



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT  
600 ARMY PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20310-0600

July 1, 2019

Received by the  
Devens Enterprise Commission  
JUL 05 2019

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF  
Base Realignment and Closure Division  
30 Quebec Street, Unit 100  
Devens, MA 01432

Neil Angus  
Environmental Planner, Devens Enterprise Commission  
33 Andrews Parkway  
Devens, MA 01434

**SUBJECT: Former Fort Devens Community Involvement Plan Update – Opportunity to Provide Input**

Dear Neil Angus:

Since the former Fort Devens was added to EPA's National Priorities List (NPL, also known as "Superfund") in 1989, the Army's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Restoration Program has cleaned up numerous contaminated sites and transferred 4,000 acres of the former Fort Devens to MassDevelopment for property reuse and redevelopment. MassDevelopment is the economic development entity that, under Massachusetts law, runs the redevelopment and provides municipal services.

**Previous Environmental Investigation and Cleanup:** The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program addressed contamination associated with historical underground storage tanks and fuel depots, and contaminated soils containing petroleum products and chemicals. The majority of the environmental investigation and cleanup work was completed, and property was transferred prior to 2000. Environmental restoration activities and long-term monitoring continue at sites such as the former Moore Army Airfield and the Shepley's Hill Landfill.

**Current Environmental Investigation:** In response to EPA comments on the 2015 Devens Five-Year Review Report, the Army began an investigation of newly-identified (or "emerging") contaminants known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS, which have since been detected in groundwater and in the municipal water supply wells for Devens and the Town of Ayer. The Army is performing a site-wide PFAS Remedial Investigation to locate possible source areas and to delineate the nature and extent of PFAS detections in groundwater.

**Community Involvement Plan Update:** An important part of the Army's BRAC Environmental Restoration Program is understanding how interested the community is in learning more about environmental issues at the former Fort Devens and to identify how the Army can best inform the public and provide opportunities for participation in future decision-making processes. To enhance communication with neighboring communities during the PFAS Remedial Investigation, the Army is updating its 1995 Community Relations Plan (now called a "Community Involvement Plan" or CIP) to include PFAS and to develop a strategy for effectively communicating with neighboring communities during the ongoing PFAS investigation. The updated Community Involvement Plan will identify community interests and information needs and describe how the Army will communicate with the public about ongoing environmental restoration activities at the former Fort Devens.

**We need your help! To update the Community Involvement Plan, we need to hear from community members like you.** You can help us understand what information the community wants or needs. We are seeking your input in one of two ways:

1. We have prepared a questionnaire and posted it as a fillable .pdf document on our website (<https://www.ftdevens.org>). You may download the document and then send the completed questionnaire by email to [amy.brand@jacobs.com](mailto:amy.brand@jacobs.com). **OR, IF YOU PREFER**
2. You may participate in a personal interview during the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>. The interview will cover the same questions as the written questionnaire but gives you an opportunity to provide your input in person. If you would like to participate in an interview during the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>, please contact Amy Brand by email at [amy.brand@jacobs.com](mailto:amy.brand@jacobs.com). Ms. Brand is a community involvement specialist with Jacobs, working under contract to the Army to update the Community Involvement Plan; she will be conducting the interviews.

**Please note that you do not need to fill out a written questionnaire and participate in a personal interview – they will cover the same questions. The two ways to participate are being provided for your convenience.**

Results of the written questionnaires and interviews will help us keep the community better informed and identify ways that the Army can more effectively exchange information with Devens residents and the surrounding communities during the PFAS Remedial Investigation. Although the responses will be summarized in the updated Community Involvement Plan, personally identifiable information will not be included.

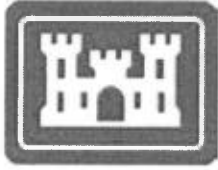
More information about the current environmental investigation at the former Fort Devens, including EPA and MassDEP fact sheets about PFAS and a current map of the PFAS investigation areas at the former Fort Devens, can be found on the website at <https://www.ftdevens.org>.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Brand at 757-803-3986 or [amy.brand@jacobs.com](mailto:amy.brand@jacobs.com). You may also contact me at 978-615-6090 or [robert.j.simeone.civ@mail.mil](mailto:robert.j.simeone.civ@mail.mil). Thank you in advance for taking the time to help us update the Army's Former Fort Devens Community Involvement Plan.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Simeone  
BRAC Environmental Coordinator  
Base Realignment and Closure Division



**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**  
**for the**  
**BRAC ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM**  
**Former Fort Devens Army Installation, Devens, MA**

**THANK YOU** for providing your input to the community involvement program for the former Fort Devens!

As part of the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program at the former Fort Devens, we are updating the 1995 Community Relations Plan (now called a "Community Involvement Plan" or CIP).

