

PEASE HEALTH WORKING GROUP

MEETING MINUTES

DISCUSSION

- Introduction
- Presentation by ATSDR
 - 3 wells on base
 - Haven well most contaminated and shut down in 2014
 - ATSDR health consultation reviewed levels of PFCs in Pease water from 1993 to 2014
 - Report covers maximum concentrations of PFCs exposed to Pease community broken down by age group
 - Confirmation of levels
 - Water still contains PFCs, but at lower levels that ATSDR has deemed safe for consumption
 - Fact sheet has been created to show blood levels in Pease community members compared to other areas nation-wide
 - FAQ page released for patient/provider use
 - New research will be done on private wells in local area affected by PFCs
- Questions and concerns for ATSDR
 - PFC contamination has traveled to two Portsmouth city supply wells. During times of high demand, contaminated water is blending in and causing potential exposure to wider population
 - Screening for PFCs is currently limited, missing a large portion of contaminants
 - Contradiction between 1999 Public Health study and 2019 publication
 - Evolving science, such as increased concern for adverse health effects from TCE, have caused changes in disposition
 - Concern regarding focus of population, missing affected guardsmen
 - Does the potential negative health effects lessen as levels lower?
 - Are there any dates on when studies will be released that show links to cancer?
 - There will be aspects of studies that ask questions about cancer, but currently facing challenges because of sample size

MEETING DETAILS

Date: 8 May 2019

Time: 1330

Location: Pease ANGB, NH

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions
- ATSDR briefing on local health studies
- DOD response letter
- Subcommittee Reports
- Community Outreach and Communication
- Patient Advocacy and Education
- Legislative Update
- Action Items update
- Adjourn-

Attendees:

Col John Pogorek, 157 ARW
Maj Derek Brindisi, 157 ARW
Capt Gary Perlman, ATSDR
SSgt Sarah Davidson, 157 ARW
Karen Craver, NH DHHS
Doris Brock, Widow of SM
Nancy Eaton, Widow of SM
Peter Clark, Sen. Shaheen
Patrick Carroll, Shea-Porter
Kerry Holmes, Sen. Hassan
Lindsey Carmichael, NH Safe Water Alliance
Karla Armenti, NH OHSP-UNH
Justin Troiano, Sen. Hassan
Gary Enos, Retired SM

PHONE:

Lt Col Williams, NGB
Chris Ray, CDC-ATSDR
LtC Robert Piotrowski, 157 ARW

- There is a theoretical cancer slope factor in the Health Consultation on A-24 for PFOA, but not PFAS
- Do we have more detailed information for patients to use when speaking with their providers?
 - ATSDR is working on gathering more research to provide more detailed information for early screening information
 - Patient Advocacy Subcommittee is also working to create user-friendly sheet for patients to educate patients and one to give to providers

Question to NGB

- Status of health study request for Pease ANGB
- Still routing request; expecting response by mid-May
- USAFSAM would head the study

Health Study

- Pease Proof of Health Concept study (exposure and health effects PFC cross-sectional study)
 - Pilot study (1625 people)
 - Ages 4-17 and adults 18+ years old
 - Recruitment in 3 waves
 - Those who participated in DHHS blood test study
 - People who were eligible for blood test (worked at Pease/families on trade port since 2004) excluding those who had direct occupational exposure
 - Request from working group to get recruitment information for local dissemination
 - Reference group
 - Pending approval
 - Schedule on track for late summer
- National study (multi-site study)
 - 6 sites (not yet selected)
 - Notice of opportunity for funding was released Apr 1 and will close end of May
 - Sample size does not allow for cancer focus, but some questions will touch on cancer and generate information on cancer issue
- Exposure Assessment is separate and on a different timeframe
 - Looks at adjacent communities to military installations potentially affected
 - 8 sites selected

Response to questions generated from review of letter to Senator Shaheen

- What does the millennium cohort study cover?
 - Question will be posed for congressional response
- Monthly report shows increase in cancer rates
 - Trend does not note increase because it is not statistically significant
- Chart does not show National Guard

Subcommittee Overview

- Patient Advocacy Subcommittee
 - Concerns for all exposures, both to PFCs and occupational hazards
 - ATSDR has continuing education resources for physicians along with other informational sheets
 - FAQs available for each chemical identified to have been used at Pease
 - SDS can be pulled as well
 - BEE can provide information regarding substances currently used on base
 - Goal to have resource links placed on various website (Pease ANG, Veteran Services, Ask the Question, etc.)
- Community Outreach Subcommittee

- Ways to reach members, retirees, and families
 - Pease Water Contamination Facebook page
 - Tool to distribute information on research and events
 - Retiree page
 - Place to place information intermittently
 - Bonnie Rice has email distro list that helps connect emails to Doris Brock
- Veteran Services will have table at Retiree Day to sign up people for informational distro
 - Veteran Services will update website to provide more current information
- Comprehensive list of individuals for 50th anniversary may be utilized for various purposes
 - Research/studies
 - Cross reference with cancer registry
 - Distro list

Legislation

- Bill has been put forward to stop short chain process to use PFCs
 - This will force proper process to be used for PFC approval

Follow-Up with Public

- Health Fair
 - Various health experts and politicians were available
 - Tables set up for public to walk through and ask questions
 - Allow individuals to ask questions one-on-one according to focal area of each attending expert
 - Karen Craver will send out document to
- Listening Session
 - Aim for early fall time frame
 - Possibly combine with health fair

Next meeting

- June 19, 2019 at 1:00pm
- JFHQ, Concord, NH

For any questions or concerns regarding the information above, please contact SSgt Sarah Davidson at sarah.e.davidson9.mil@mail.mil

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations:

- ANG – Air National Guard
- ATSDR – Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
- DHHS – Department of Health and Human Services
- DOD – Department of Defense
- HAZMAT – Hazardous Material
- JFHQ – Joint-force Headquarters
- NGB – National Guard Bureau
- PFC – Perfluorinated Chemicals
- PFOA – Perfluorooctanoic Acid
- PFOS – Perfluorooctane Sulfonate
- SM – Service Member
- TCE – Trichloroethylene
- USAFSAM – United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine
- VA – Veteran Affairs