



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



# Community Involvement Plan Investigation of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Environmental Restoration Program

*Former Fort Devens, Massachusetts*



**FINAL  
NOVEMBER 2020**



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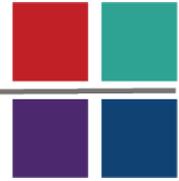
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# 1 Introduction



This Community Involvement Plan (**CIP**) describes how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (**Army**) will implement two-way communication with the local community during the investigation of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (**PFAS**) and the ongoing environmental restoration at the former Fort Devens, located in Devens, Massachusetts.

This CIP supports effective two-way communication between the Army and the surrounding communities most affected by this environmental investigation, including: Devens, Ayer, Harvard, Shirley, and Lancaster, Massachusetts. Effective communication and timely information exchanges are essential for maintaining community support and understanding for the Army's mission at the former Fort Devens and for implementing a successful Environmental Restoration Program (**ERP**). The methods of outreach described in this CIP were developed based on community input received between July and October 2019 and receipt of public comments on the December 2019 draft plan.

## 1.1 Framework for Environmental Restoration under Base Realignment

The former Fort Devens was established in 1917 to support soldiers during World War I. After the war, the base continued to operate as a military post until it was identified for closure in 1991 as part of the Defense Base Realignment and Closure (**BRAC**) program.

Under the Defense Environmental Restoration Program (**DERP**), the Department of Defense (**DoD**) is responsible for identifying, evaluating, and where appropriate, remediating contamination resulting from DoD activities. Environmental contamination at sites that have been closed under the BRAC program are addressed under DERP by the Army. The Army's BRAC ERP is a comprehensive program for identifying, investigating, and cleaning up contamination at closing and realigning Army installations with transferrable property.

**“The mission of the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program is to perform appropriate, cost-effective cleanup that is protective of human health and the environment to ensure property is safe for transfer and projected reuse.”**

(U.S. Army N.D.)

### ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

*To make this document more readable, acronym use is limited. Acronyms appear in **bold** the first time they are used. Other acronyms are provided for information, but are not repeated throughout the document. The following acronyms are repeated:*

AOC	Area of Contamination
Army	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure (see the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990)
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	<i>Code of Federal Regulations</i>
CIP	Community Involvement Plan
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program (see DoD Manual 4715.20, March 2012)
DoD	U.S. Department of Defense
EJSCREEN	Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program
MassDEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MassDevelopment	Massachusetts Development and Finance Agency
NPL	National Priorities List
PACE	People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment
ppt	part per trillion
PFAS	per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
PFOS	perfluorooctane sulfonate
PFOA	perfluorooctanoic acid
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
ROD	Record of Decision
TAG	Technical Assistance Grant



DERP follows the structure for addressing environmental sites contaminated by past activities as outlined by: the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (**CERCLA**) of 1980 (42 U.S.C. § 9601 et seq.), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (**SARA**) of 1986; the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP) (40 *Code of Federal Regulations* [**CFR**] 300), and certain corrective actions required by the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (**RCRA**) of 1976 (42 U.S.C. § 6901 et seq).

The Army's overall BRAC ERP consists of three subcategories:

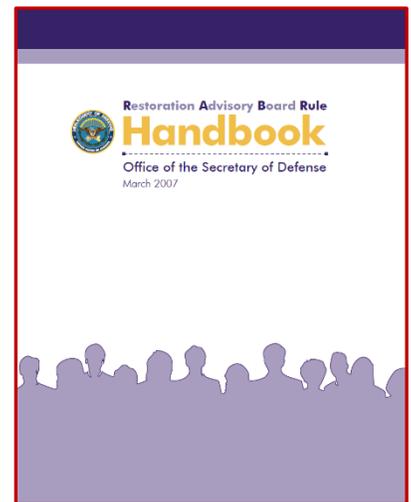
1. Installation Restoration Program addresses the investigation and cleanup of past releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants that may pose risks to human health or the environment.
2. Military Munitions Response Program addresses environmental health and safety hazards from unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, and munitions constituents.
3. Closure-related Compliance (U.S. Army, no date [n.d.]

## 1.2 Community Involvement

Community involvement activities are integral to the ERP. Community involvement promotes communication between the public and the Army concerning the status of environmental restoration. Specific community involvement activities are required by CERCLA at specific stages of environmental response. The CIP is a site-specific strategy for meaningful community involvement throughout the CERCLA cleanup process.

This CIP was prepared in conjunction with the current PFAS investigation. It replaces the previous Community Relations Plan (CRP)<sup>1</sup> completed for the ERP at the former Fort Devens in 1995. This CIP has been completed in accordance with regulations and guidance for conducting community involvement activities related to environmental restoration. These include:

- Superfund Community Involvement Handbook (EPA 2016)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (**EPA's**) Community Involvement Toolkit (EPA 2019b)
- *Defense Environmental Restoration Program Manual 4715.20* (DoD 2018)
- Title 32 of the CFR Part 203, Final Rule [for] Technical Assistance for Public Participation in Defense Environmental Restoration Activities (*Federal Register* 1998)
- 30 CFR Part 202, Final Rule [for] DoD Restoration Advisory Boards (*Federal Register* 2006)
- Restoration Advisory Board Rule Handbook (DoD 2007)



The primary objectives of the Army's community involvement program during the environmental investigation of PFAS are to:

- Ensure that stakeholders understand that personal, environmental, and property safety is of the greatest concern when considering future remedial action (RA) alternatives
- Solicit community input and involvement throughout various phases of the investigation process to encourage/enable public involvement among stakeholders including the public, elected and civic leaders, emergency responders, business leaders, community representatives, and concerned agencies, on all cleanup or RA decisions as required under CERCLA.
- Provide, encourage, and promote a dialogue between the Army and concerned individuals, including local residents, state and local officials, and agencies.

<sup>1</sup> The term "Community Relations Plan" was replaced with "Community Involvement Plan" after the publication of EPA's 2002 *Superfund Community Involvement Handbook*.



- Serve the community’s information needs by keeping residents and local officials in the towns surrounding the former Fort Devens informed in a timely manner about planned and ongoing cleanup actions, public involvement opportunities, major findings, and decisions.
- Provide a centralized point of contact for the community and media inquiries to aid in identification and response to community concerns.
- Document and address stakeholder and community interests, concerns, and expectations for the remedial investigation and any other cleanup decisions.

### 1.3 Implementation of the ERP

The Army administers the ERP at the former Fort Devens and is ultimately responsible for implementing the community involvement program for the ERP as outlined by this CIP. The Army will implement community involvement activities throughout the CERCLA process to ensure all stakeholders are provided timely and easy-to-understand information. The Army will allow actively solicit input from stakeholders during the decision-making process regarding future Army environmental restoration activities at the former Fort Devens.

Public points of contact for the Army are presented in Table 1-1.

**Table 1-1. Army Points of Contact**

Contact Name	Role	Contact Information
Bob Simeone	BRAC Environmental Coordinator	Phone: 978-615-6090 Email: Robert.j.simeone.civ@mail.mil
Beth Gosselin	Chief, Public Affairs	Phone: 978-318-8657 Email: Elizabeth.d.gosselin@usace.army.mil

In addition, in 1991, the Army and the EPA signed a Federal Facility Agreement, in which the Army is considered the lead agency and EPA provides oversight as the lead regulatory agency. The DERP provides funding for the Fort Devens ERP. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (**MassDEP**) has a participatory role in the investigation and remediation process.

## 2 The Base



This section describes the former Fort Devens, its location and brief history, the framework for environmental investigation at the former Fort Devens under CERCLA, and an overview of the environmental history. More details about the environmental status of sites at the former Fort Devens are in **Section 2.6**.

