DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20330-1000

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

21 October 2020

SAF/IE
1665 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your letter of September 27, 2020, regarding our communications with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services concerning recently enacted state Maximum Contaminant Levels and Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards for four per- and polyflouroalkyl substances (PFAS). We are conducting groundwater response actions nationally in accordance with the *Department of Defense Remediation Plan for Cleanup of Water Impacted with Perfluorooctane Sulfonate or Perfluorooctanoic Acid*, submitted to Congress in June 2020.

At the former Pease AFB, we have ensured that no one is drinking water with concentrations of PFOS and PFOA above USEPA lifetime health advisory (HA) levels attributable to the Department of the Air Force. We awarded the Remedial Investigation (RI) phase contract in July, pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), which includes a baseline human health risk assessment. As you note, we will also consider State standards as potential "applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements" (ARARs) during this phase of the process. Additionally, if at any time in the CERCLA process we find that anyone is being exposed to drinking water above USEPA's HA due to releases from Pease, we will take appropriate action.

The state of science for PFAS compounds continues to progress. Your memo highlights key policy issues in that we are currently constrained to apply USEPA's HA levels as the triggers for removal actions such as providing alternate water for private well owners. We will work through the DoD's PFAS Task Force to evaluate options for addressing these issues in a consistent manner across DoD.

We are committed to protecting human health and the environment at Pease and the surrounding community, and will continue working closely with stakeholders on PFOS/PFOA actions. I am available at your convenience to discuss this matter further or answer any questions you may have. We appreciate your continued support for the men and women of the Department of the Air Force.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HENDERSON, P.E.
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Installations, Environment and Energy)