Desk Statement on Pease SDWA Order

On July 9, 2015, the EPA issued an Administrative Order under the Safe Drinking Water Act to the US Air Force for the Former Pease Air Force Base in Portsmouth, NH. The Order requires the Air Force to address contamination of the drinking water supply under the facility known as the Pease International Tradeport. A portion of the drinking water supply is contaminated with perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) above EPA's provisional health advisory. The provisional health advisory reflects reasonable health based concentrations above which actions should be taken to reduce exposure. At Pease, PFCs were commonly found in foams used to extinguish fires at airports and other facilities. The Administrative Order requires the Air Force to 1) design and construct a system within 14 months that can restore the water supply; 2) design a system that could be used to treat the remaining supply if it becomes contaminated; and 3) to expeditiously complete ongoing investigations. EPA will continue to work with the State, City and Pease Development Authority on the implementation of work necessary to protect this valuable resource.

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