### 2.1 Location and History

The former Fort Devens was originally located in the towns of Ayer, Shirley, Harvard, and Lancaster, Massachusetts, approximately 35 miles northwest of Boston. The installation occupied approximately 9,260 acres. Prior to closure, the former Fort Devens was divided into the North Post, Main Post, and South Post (**Figure 1**).

The former Fort Devens was originally established as Camp Devens in 1917 as a temporary camp and training area for soldiers during World War I. Prior to this, the area was farmland owned by the towns of Ayer, Harvard, Shirley, and Lancaster.

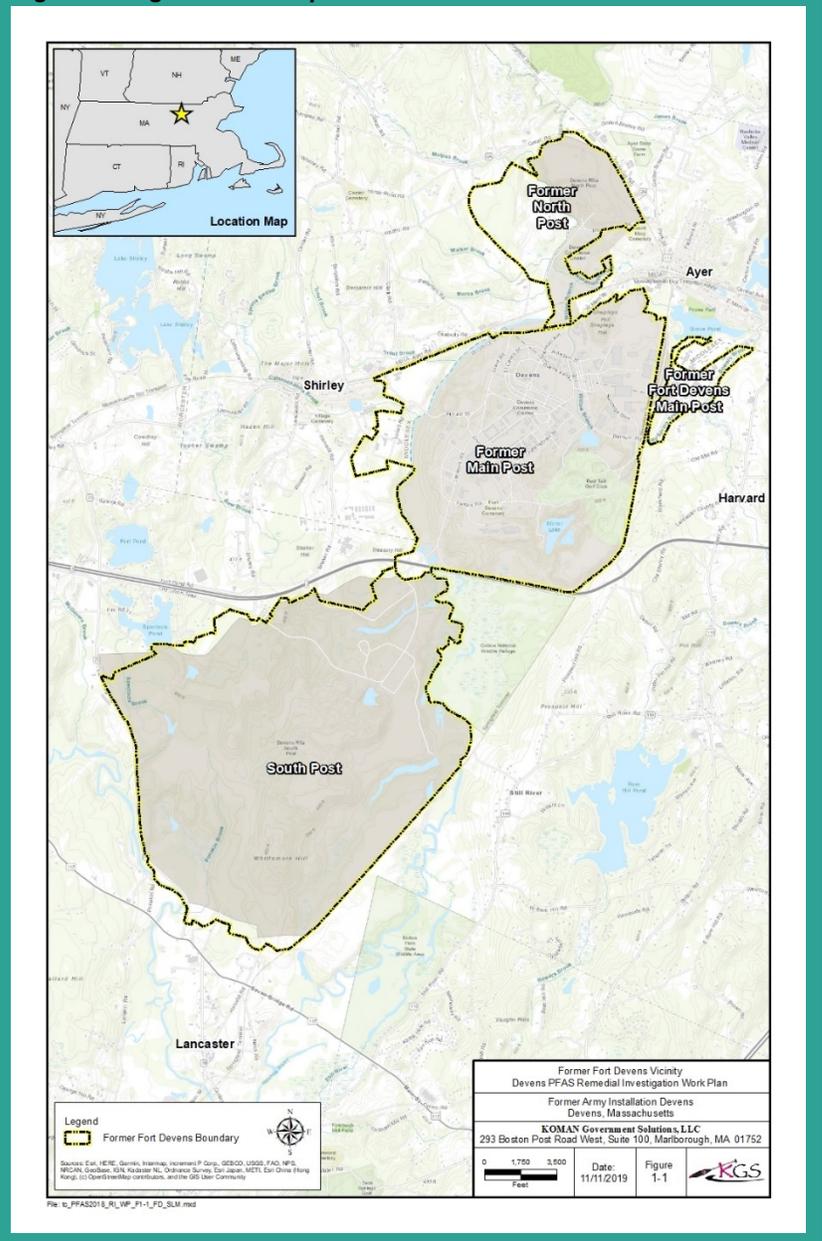
In 1931, the site was officially named Fort Devens upon its designation as a permanent military post. The primary mission of Fort Devens was for commanding, training, and providing logistical support for non-divisional troop units, as well as supporting the Army Readiness Regional and National Guard units in the New England area. Fort Devens was used for various training missions between 1917 and 1990.

### 2.2 BRAC

Fort Devens was identified for cessation of operations and closure under Public Law 101-510, the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990. The fort officially closed in March 1996. Portions of the property were retained by the Army for reserve forces training; these areas were renamed the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area (DRFTA) (KGS 2018a).

In 1994, the Massachusetts General Court passed legislation, commonly known as Chapter 498, establishing the legal foundation for redevelopment of the 4,400-acre North and Main Posts. These areas were not retained as part

**Figure 1. Regional Site Map**





of the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area and were transferred to new owners, the Massachusetts Development and Finance Agency (**MassDevelopment**), U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Department of Justice, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for reuse and redevelopment.

In 2000, the Army transferred 2,230 acres of the former Sudbury Training Annex to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under BRAC; this land became the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge. In 2002, about 4 acres were transferred to the U.S. Air Force for operation of a radar/weather station. In 2003, approximately 72 acres were transferred to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (USACE 2016).

In 2009, the Devens Reserve Forces Training Area was renamed the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens. The mission of the U.S. Army Garrison Fort Devens is to provide capabilities, standardized services, and sustainable infrastructure that enables the operational readiness of the Total Army Forces and the diverse Devens community (U.S. Army 2019).

### 2.3 Facility and Surrounding Land Use

Following the sale of the 4,400-acre parcels of the North and Main Posts, this land was designated as the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone (hereafter Devens). The Chapter 498 legislation also created the Devens Enterprise Commission, a public agency charged with approving all future land use in Devens. The towns of Ayer, Harvard, Lancaster, and Shirley, along with MassDevelopment, developed the *Devens Reuse Plan* in 1994 following extensive community involvement. This plan was approved later that year at simultaneous town meetings. The areas and types of land use are summarized in the *Devens Reuse Plan* (Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. 1994). The remaining 4,880 acres of the former Fort Devens are located in the South Post, which is still used for military training.



Today, Devens is a 4,400-acre, mixed-use community and a model for military base reuse, with more than 100 businesses and organizations that collectively employ approximately 5,000 workers (MassDevelopment 2019c). To attract development, MassDevelopment has established multiple business districts on the property, as well as a variety of residential areas and more than 2,100 acres of open space and recreational land.

Land use immediately adjacent to the former Fort Devens is primarily composed of

rural residential properties. The predominant land use in the surrounding small towns of Ayer, Harvard, Lancaster, and Shirley is residential, with each town having a downtown area of concentrated areas of commercial property as well as residential neighborhoods and conservation land. The Nashua River, designated a National Wild and Scenic River in 2013, flows north-south through the region. Designation as a National Wild and Scenic River allows legislation to be introduced for study, pollution cleanup, and protection of the river and associated river systems.



### 2.4 ERP and the CERCLA Process

In response to environmental problems that resulted from past disposal methods for hazardous waste, Congress directed EPA to develop a program to manage and control past disposal sites. This program was established by CERCLA in 1980, amended by Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act in 1986, and is commonly known as “Superfund.”