The BRAC Environmental Restoration Program for the former Fort Devens focuses on mitigating environmental contamination associated with historical releases of petroleum products and other chemicals on the property. Response actions have been completed at many locations and much of the property has been transferred for redevelopment and reuse. The Army continues to monitor and enforce land-use restrictions and conduct long-term monitoring and maintenance programs at the cleanup sites.

In response to EPA comments on the 2015 Devens Five-Year Review Report, the Army began an investigation of newly-identified (or "emerging") contaminants known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances or PFAS, which have since been detected in groundwater and in the municipal water supply wells for Devens and the Town of Ayer. The Army is performing a site-wide PFAS Remedial Investigation to locate possible source areas and to delineate the nature and extent of PFAS detections in groundwater.

To enhance communication with neighboring communities during implementation of the PFAS Remedial Investigation, the Army is preparing a Community Involvement Plan Update to develop a strategy for effectively communicating with neighboring communities during the ongoing PFAS investigation. The updated Community Involvement Plan will identify community interests and information needs, and describe how the Army will communicate with the public about ongoing environmental restoration activities at the former Fort Devens. To update the plan, we need input from local community members like you. Your confidential responses will be used in a summary format; no personally identifiable information will be included.

**Your input is valuable and will help the Army communicate effectively with the community during current and future environmental investigations at the former Fort Devens.**

**Please email this completed questionnaire to: [amy.brand@jacobs.com](mailto:amy.brand@jacobs.com)**

**Contact Information (Optional)**

If you would like to receive email or mailed notifications, please provide your contact information on this page.

Name
Company (if applicable)
Address
Address 2
City/Town
State/Province
Zip/Postal Code
Email
Address
Phone Number

## Profile

This section asks questions about you, your role in the local community, and the community in general.

<p>1. How long have you lived in Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard, or Lancaster?</p> <table><tr><td><input type="radio"/> &lt; 1 year</td><td><input type="radio"/> 11-15 years</td><td><input type="radio"/> I do not live in Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard, or Lancaster</td></tr><tr><td><input type="radio"/> 2-5 years</td><td><input type="radio"/> 16-20 years</td><td><input type="radio"/> I have worked in Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard or Lancaster for ____ years.</td></tr><tr><td><input type="radio"/> 6-10 years</td><td><input type="radio"/> &gt; 21 years</td><td></td></tr></table>	<input type="radio"/> < 1 year	<input type="radio"/> 11-15 years	<input type="radio"/> I do not live in Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard, or Lancaster	<input type="radio"/> 2-5 years	<input type="radio"/> 16-20 years	<input type="radio"/> I have worked in Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard or Lancaster for ____ years.	<input type="radio"/> 6-10 years	<input type="radio"/> > 21 years												
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<p>2. How would you describe your role in the community? (select all that apply)</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Local resident</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Representative or member of a local environmental group</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Local business owner</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Community leader</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Local employee</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>)</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a homeowner associate or other civic organization</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Public or elected official</td><td></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Local resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative or member of a local environmental group	<input type="checkbox"/> Local business owner	<input type="checkbox"/> Community leader	<input type="checkbox"/> Local employee	<input type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>please specify</i> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Representative of a homeowner associate or other civic organization		<input type="checkbox"/> Public or elected official											
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<input type="checkbox"/> Public or elected official																				
<p>3. Have you or any of your relatives ever worked at the former Fort Devens or for the Army?</p> <table><tr><td><input type="radio"/> Yes (me)</td><td><input type="radio"/> Yes (relative)</td><td><input type="radio"/> No (me)</td><td><input type="radio"/> No (relative)</td></tr></table>	<input type="radio"/> Yes (me)	<input type="radio"/> Yes (relative)	<input type="radio"/> No (me)	<input type="radio"/> No (relative)																
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<p>4. a. How concerned do you think people in the local community are about environmental issues <u>in general</u>?</p> <table><tr><td><input type="radio"/></td><td><input checked="" type="radio"/></td><td><input type="radio"/></td><td><input type="radio"/></td><td><input type="radio"/></td></tr><tr><td>not at all concerned</td><td></td><td>moderately concerned</td><td></td><td>extremely concerned</td></tr></table> <p>b. How concerned are <u>you</u> about environmental issues <u>in general</u>?</p> <table><tr><td><input type="radio"/></td><td><input type="radio"/></td><td><input type="radio"/></td><td><input type="radio"/></td><td><input type="radio"/></td></tr><tr><td>not at all concerned</td><td></td><td>moderately concerned</td><td></td><td>extremely concerned</td></tr></table> <p>Comments:</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not at all concerned		moderately concerned		extremely concerned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	not at all concerned		moderately concerned		extremely concerned
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not at all concerned		moderately concerned		extremely concerned																
<p>5. What do you think are the most important environmental issues facing your community today?</p> <table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Traffic</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Trash and littering</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Growth and development</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Air quality</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Surface water quality</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>)</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/> Trash and littering	<input type="checkbox"/> Growth and development	<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Surface water quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>please specify</i> )													
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## Awareness of and Interest in the BRAC Environmental Cleanup Program

