

MaryJude Pigsley (MJP) and Mark Baldi (MB), the Regional Director and Assistant Regional Director of the Central Region of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) attended the meeting at the Board's request to discuss PFAS and the waste site clean up process. MJP presented an overview of the PFAS (where it is found, the risk to health) and regulatory process which led to the establishment of a drinking water standard for PFAS (process started in 2015, State offered free testing for public water supplies (PWS) to determine where it existed at what level in the State, establishment of a standard from Massachusetts and implementation of the standard for public water supplies). She provided a definition of public water supply and who regulates these systems (DEP) and explained the DEP doesn't regulate private wells; regulation of private wells is done by local Boards of Health. She mentioned the Environmental Protection Agency is working on a national standard for PFAS. MB provided the Board with an overview of how the discharge of oil and hazardous materials are addressed, their regulatory authority (Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) and Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 21E) and a brief description of the process. He explained their involvement in Boxborough as it related to PFAS contamination. The PFAS sampling, offered by the DEP, revealed high levels in the wells for the Carriage House and the church. This prompted additional sampling to determine if there were other wells affected and the extent of PFAS (wells within 500' of the wells with the high levels); DEP went door to door to offer PFAS testing, some individuals declined the testing and two properties exceeded the imminent hazard levels and the DEP installed point of entry treatment systems in those properties. After the testing was completed, the DEP starting looking for a potential source of the PFAS contamination and they learned a car fire was extinguished at CBK Automotive, at 795 Mass Ave., using Aqueous Film Forming Foams (AFFF). The DEP determined the property at 795 Mass Ave. was a disposal sites and issued a Notice of Responsibility to CBK in April of 2022. MB explained the process the responsible party must take to address a disposal site and provided a brief summary of the actions CBK had taken to date (hired a Licensed Site Professional (LSP), providing a response action plans for DEP review (which included additional PFAS testing) and meetings with DEP). MJP explained that CBK has applied for Financial Inability to continue response actions (MJP explained the Financial Inability process) and DEP is currently reviewing the request. The DEP answered questions from the Board and the public.

MC - will the determination of Financial Inability pause the ongoing investigation and response actions, yes but DEP will address those situations where Imminent Hazards exist (wells with PFAS levels greater than 90ng/l). JC stated the BOH mission was to notify individuals in the area, MJP explained the DEP initially, and the LSP for the responsible party after that, was responsible for contacting the individuals in the area. MJP stated the DEP had individuals go door to door in the area to request permission for testing and left cards at those properties where no one was home. Some in the audience were concerned with having the test results for their properties in the public record. JC asked if there were funds at the State level to provide treatment and/or bottled water? MJP stated she didn't know of any program but there might be proposed legislative action to address the issue (JG said he was aware of proposed legislation submitted to standardize private well testing and it might provide support for private well owners but he would have to check the exact language and status of the legislative process). Some the other questions:

If a well was found to exceed the drinking water standard, would it be considered a disposal site; MJP explained it wouldn't be considered a disposal system but a part of the CBK site. There was a question about the Town Hall well, the water test results for the well exceeded the standard and the town is

providing bottled water for staff (not considered a PWS). There was a question about the potential for the contamination to spread, MJP explained one of the purposes of the investigation and response process was to attempt to answer that question. There was a question regarding the potential for a lower national PFAS level and whether current treatment might need to be changed, MJP explained the current treatment system have been providing treatment to a non-detect level, it should be effective if the standard is lowered. If CBK is granted FI will the State continue investigation, MJP stated they will conduct testing in the area within 500' of a well where the PFAS exceed 90ng/l and will address wells which exceed 90ng/l. A question was asked about whether the current well testing has stopped – it has, per the LSP, pending DEP's review and decision of their FI request, the FI determination must be reapplied for on an annual basis. Ken Carroll informed the group the Fire Department applied the foam to the property and stated they were supposed to change the foam used in 2018. Cindy M. asked about the levels noted on the western side of town (Swanson and Codman Hill Rds.) and she asked if DEP is trying to determine the source, MJP stated they are in the information gathering process.

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