The Army’s ERP follows the process prescribed by CERCLA regulations and guidance for investigating and addressing environmental contamination. The CERCLA process includes a series of activities, several of which are designed to involve the public in the decision-making process. The basic steps of the CERCLA process are shown in **Figure 2**. The steps include the following:

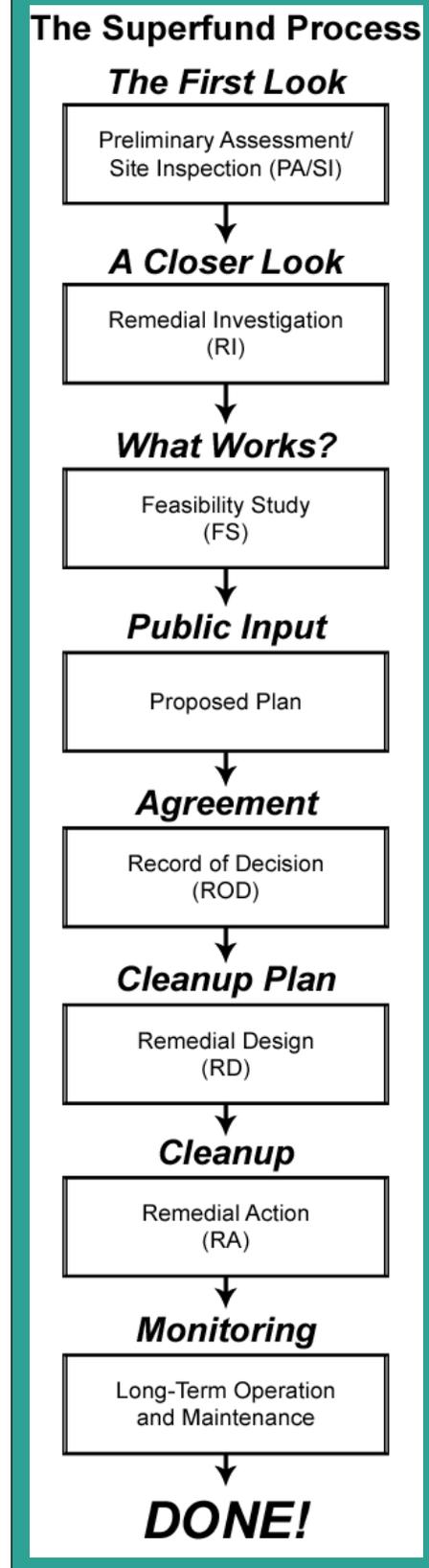


1. **Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI):** A preliminary evaluation and investigation to determine if there has been a release of hazardous waste or materials causing contamination that warrants further study or cleanup.
2. **Remedial Investigation (RI):** An investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination and associated human health and ecological risks.
3. **Feasibility Study (FS):** If a remedial investigation determines that cleanup is needed, the feasibility study presents and evaluates cleanup approaches that may be selected.
4. **Proposed Plan (PP):** Documents the preferred cleanup approach based on an evaluation of various alternatives in the feasibility study. The proposed plan is provided to the public for comment before a cleanup remedy is selected.
5. **Record of Decision (ROD):** Documents the selected remedy following consideration of public comments received on the proposed plan. A summary of public comments and responses, known as a Responsiveness Summary, is included in the ROD.
6. **Remedial Design (RD) and Remedial Action (RA):** Development of the technical specifications for the remedy described in the ROD and implementation of the remedy.
7. **Five-Year Reviews:** An evaluation of whether the selected remedy is protecting human health and the environment. Reviews are generally performed 5 years after the start of remedial action and repeated every 5 years as long as future land use is restricted.
8. **Site Closeout:** Occurs after determination that no further response is required at the site, all cleanup levels have been achieved, and the site is deemed to be protective of human health and the environment.
9. **National Priorities List (NPL) Delisting:** Specific procedures must be followed to remove a site from the NPL. Sites having releases may be deleted from, or recategorized on the NPL, when no further response is appropriate.

In addition, the following activities may occur at any time during the CERCLA process:

- Interim action: Actions taken, as needed, to reduce imminent risks to human health and the environment, while long-term field investigations are being conducted or until a final remedy is selected.
- Removal action: Actions that can function either as an interim or a long-term means of addressing potential releases of contaminants and reducing human and ecological exposure. Removal actions vary in duration and are categorized by their urgency and duration, as follows:
  - Emergency removals require immediate response to releases or threatened releases to the environment and are typically initiated within hours or days of determining that a removal action is appropriate.

Figure 2. CERCLA Process





- Time-critical removal actions are situations where remediation activities must begin within 6 months of discovering hazardous materials to protect public health and safety.
- Non-time-critical removal actions occur when a removal action is appropriate, but the situation allows for a planning period of 6 months or more before beginning removal activities. Because these sites do not present an immediate threat to public health or safety, more time is available to thoroughly assess potential threats and evaluate cleanup alternatives.
- **Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA):** Completed for non-time-critical removal actions and similar to a fast-track, limited scope remedial investigation and feasibility study.
- **No Further Response Action Plan (NFRAP):** A decision document that is developed after a field investigation finds that the levels of contaminants at a site do not pose a threat to human health and the environment.

In addition to the CERCLA process sequential steps, specific community involvement activities are required at certain points throughout the CERCLA process, and additional community involvement activities may occur at any point in the process. **Section 4.2** of this CIP discusses the required specific community involvement activities.

## 2.5 History of Environmental Investigation

Decades of military training and operations resulted in soil, sediment, and groundwater contamination at the former Fort Devens. On November 21, 1989, EPA added Fort Devens to the NPL for investigation under Superfund. Subsequently, the decision to close Fort Devens under BRAC in 1991 prompted an accelerated remedial investigation and cleanup (as warranted) of Superfund areas determined for transfer and redevelopment.

The Army split the entire site into separate study areas where releases of contaminants were suspected or known to have occurred. Then, the Army worked to determine whether those areas posed a current or potential threat to human health and the environmental, thereby warranting a more detailed investigation as an Area of Contamination (**AOC**). The Army initially identified 324 sites for environmental evaluation, including:

- 69 former storage tanks
- 60 maintenance and waste accumulation areas
- 48 spill sites
- 18 former fueling stations
- Electrical transformer leaks

More than 300 sites were addressed in 21 RODs and 113 No Further Action Decision documents, signed by the Army, EPA, and MassDEP (EPA n.d.).



Of the 54 sites included in the Federal Facility Agreement, all have been evaluated and either warrant no further action or cleanup plans have been formalized and approved by the Army, EPA, and MassDEP. Most sites are in long-term monitoring phases, which include regular sampling and analysis of groundwater, surface water, and/or sediment. Sites where contamination remains above levels that allow for unrestricted use or unlimited exposure have land-use restrictions in place. Every 5 years, a site-wide 5-year review is conducted at sites with ongoing cleanup actions.

The first RODs were issued in 1995 for several AOCs and Operable Units. The first round of RODs was described in the first 5-year review of former Fort Devens in 2000 (Harding Lawson Associates 2000). Subsequent 5-year reviews were



completed in 2005, 2010, and 2015, with another slated for 2020.

## 2.6 Current Remedial Investigation for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

### 2.6.1 Regulatory Status

In 2014, EPA identified perfluorooctane sulfonate (**PFOS**) and perfluorooctanoic acid (**PFOA**) as emerging contaminants. PFOS and PFOA are part of a group of manufactured chemicals called PFAS which have been shown to have connections to various detrimental health effects, including increased risks of cancer. In 2016, EPA issued a Lifetime Health Advisory for the sum of PFOS and PFOA at 70 parts per trillion (**ppt**) as a guidance level when applied to drinking water. In February 2020, EPA announced its proposal to regulate PFOA and PFOS under the Safe Drinking Water Act. In addition to PFOA and PFOS, EPA is also seeking information and comments on potential monitoring requirements and regulatory approaches for other PFAS substances. If EPA determines that PFAS may have an adverse effect on the health of people, PFAS are known to occur in public water systems with a frequency and at concentrations of public health concern, and regulation of PFAS presents a meaningful opportunity for health risk reductions for people served by public water systems, then EPA will begin the process to establish a national primary drinking water regulation for PFOA and PFOS (EPA 2020).

