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General Manager, New Jersey Airports

**GENERAL MANAGER'S BULLETIN #17-05**

**TO:** All Airport Tenants  
**FROM:** Diane M. Papaiani  
**DATE:** March 13, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** **Emerging Contaminants of Concern - PFOA & PFOS**

This Bulletin serves to alert the airport community to actions being taken by Federal and State environmental regulators regarding two emerging contaminants of concern: perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS). These chemicals are known to resist degradation in the environment and can cause adverse human health effects dependent on the exposure level, route, and duration. They are also known to have been used historically in Class B fire-fighting foam, including but not limited to, Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF).

**Regulatory Actions to Date**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established health advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS in drinking water. EPA's health advisories are "non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to states agencies and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methodologies, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination." National drinking water standards have not yet been established for PFOA and PFOS.

In April 2016, the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) listed two forms of PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid and ammonium perfluorooctanoate) and two forms of PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate) as hazardous substances. Per NYSDEC, fire-fighting foams containing 1% or more of these chemicals are subject to storage and handling requirements, may not be used to fight fires after April 25, 2017, and are prohibited from being used for training purposes.

The NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) requested that the Drinking Water Quality Institute develop Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) for PFOA and PFOS. The MCL for PFOA has been recommended, and a recommended MCL for PFOS is expected sometime this year. Given the establishment of standards for drinking water, the potential exists for PFOA and PFOS to be listed as hazardous substances in NJ.

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**Airport Impacts**

Newark Liberty International and Teterboro Airports have the potential to be impacted due to the presence of PFOS in certain brands of Class B fire-fighting foams which were purchased prior to 2004, when the sale of foams containing PFOS ended. Class B fire-fighting foams are typically used at airports in hangars, fuel farms, and for aircraft fire fighting purposes. While most fire-fighting foam used at airports do not contain PFOS, older stock may. Specifically, AFFF historically manufactured by 3M, is known to have contained PFOS.

Given existing regulations for PFOA and PFOS in New York, potential regulation in New Jersey, and increasing Federal scrutiny of these contaminants in water supplies, the Port Authority requests that all tenants review their inventory of Class B fire-fighting foam to determine if products contain PFOA and/or PFOS, and, if so, whether they contain 1% or more of PFOA and/or PFOS. These findings are to be submitted to Tiffany Chan, Principal Environmental Programs Specialist at [tiffany.chan@panynj.gov](mailto:tiffany.chan@panynj.gov) by April 28, 2017.

Additionally, the Port Authority highly recommends that applicable tenants consider phasing out the use of fire-fighting foams containing PFOA and/or PFOS.

Additional information regarding PFOA and PFOS is available on EPA and NJDEP's websites at the following locations:

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>

[http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/g\\_boards\\_dwqi.html](http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/g_boards_dwqi.html)

For disposal, it is recommended to follow the guidance for solidification of the foam provided by NYSDEC at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/106078.html> until NJ issues guidance.

If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany Chan at 973-961-6093, or [tiffany.chan@panynj.gov](mailto:tiffany.chan@panynj.gov). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



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