



**Brenner Township
GTAC7-4-106
Site Scoping Meeting Minutes and Next Steps
Wednesday, September 2; 10:00 - 12:00 PM**

Site Meeting Info:

Buffalo Run Community Park pavilion in Benner Township

Attendees:

Cheryl Sinclair – PADEP Project Geologist

Andy Thornton – PADEP Project Officer

Tom McMonagle – HDR GTAC Program Manager

Matt Blanchard – HDR Project Manager

Vincent Carbone – HDR Project Geologist

Lysa Holland – PSU EH&S

Shelley McKeague – PSU Office of Physical Plant

1. Sign-In

2. Background

- a. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) provided an overview of the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) groundwater investigation that was completed at properties along High Tech Road and the University Park Airport by the Public Water Supply Department in 2019 and the Penn State University (PSU) in 2020, respectively.
- b. Concentrations of PFAS > the EPA's health advisory level (HAL) were detected in groundwater samples collected from public and private water supply wells located along High Tech Road.

- c. In February 2020, PSU sampled groundwater from airport monitoring wells for PFAS. The groundwater samples exhibited PFAS concentrations that were < the High Tech Road water supply wells.
- d. The highest concentrations of PFAS were detected in a November 2019 water sample collected from a potable water supply well located at the Matreya LLC property at 2178 High Tech Road. According to an online search, Matreya is a lipid biochemical company. The former tenant at the property was Premetek, Inc., which conducted various manufacturing activities for computers and electronics.
- e. PSU collected a water sample from several potable wells to the east of the airport and analyzed for PFAS. The samples exhibited concentrations of PFAS that were non-detect or < the EPA HAL.
- f. The PADEP has contacted other tenants along High Tech Road to sample new and existing water supply wells. The Nittany Express has not responded to numerous PADEP requests for access to their property.
- g. There are some vacant parcels along High Tech Road that are available for sale.
- h. A new private water supply well was installed at the Nittany Express property on High Tech Road in November 2019.

3. Scope of Work

- a. PADEP would like to identify the source and the extent of PFAS contamination in the area of High Tech Road and the airport by installing several monitoring wells.

4. Discussion Items

- a. The installation of monitoring wells will be expensive. HDR recommended to delay the installation of monitoring wells until further due diligence can be completed on potential PFAS sources.
- b. HDR discussed that the topography and karst geology influences the depth to water and groundwater flow direction.

- c.** PSU completed a deed search of some the properties along High Tech Road and provided some historical information of the properties to the PADEP.
- d.** HDR, PSU and PADEP discussed the firefighting foam (FFF), which is required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and is stored in a building at the airport. The FFF, which has contained constituents in the group of chemicals referred to as PFAS, has been used on the airport property for training for a currently unknown period of time. Information provided at this point indicates that the potentially containing PFAS FFF was applied prior to 2006 to two (2) known grass areas located on the eastern and central portions of the airport property. Between 2006 and 2019, the FFF was applied to the concrete deicing pad which discharged into an underground concrete vessel with a capacity of 50,000 gallons where it was collected and disposed off-site. A system of drains and underground piping exists along the extent of the runway. Beginning in 2020, the FFF is discharged into a separate tank and removed offsite by a third party for disposal. Glycol is also now removed offsite by a third party and is no longer discharged to the sanitary sewer. PSU indicated that historical data including the type of FFF used at the airport is unavailable. FFF testing is completed at the airport twice per year in accordance with FAA regulations.
- e.** HDR requested if PSU was able to locate and share any geotechnical logs that may have been completed for the current construction activities at the airport or when the airport was constructed. PSU was not aware if this information is available.
- f.** No surface soil samples/analysis or stream samples for PFAS has been generated in the vicinity of the project area.
- g.** PSU was not aware if any fracture trace analyses (FTA) has been completed in the project area. PSU suggested a professor at PSU may have FTA information.
- h.** PADEP commented that the sampling method used by the Public Water Supply Department for the water supply wells at the properties

on High Tech Road is unknown. HDR discussed water supply and groundwater sampling equipment and materials could contain PFAS.

- i. HDR discussed that the existing monitoring wells on the airport property are oriented in a linear formation and are not ideal to determine groundwater flow direction.
- j. HDR, PADEP and PSU discussed the location of the water supply wells that are located to the west of the project area in Alexander's Well field.
- k. Data-sharing items for this project will be submitted to the attention of the PADEP.
- l. HDR and PADEP briefly reviewed the results of a search on the eMap PA website for former EPA and PADEP investigations. Several soil Act 2 closures were identified on the airport property.
- m. The following features were noted during the site tour along High Tech Road:
 - i. An abandoned concrete structure with PVC piping and electrical wiring located near the southwest corner of the State of the Art property.
 - ii. A placarded chemical shed was observed on the State of the Art property.

5. Next Steps

- HDR to develop a Work Plan/Cost Estimate (WPCE) to perform due diligence for the project area to evaluate any potential PFAS sources that may have been used and released. The due diligence would include:
 - i. A database search, review of historical aerial photographs and topo maps. HDR to review available airport and site information from PSU (FTAs, Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping, property histories, etc.), GIS from Center County, and project information available from the PADEP.
 - ii. HDR to review well logs for the public water supply wells located in the project area for descriptions of the geology and the depth that groundwater was encountered during drilling.

- iii. HDR to review former septic systems that existed for the properties along High Tech Road.
 - iv. HDR to review details and figures of subsurface piping used for the management of stormwater, sanitary sewer and containment system for FFF.
 - v. HDR to review the Public Water Supply Program's sampling logs for the public supply well and the private water supply wells along High Tech Road.
 - vi. HDR to investigate the location of the former sinkhole on the State of the Art property.
- Based on the information developed from the due diligence, HDR to develop a soil sampling plan for PFAS on the State of the Art property, the airport property and potentially other properties.

6. Action Items

- a. HDR to prepare draft Site Scoping meeting minutes and a list of next steps. (completed 9/9/20).
- b. PADEP to provide HDR with the historical files of the properties that were previously provided by PSU to the PADEP (completed 9/3/2020).
- c. PADEP to provide PSU with a copy of the GTAC-7 Benner Township Scope of Work.
- d. Upon PADEP review and approval of the Meeting Minutes, HDR will prepare a draft WPCE.
- e. PSU and PADEP will continue to update Benner Township on the status of the PFAS investigation (ongoing).
- f. HDR will request the PADEP to obtain the following information from PSU:
 - i. Details, figures, information for the airport's subsurface piping and collection system used for the management of stormwater, sanitary sewer and containment of discharged FFF. (completed on 9/3/2020)
 - ii. FTA information for the project area from PSU professor Dr. Parizek.

- iii. GIS mapping information.
- iv. Information on geotechnical boring logs, pre- and post-construction figures for the airport.
- g. PADEP will request well sampling logs, maps, etc, from the Public Water Supply Department completed during the 2019 well sampling event.
- h. PADEP will request Benner Township to provide information for former septic systems on High Tech Road.
- i. HDR to provide PADEP with the facility IDs for sites identified on the eMap PA (completed on 9/3/2020).
- j. PADEP will continue to request access to the private water supply well located on the Nittany Express property (ongoing).

7. Attachment

- a. Scoping Meeting sign-in sheet



**Benner Twp
GTAC7-4-106
Site Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet
Wednesday, September 2, 2020; 10:00 - ?**

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