In June 2018, the MassDEP established an Office of Research and Standards Guideline level for drinking water that expanded upon the EPA advisory to include three additional PFAS chemicals. The 2018 Guideline level of 70 ppt applied to the total of all five compounds. In 2020, MassDEP subsequently updated the Guideline to add one additional PFAS compound and lowered the total level of all six compounds from 70 ppt to 20 ppt. In January 2019, MassDEP announced its intention to develop a Maximum Contaminant Level for a group of PFAS. Subsequently in December 2019, proposed regulations were published for public comment. The Maximum Contaminant Level of 20 ppt for the sum of the six PFAS compounds included in the Office of Research and Standards Guideline was promulgated and became effective on October 2, 2020.

### 2.6.2 Fort Devens Investigation

Environmental activities relating to PFAS at the Fort Devens site are currently in the remedial investigation phase (see Section 2.4). A Preliminary Assessment of PFAS at Fort Devens in 2016 identified several study areas and AOCs where there was a potential for the use, storage, or disposal of PFAS-containing products. A subsequent Site Inspection and Site Inspection Addendum confirmed the presence of PFAS in groundwater, soil, surface water, and sediment at several study areas and AOCs. These results were used to develop the scope of the remedial investigation to define the nature and extent of PFAS contamination, update and refine the conceptual site model, and collect appropriate data to support the next phases of environmental response actions under CERCLA. This scope was presented in the Remedial Investigation Work Plan (KGS 2018a). To expedite the investigation, the Fort Devens site was divided into three areas. These three areas and the associated PFAS AOCs and study areas are shown on Figure 3 and are summarized in Table 2-1. Three area-specific Field Sampling Plans, detailing the proposed investigation activities, were subsequently prepared and submitted for Area 1 (KGS 2018b), Area 2 (KGS 2018c), and Area 3 (KGS 2018d).

Field investigations for the remedial investigation commenced in fall 2018 and continue to be in progress. Investigation results are published on the Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website as they become available. A comprehensive remedial investigation report will be developed at the completion of investigation activities. Over the next several years, the results of the remedial investigation will be used to evaluate risks associated with PFAS and to develop remedial action alternatives for consideration in a feasibility study.

### 2.6.3 Drinking Water Treatment

Results of samples collected from Area of 1 of the remedial investigation (Figure 3) led the Army to conclude that PFOS/PFOA from historical Army operations was impacting the Town of Ayer's Well 8 located at the Grove Pond wellfield. Site characterization results indicated that groundwater was migrating or likely migrating toward the Town of Ayer's drinking water supply wells at concentrations in excess of regulatory standards. Therefore, the Army implemented treatment of the water supply well as a "Time-Critical Removal Action" under CERCLA (Army 2019). The Town had previously removed Well 8 from service in February 2018; then, in July 2019, the Army installed temporary carbon filtration units to remove PFAS from water pumped from Well 8. A permanent water



treatment facility, designed to remove PFAS from the water for all of the Grove Pond wells, is under construction in 2020.

The Devens Utilities Division of MassDevelopment has implemented measures to treat public supply well water in parallel with the actions taken for Ayer's Grove Pond wells. The Devens Water Division identified PFAS levels above the MassDEP Office of Research and Standards Guideline in the MacPherson water supply well in February 2018, and the well was subsequently taken out of service. The Devens Water Division relied on two other wells, the Shabokin and Patton wells, while the MacPherson well was offline. However, sampling conducted in February 2019 showed that combined levels of PFAS exceeded the MassDEP Office of Research and Standards Guideline of 20 ppt, but below the EPA Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 ppt (MassDevelopment 2019a). Granular activated carbon filter treatment systems were subsequently installed on the MacPherson and Shabokin wells during summer 2019; these systems successfully remove PFAS from water pumped from these wells. As of October 2019, the Patton well was out of service, although additional permanent treatment operations are planned for the Patton well in 2020 (MassDevelopment 2019b).





