully back online, the Town will struggle to meet current demand; may need to rely on continuous (and costly) short-term mitigation measures; can be vulnerable to emergencies; and will have limited capacity for maintenance and repair.

On May 14, 2018, the taxpayers and voters of Ayer passed a borrow authorization article at the Ayer Town Meeting in the amount of \$4.2 million dollars for the purposes of constructing a PFOA/PFAS treatment plant at Grove Pond as both a proactive and permanent solution to this contamination. This recommendation was the result of extensive engineering work by the Ayer DPW Superintendent and the engineering firm of CDM Smith, contracted and paid for by the Town of Ayer.

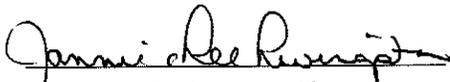
An unexpected expenditure of \$4.2 million dollars is a significant cost burden for the Town and most importantly, the taxpayers of Ayer who must now not only shoulder the cost burdens of this contamination caused by the U.S. Army but are still living with these contaminations issues in their drinking water.

We are requesting that the EPA and DEP continue to support the Town of Ayer and hold the U.S. Army responsible and accountable for this PFOA/PFAS contamination AND hold them accountable to compensate the Town of Ayer not only for the \$4.2 million dollars for the remediation plant but for all of the additional costs that the Town incurred for preparation of water testing, engineering, and shutting down the Grove Pond Well #8.

The Town of Ayer is prepared to work in cooperation with the EPA, DEP, federal and state legislators as well as pursue all other options to hold the U.S. Army responsible and accountable for the PFOA/PFOS contamination of Ayer's drinking water AND to hold them financially accountable for compensating the Town of Ayer for all costs associated with this contamination.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,


Jannice L. Livingston, Chair


Christopher R. Hillman, Vice Chair


Scott A. Houde, Clerk

The Ayer Board of Selectmen

Cc: U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren
U.S. Senator Edward Markey
U.S. Congresswoman Nikki Tsongas
State Senator James B. Eldridge
State Representative Jennifer Benson
State Representative Sheila Harrington
Ms. Mary Jude Pigsley, DEP Regional Director
Mr. Robert A. Pontbriand, Ayer Town Manager
Mr. Mark L. Wetzal, P.E., Ayer DPW Superintendent
Attorney Mark Reich, KP Law, Ayer Town Counsel