This section asks about your familiarity and concern with past and current environmental cleanup at the former Fort Devens. *Don't worry if you don't know much about environmental cleanup at the former Fort Devens – that is useful information too!*

<p>6. Before we contacted you, were you aware of the Army's PREVIOUS environmental investigations and cleanup at the former Fort Devens?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, aware      <input type="radio"/> Vaguely aware      <input type="radio"/> No, not aware      <input type="radio"/> Not sure</p> <p>(If yes) How satisfied were you with the Army's previous environmental investigations and cleanup?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> not at all satisfied      <input type="radio"/>      <input type="radio"/> moderately satisfied      <input type="radio"/>      <input type="radio"/> extremely satisfied</p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>7. Before we contacted you, were you aware of the Army's recent environmental investigations of PFAS in groundwater?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes, aware      <input type="radio"/> Vaguely aware      <input type="radio"/> No, not aware      <input type="radio"/> Not sure</p>
<p>8. How interested or concerned are you about the PFAS investigation?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> not at all interested or concerned      <input type="radio"/>      <input type="radio"/> moderately interested or concerned      <input type="radio"/>      <input type="radio"/> extremely interested or concerned</p> <p>If applicable, what issues interest or concern you the most?</p>
<p>9. Do you feel you have been directly or indirectly affected by PFAS contamination?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> No      <input type="radio"/> Not sure      <input type="radio"/> Yes (if so, how?)</p>
<p>10. How interested or concerned do you think community members are about the PFAS investigation?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> not at all interested or concerned      <input type="radio"/>      <input type="radio"/> moderately interested or concerned      <input type="radio"/>      <input type="radio"/> extremely interested or concerned</p> <p>Comments:</p>

## Information and Communications

This section addresses how you get information and how you might want to receive information about the Army's PFAS investigation.

11. In general, how do you get news about your local community? *(check all that apply)*

- |                                       |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media | <input type="checkbox"/> Websites - <i>please list websites in comment box</i>             | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio - <i>please list stations in comment box</i>            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook     | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper (print) - <i>please list newspapers in comment box</i>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Television - <i>please list stations in comment box</i>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter      | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper (online) - <i>please list newspapers in comment box</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Other - <i>please provide more information in comment box</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        |  |  |

Please list websites, newspapers, radio, television stations, or other news sources:

12. Are you aware of the new Fort Devens BRAC Environmental Restoration Program website? (<https://ftdevens.org>)

- Yes       No       Not aware of it

13. Have you read any fact sheets or websites about PFAS?

- Yes       No       Not sure

If yes, which ones?

Did you find the information helpful?     Yes     No

14. The Army holds quarterly meetings of the former Fort Devens Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). A RAB is a group of interested community members who meet with Army and regulatory agency officials to discuss environmental restoration at Department of Defense properties like the former Fort Devens.

Were you aware of the Former Fort Devens RAB?

- Yes       No       Not sure

If yes, have you ever attended a meeting?     Yes     No

If yes, did you find the meeting useful?     Yes     No

Comments:



15. What are your recommendations for how the Army should communicate about the PFAS investigation at the former Fort Devens? *(check all that apply)*

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social media                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Former Fort Devens website updates  | <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <i>(please provide mailing address at the beginning of this questionnaire)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facebook                      | <input type="checkbox"/> RAB meetings  | <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Twitter                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Email notification <i>(please provide email address at the beginning of this questionnaire)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Radio   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other                         |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(please specify)</i> |  |  |

16. Who would you call if you had questions about the Army's PFAS investigation?

- I don't know       Other *(please specify)*

17. Who else do you think we should talk to as part of these community interviews?

18. Do you have any other questions or comments about the Army's PFAS investigation?

**Thank you for your time! Your responses will be kept confidential and used only in a summary format to update the Army's Community Involvement Plan for the Former Fort Devens.**

Please email this completed questionnaire to: [amy.brand@jacobs.com](mailto:amy.brand@jacobs.com)