Figure 3. Areas of Contamination Included in PFAS Remedial Investigation

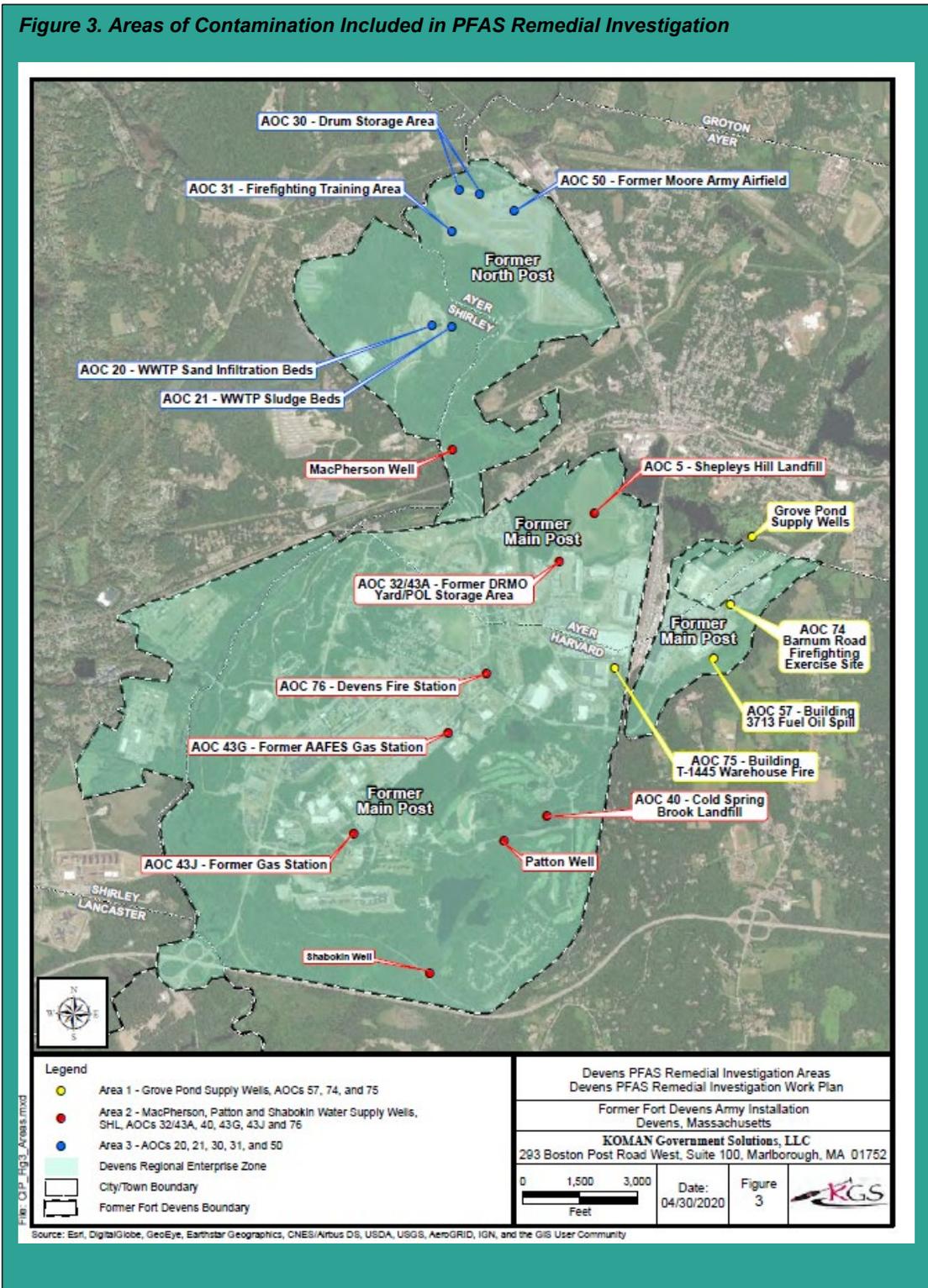




Table 2-1. AOC Descriptions

AOC	Description
<b>Area 1</b>	
AOC 57 – Building 3713 Fuel Oil Spill Site	Soil excavations were completed in the 1990s to clean up past fuel spills at the site. PFAS was detected during subsequent groundwater monitoring in 2018. No information exists regarding potential PFAS sources, although PFAS was found in the area of the former excavations. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 4,390 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.
AOC 74 – Barnum Road Firefighting Exercise Site	Firefighting equipment was reportedly stored at this location during the closure of the former Moore Army Airfield. Also, past firefighting training exercises with fighting foam were conducted behind former Building 3773. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 2,270 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.
AOC 75 – Former Building T-1445 Warehouse Fire	A large warehouse fire occurred at former building T-1445 in the late 1980s or early 1990s. Aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) was used in response to the fire, which may have resulted in the discharge of AFFF directly to the ground surface. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 1,400 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.
Grove Pond Supply Wells	The Grove Pond wellfield is used for the Ayer water public water supply. PFAS has been detected in the influent water to the wellfield. The sum of PFAS compounds at Ayer municipal well 8 has been detected at concentrations greater than EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 ppt; therefore, a filtration system has been installed at this well to remove PFAS.
<b>Area 2</b>	
AOC 5 – Shepley's Hill Landfill	Historical use as a municipal landfill may have received materials containing PFAS. Reportedly, a portion of the remnants from the fire at Former Building T-1445 were transported and disposed of at Shepley's Hill Landfill. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 127 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.
AOC 32/43A – Former Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office / Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants Storage Area	<p>AOC 32 – The former defense reutilization and marketing office (DRMO) was used by the Army as an active materials storage facility, which may have housed PFAS-containing substances. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 2,880 ppt for PFOS+PFOA during the AOC 32 investigation; however, this maximum detected concentration appears to be associated with a separate release of firefighting foam in 2015 to extinguish a fire at the nearby recycling center.</p> <p>AOC 43A – The petroleum, oil, and lubricants storage area served as the central distribution point for all gasoline stations at Fort Devens during the 1940s and 1950s; the area was subsequently used (until the early 1990s) to store fuels for various purposes. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 34 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.</p>
AOC 40 – Cold Spring Brook Landfill	AOC 40 – This was a former disposal area on the southern edge of Cold Spring Brook Pond. Construction debris, ash, stumps, and logs were disposed here. Past remediation included sediment and debris removal. No PFAS disposals are known to have occurred here; however, PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 394 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.
AOC 43G – Historical Gas Station G	No information regarding potential PFAS sources at this former gas station is available, although PFAS has been detected in the area of the former fuel excavation area. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 3,100 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.
AOC 43J – Historical Gas Station J	No information regarding potential PFAS sources at this former gas station/motor pool is available. Only low concentrations of PFAS have been detected in groundwater, not exceeding EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 ppt.



**Table 2-1. AOC Descriptions**

AOC	Description
AOC 76 – Devens Fire Station	The fire station at Jackson Road was operated by the Army from the 1940s until base closure in 1996; the station is currently operated by MassDevelopment (Devens Fire Department). No Army records were found to indicate this area was used for fire training. After base closure and as documented in the Final Base-Wide Preliminary Assessment for Evaluation of PFAS, the Devens and the Town of Ayer fire departments used the back lot where the helicopter pad was located for routine training with firefighting foam. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 4,160 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.
MacPherson Supply Well	MassDevelopment operates the MacPherson water supply well as part of the Devens municipal water supply. Sample results indicated PFAS concentrations above EPA's Lifetime Health Advisory of 70 ppt; therefore, a filtration system has been installed at this well to remove PFAS.
	Patton Well is one of MassDevelopment's public water supply wells. PFAS concentrations above MassDEP's 2020 guideline of 20 ppt have been detected in samples from this well. MassDevelopment has installed a filtration system at the wellhead to remove PFAS.
Shabokin Well	Shabokin Well is one of MassDevelopment's public water supply wells. PFAS concentrations above MassDEP's 2020 guideline of 20 ppt have been detected in samples from this well. MassDevelopment has installed a filtration system at the wellhead to remove PFAS.
<b>Area 3</b>	
AOC 20/21 – Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Sand Infiltration Beds/WWTP Sludge Beds	<p>The Devens WWTP is situated in the former North Post area, southwest of the Nashua River and former Moore Army Airfield. The WWTP was identified as a potential source of Army PFAS because of the potential for past disposal of AFFF compounds via the municipal sewer system.</p> <p>AOC 20 – Municipal and industrial wastewater undergoes pretreatment in the WWTP before it is applied to the sand infiltration beds. Treatment plant effluent discharged to infiltration beds may have contained dissolved-phase PFAS and migrated to the groundwater under the beds. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 250 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.</p> <p>AOC 21 – Sludge from the tanks at the WWTP is drained to four uncovered drying beds two to three times annually. Clay pipe underdrains the collected supernatant and pumped back to an infiltration basin; however, reportedly the clay pipe collapsed sometime after 1985, and supernatant now infiltrates into the vadose zone and enters the overburden aquifer. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 320 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.</p>
AOC 30 – Drum Storage Area	This former drum storage area for firefighting foam concentrate (stock materials) is located north of main airfield runway at the former Moore Army Airfield. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 3,530 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.
AOC 31 – Firefighting Training Area	This former firefighting training area is located west of the main runway of the former Moore Airfield, where AFFF firefighting foams were used in fire training exercises conducted between 1975 and 1986. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 39,000 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.
AOC 50 – Former Moore Army Airfield	Former airfield hangars and a fire station may have stored PFAS compounds during the operational period of the airfield. Firefighting foam has been used during training exercises on the runway. PFAS in groundwater has been detected up to 2,111 ppt for PFOS+PFOA.

## 3 The Community



This section describes communities near the former Fort Devens, provides a brief history of past community involvement activities, and summarizes known community concerns about the site and the communication needs of community members.

### 3.1 Community Setting

Ayer is a thriving small town in the historic Nashoba Valley of Massachusetts, 35 miles northwest of Boston. Ayer citizens are proud of their diversity, safe and beautiful neighborhoods, excellent schools, strong links to the railroad and Devens, quaint downtown, appreciation and protection of natural resources, and focus on the well-being of families and the community (Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce. n.d.)



Harvard is a historic rural community, dating back to 1732 when the town was incorporated. Originally a productive agricultural community, Harvard shipped more milk to market than any other town in the early 1920s and boasted more than 50 commercial orchards in 1942. Routes 2 and 495 were built in 1950 and 1960 respectively, stimulating residential development. The town is now what real estate professionals refer to as “upscale, rural, and residential” (Town of Harvard, Massachusetts. n.d.).



Lancaster was incorporated in 1653, making it the oldest town in Worcester County. Today, Lancaster retains a sense of history with historic houses scattered throughout the community and a church designed by Charles Bulfinch on the town green. Lancaster is home to Atlantic Union College, apple orchards, farms, historic sites, ponds, and parks (Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce. n.d.).



Shirley, settled in 1720 and incorporated in 1753, was named for a former governor. Many historic homes still stand, particularly in the town center, where the gracious white spire of Shirley’s Historic Meetinghouse rises high above the trees. The original section of the First Parish Meetinghouse was erected in 1773 and formerly housed religious congregations. (Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce. n.d.).

Devens is a 4,400-acre mixed-use planned community that features more than 100 businesses and organizations that collectively employ approximately 5,000 workers. Devens also offers a range of housing options, including newly-constructed community-focused neighborhoods; a small community of zero-net-energy homes and townhomes; and renovated brick colonials, bungalows, and townhomes that originally served as military housing. (<https://www.devenscommunity.com/>)



### 3.2 Demographics

**Table 3-1** provides demographic information for the Towns of Ayer, Harvard, Lancaster, and Shirley and the Census-defined place of Devens, compared to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



**Table 3-1. Demographic Profile**

	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	Town of Ayer	Town of Harvard	Town of Lancaster	Town of Shirley	Devens Census-Defined Place
Total population, 2010 <sup>a</sup>	6,547,629	7,427	6,520	8,055	7,211	1,840
Total population, 2017 <sup>b</sup>	6,789,319	8,014	6,542	7,978	7,572	1,776
Percent minority (non-white) <sup>b</sup>	18.4%	13.5%	11.6%	8.8%	22.9%	26.1%
Hispanic or Latino <sup>b</sup>	11.2%	6.2%	4.4%	6.3%	11.8%	12.0%
Median age <sup>b</sup>	39.4	38.7	46.3	39.5	42.3	43.9
Median household income, 2017 <sup>b</sup>	\$74,167	\$78,762	\$134,355	\$104,331	\$67,541	\$63,500
Unemployment rate <sup>b</sup> (civilian labor force)	6.0%	4.3%	6.4%	5.1%	4.3%	8.4%
People living below the poverty level, 2017 <sup>b</sup>	11.1%	13.4%	5.2%	5.3%	10.3%	27.0%
Percent over 18 years old who speak English less than "very well" <sup>b</sup>	6.0%	2.8%	2.1%	2.9%	3.3%	4.5%

<sup>a</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2019b

<sup>b</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2019a

### 3.3 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, signed in 1994, directs federal agencies to make environmental justice part of their overall mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. Environmental justice refers to the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies (EPA 2011).

The Army is aware of environmental justice issues and seeks to ensure that actions and activities related to its ERP do not disproportionately affect any segment of the population. An environmental justice screening was conducted for this CIP using a mapping tool developed by the EPA called the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (**EJSCREEN**) (EPA 2019a). EJSCREEN uses data on low-income and minority populations at the Census-block-group level (rather than town-level, as shown in **Table 3-1**), to develop a demographic index. EJSCREEN was used to develop a demographic index for a 3-mile radius around the former Fort Devens. Results of the EJSCREEN indicated that there are no low-income or minority populations within a 3-mile radius of the former Fort Devens that warrant specific environmental justice considerations.

### 3.4 Schools and Recreation

The Ayer Shirley Regional School District consists of two elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. Harvard Public Schools consist of one elementary school and one middle/high school (grades 6 through 12). Lancaster has one elementary and one middle school, which are part of the Nashoba Regional School District; Lancaster public school students attend a regional high school in Bolton. The Devens School District was established in 2001, but is currently not operating. Devens students currently attend Harvard Public Schools. Additionally, Parker Charter School (grades 7 through 12) and Applewild Community School (kindergarten through grade 1) operate in Devens.





Numerous recreational opportunities exist in the region, including fields and facilities for recreational sports, boating and/or fishing in local ponds such as Mirror Lake or in the Nashua River, hiking in natural areas like the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge, biking along rural roads, and golfing at Devens' Red Tail Golf Club, an award-winning 18-hole champion golf course. The towns also feature historic museums and homes, farms and orchards open to the public, and seasonal events.

### 3.5 Local Water Use

Surface water and groundwater at Devens eventually discharges to the Nashua River. Eight miles of rivers and streams flow through Devens, including the main stem of the Nashua River. Other surface water resources include wetlands and approximately 100 acres of open waters, including Mirror Lake, Little Mirror Lake, and Robbins Pond. In addition to its location in the main stem watershed sub basin of the Nashua, Devens lies in the North Nashua River, Mulpus Brook, Catacoonamug Brook, and Bowers Brook watershed sub basins (The Nashua River Watershed Association and the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative Nashua Team n.d.).

Groundwater flows through underground zones of water-bearing permeable soil and rock, referred to as "aquifers." There are two main aquifers underlying Devens, the primary aquifer and the underlying bedrock aquifer. The primary aquifer lies in glacial meltwater deposits, primarily composed of sand and gravel. While groundwater is also present in the underlying bedrock, the flow is limited because water only moves in fractures and voids, compared to how easily groundwater flows in the sand and gravel deposits of the primary aquifer. Public water supplies, including the Devens' water supply wells and Ayer's Grove Pond wells, are generally pulled from the primary aquifer. Groundwater recharge occurs in upland areas and groundwater flows generally from the topographic highs (hills) to topographic lows (valleys). Groundwater discharges in wetlands, ponds, streams, and directly into the Nashua River (KGS 2018a).

No private drinking water wells are allowed at Devens; however, residential and small agricultural private wells are located in Harvard, portions of Shirley, and to a limited extent in Ayer.

### 3.6 History of Community Outreach and Involvement

A Technical Review Committee was formed in 1991 to review documents and provide comments on technical issues and proposed activities. In 1994, the Technical Review Committee was converted into a Restoration Advisory Board (**RAB**), composed of community members as well as representatives of EPA and MassDEP. The RAB took over the functions of the former Technical Review Committee and provided expanded community representation. RAB meetings were initially held monthly and are now held quarterly, rotating between the towns of Ayer and Devens.

Community representatives, particularly members of People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment (**PACE**), representatives of the Nashua River Watershed Association, and local officials from the surrounding towns, have been involved in decision-making for the former Fort Devens throughout the CERCLA process. Whenever possible, PACE also participates in meetings of the BRAC Cleanup Team, which includes representatives of the Army, EPA, MassDEP, and MassDevelopment. Throughout the CERCLA process for the ERP, the Army has implemented community involvement activities as required, including: issuing public notices, holding public comments and meetings, issuing fact sheets to the community, maintaining an Administrative Record file and information repositories (i.e., satellite information stations), and providing other community involvement activities as required or warranted.



### 3.7 Community Issues and Concerns

#### 3.7.1 Past Community Issues and Concerns

Community concerns identified in the 1995 CRP (USACE 1995) emphasized water-related concerns, specifically about water quality of the aquifer, and the number ponds and lakes near the former Fort Devens. Ayer residents expressed concern about the potential for site contaminants to affect the town’s drinking water wells. Other concerns at the time focused on reuse and the potential for encountering unexploded ordnance.

During the public comment periods for RODs, community concerns tended to focus on groundwater contamination, and whether groundwater contamination could affect surface water such as the Nashua River, or drinking water sources.

#### 3.7.2 Process to Assess Current Community Issues and Concerns

To update this CIP, the following outreach was conducted to solicit community input:

- Introductory letters were mailed or emailed on July 1, 2019, to more than 130 people representing a cross-section of the community in Devens, Harvard, Ayer, Lancaster, and Shirley. These letters informed people of this CIP update related to the PFAS remedial investigation, and offered an opportunity to participate in a community interview or to complete a fillable .pdf version of the questionnaire, posted on the Army’s former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website on July 1. Letters were also mailed to state- and federally elected officials’ offices, informing them about the community interviews and offering them an opportunity to participate.
- Hard copies of the questionnaire were placed in town halls, libraries, and the Union Roasters coffee shop in Ayer.
- In response to comments from community members, the questions were converted to a link to an online survey. The link was posted on the Army’s website and distributed to town halls, some of which reposted or redistributed the online survey link. The online survey link opened on July 22, 2019.
- Telephone calls were made to schedule personal interviews. Many of the individuals on the initial mailing list who received calls indicated that they would complete the online survey. Personal interviews were conducted August 7 through 9, 2019.
- In response to a request from PACE, the response period was extended to September 19, 2019.



Combined, 144 people provided input for this CIP through the multiple opportunities to participate (interviews, hard-copy questionnaires, and online survey responses.)

**Appendix A** contains copies of the letters that were mailed and a copy of the written questionnaire. The same questions were used for the personal interviews and the online survey questionnaire.

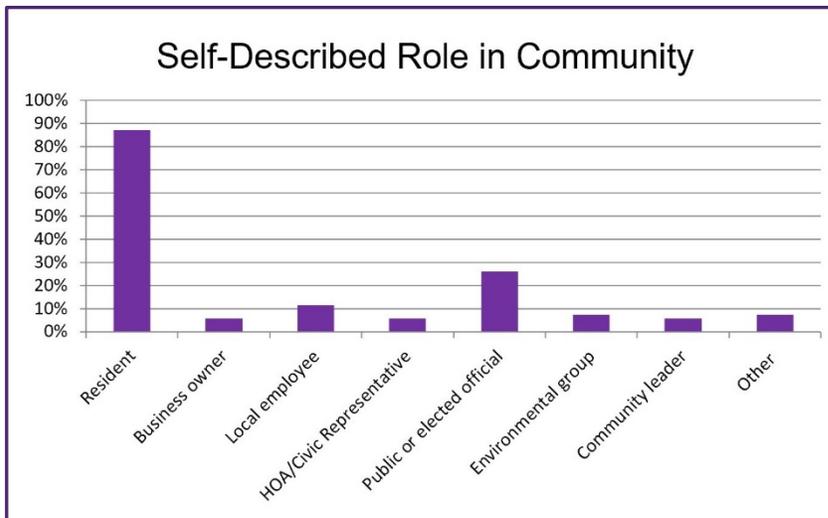


### 3.7.3 Current Community Issues and Concerns

Specific highlights of the results of the written questionnaire and personal interviews are in this subsection. **Appendix B** provides a compilation of the results (with personally identifying information removed.)

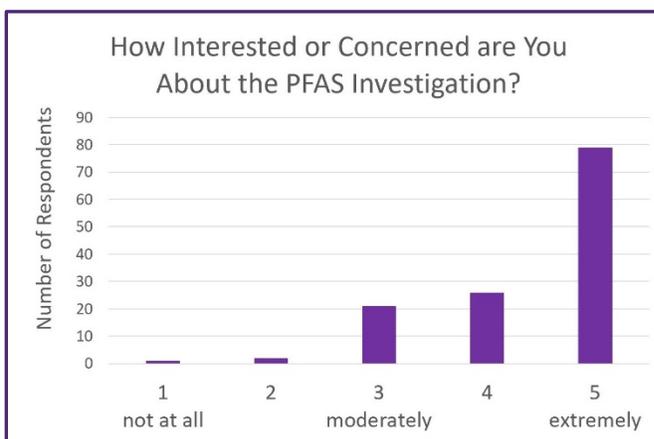
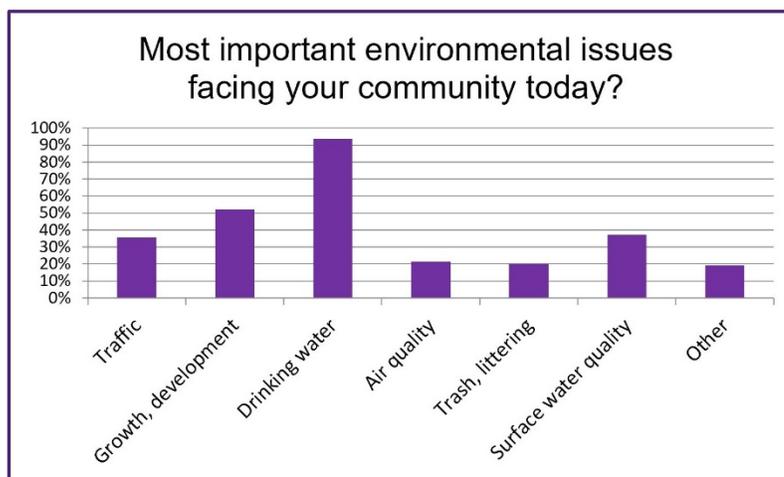
In terms of demographics, the majority of participants:

- Have lived in the community (Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard, or Lancaster) for more than 21 years (31%)
- Identified themselves as local residents (87%)
- Have neither worked at the former Fort Devens (79%) nor had a relative work there (61%)
- Chose to provide contact information for future notifications (60%)



When it comes to environmental issues, environmental cleanup, and PFAS, the majority of respondents:

- Think that people in the local community are concerned about environmental issues in general (60% moderately concerned or more, and 36% extremely concerned)
- Described themselves as “extremely concerned” about environmental issues (56%), with another 41% at least moderately concerned
- Consider drinking water to be the most important environmental issue facing the community (94%)
- Were at least vaguely aware of the Army’s previous environmental investigations (30% vaguely aware, 45% aware)
- Were at least moderately satisfied with the Army’s previous environmental investigations (73% of those who were aware)
- Were aware of the Army’s PFAS investigations (64%)
- Indicated they are extremely interested or concerned about the PFAS investigation (79% extremely so)
- Feel they have been directly or indirectly affected by PFAS (47% yes and 43% not sure)

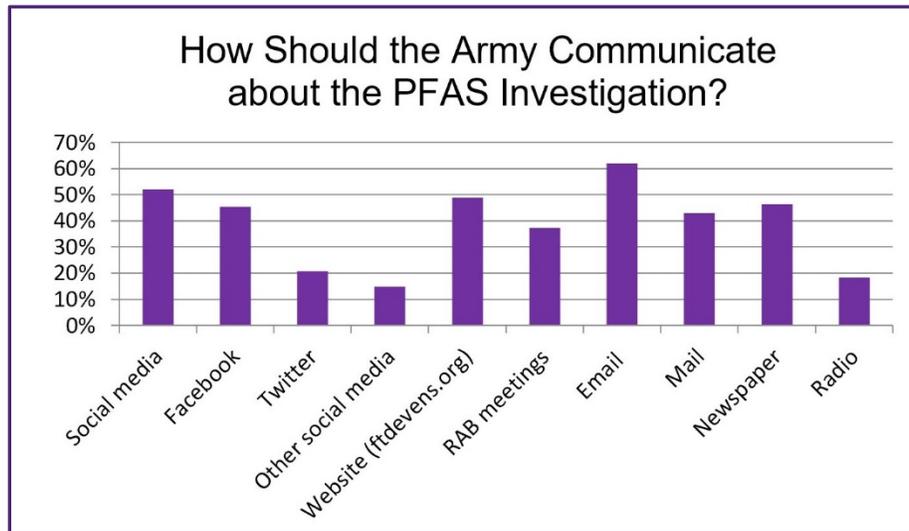




- Think community members are concerned about the PFAS investigation (38% extremely interested or concerned and another 56% at least moderately interested or concerned).

In terms of communications, how people get information, and how they would like to get information, the majority:

- Get their local news through Facebook (49%), social media (42%), websites (36%) and print newspapers (34%)
- Were unaware of the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website (76%)
- Have read fact sheets about PFAS (68%)
- Were not aware of RAB meetings (67%) (of those individuals who were aware, 61% have attended one meeting, and of those, 100% found RAB meetings useful)
- Recommended multiple methods for the Army to communicate about the PFAS investigation, including email notification (62%), social media (52%) and Facebook (45%), the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website (49%), newspapers (46%), and mail (43%)
- Did not know who they would call with questions about the PFAS investigation (54%)



In summary, both the written questionnaire responses and the results of the personal interviews revealed the following:

- People are very interested and concerned, especially about drinking water and potential health impacts.
- For information, people tend to rely on town communications (website, email, social media) and PACE.
- People are not well aware of opportunities provided by the Army (RAB meetings, website, contact person) but all who attended a RAB found it useful.
- Respondents advised the Army to communicate in multiple ways. They tend to want more information, more frequently, and through multiple means of communication, including but not limited to email, social media such as Facebook, and via website updates.

## 4 The Community Involvement Program

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In cooperation with EPA and MassDEP, the Army functions as the lead agency responsible for managing the community involvement program for the ERP at the former Fort Devens. The Army will facilitate communications with the community based not only on the community involvement requirements of CERCLA, but also on the community's interests and concerns, as identified in the questionnaires and community interviews conducted to update this CIP. This community involvement program will enable the Army to respond to public interest in, and concerns about the ERP, including existing sites, sites in long-term monitoring, the current PFAS environmental investigation, and remediation activities at the former Fort Devens.

Since the early 1990s, community involvement activities have been conducted to support the ERP in accordance with CERCLA. Required activities have included public notices, public meetings, and public comment periods for specific documents, such as proposed plans. Public meetings tend to attract small groups of local residents, with sparse media attention. Past community relations activities are documented in the Administrative Record. In addition to specific activities required by CERCLA, other past community involvement activities for the former Fort Devens have included:

- Regular Technical Review Committee meetings, beginning in 1991; then monthly RAB meetings, beginning in 1994 (currently held quarterly)
- Distribution of periodic fact sheets as needed
- Establishment of the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website

The activities described in Sections 4.2 and 4.3 compose the Army's community involvement strategy for the former Fort Devens ERP. This CIP is a dynamic document that will evolve as the project progresses.

### 4.1 Objectives of the Community Involvement Program

The main goal of this former Fort Devens CIP update is to promote effective, open communication about the ERP, including the PFAS investigation among the Army, EPA, MassDEP, other local agency stakeholders, and residents of the towns of Ayer, Devens, Harvard, Lancaster, and Shirley. More detailed objectives of the CIP were in Section 1.2.

### 4.2 Required Community Involvement Activities

Several community involvement activities are required as part of the CERCLA process. Required community involvement activities under CERCLA are described in the following subsections and **Table 5-1**.

#### 4.2.1 Designate a Contact Person

**Description:** Provide a point of contact and information resources to respond to inquiries from the public.

**Goal:** Provide accurate, timely, and easy-to-understand information to community members seeking information about the former Fort Devens ERP.

**Current Implementation:** Robert Simeone, the Army Environmental Coordinator, is the Army's point of contact. As the primary point of contact for the Army BRAC, Mr. Simeone serves as the central information source for public and media inquiries. He is also responsible for answering telephone calls and responding to written inquiries about site activities.

Mr. Simeone's contact information is available on RAB presentations, fact sheets, and other community outreach. However, community input indicated that many people do not know who to call if they have questions.

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will continue to publicize Mr. Simeone's contact information as the primary point of contact and will ensure his contact information is provided in all articles, announcements, fact sheets, and other outreach.

**Timing:** Ongoing



### 4.2.2 Establish and Maintain an Information Repository

**Description:** An information repository is a collection of documents for the public where people can easily find information about CERCLA in general, the statuses of cleanup and remediation at project sites, and other information of general public interest. Under CERCLA, the repository is required to be located at or near the site. Typically, the repository is in a convenient, easily accessible public location, such as a public library. The repository may include the Administrative Record file (see Section 4.2.3), but storage considerations may necessitate that the repository reference how to find the Administrative Record and other documents online.

**Goal:** Provide convenient access to site-related information for community members.

**Current Implementation:** An information repository was maintained previously at the Ayer Library during active environmental restoration activities at Fort Devens. Currently, this library has handouts, such as fact sheets on PFAS, but these are not maintained by the Army. The current information repository for the overall former Fort Devens ERP is maintained at the Devens BRAC Office and serves as the Administrative Record.



**Planned Implementation:** The Army will re-establish a satellite information station focused specifically on the PFAS investigation and remediation at the Ayer Library and will be responsible for maintaining it. It will include information on how to access the full information repository and Administrative Record at the Devens BRAC Office as well as online on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website.

**Table 4-1** shows the locations and hours of the Ayer Library.

**Timing:** Ongoing. A PFAS-focused information station will be established at the Ayer Library within 3 months of finalization of this CIP. The information station will be checked quarterly and updated by the Army, as needed. Its location will be referenced in future fact sheets and public notices.

**Table 4-1. Ayer Library Hours**

Information Repository Location	Address and Telephone	Hours
Ayer Library	26 E Main St., Ayer, MA 01432	Sunday: Monday: CLOSED Tuesday: Thursday: 10 AM – 8 p.m. Friday: 10 AM – 5 p.m. Saturday: 10 AM – 2 p.m.

### 4.2.3 Establish and Maintain an Administrative Record File

**Description:** The Administrative Record includes documents that were considered or relied upon in selecting a response action.

**Goal:** Provide community members with a comprehensive record of all documents and resources used by the Army in reaching all decisions about the NPL site and its cleanup.

**Current Implementation:** For the former Fort Devens, the existing Administrative Record is kept primarily in hard copy at the Army’s BRAC office. It is available for review by contacting the Army’s contact person.



**Planned Implementation:** The Army will continue to update the Administrative Record file as needed. In addition, the Army will post all Administrative Record documents issued since 2015 in electronic format on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website.

**Timing:** The Army will continue to update the Administrative Record file as needed, and will post new documents in the electronic Administrative Record on the website, as well as maintain copies at the Army's BRAC office. The Administrative Record was established as soon as site investigations began, and will remain open until the last ROD has been signed. After the last ROD has been signed, the Administrative Record may be closed, but a records file may remain open for post-ROD documents, such as 5-year reviews. Alternatively, the Army may choose to keep the Administrative Record open until the former Fort Devens has been delisted from the NPL.

#### 4.2.4 Provide Technical Assistance Grant Information

**Description:** A technical assistance grant (**TAG**) is an EPA-administered program that provides grants to any group of individuals that may be affected by a release or threatened release at any installation on the NPL. A TAG may be used to obtain technical assistance in interpreting information about the nature of the hazard, or the process or results of any of the investigations and plans in the CERCLA process. EPA has specific guidelines for groups that apply for and administer TAGs. Only one group may hold a TAG for an NPL site.

**Goal:** Provide resources for community groups to hire technical advisors who can assist them in interpreting technical information about ERP sites.

**Current implementation:** People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment (PACE) has held a TAG for the former Fort Devens since August 27, 2013 and uses the funds to pay for a technical advisor. The technical advisor reviews and helps interpret documents. PACE shares the information with community members via its Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/PACEayer>) to help the community better understand the investigation and be prepared to participate in meaningful ways.

**Planned implementation:** The Army does not need to implement this activity because a TAG has already been awarded by EPA. EPA will continue to manage PACE's TAG.

**Timing:** No action is needed.

#### 4.2.5 Hold Formal Public Meetings

**Description:** A public meeting is an open forum, usually featuring a presentation on a specific topic by the ERP managers and other members of the site team. The public may ask questions and make public comments.

Public meetings are required at specific steps in the CERCLA process. If a public meeting is held during a public comment period, then a court reporter will be used to produce a written transcript of the meeting to become part of the Administrative Record. Public meetings must be held on request whenever a formal public comment period is required under CERCLA regulations.

Informal public meetings may be held at any time in the CERCLA process to keep community members informed about ERP activities. Informal public meetings do not require use of a court reporter.

**Goal:** Provide stakeholders with opportunities to learn about the status of site cleanups, receive responses to their questions and concerns, and have an opportunity to submit comments on proposed actions or decisions.

**Current Implementation:** Currently, public meetings are held as required under CERCLA for specific technical activities, such as during the public comment period on proposed plans.

Public meetings during comment periods are publicized at the opening of the public comment period and are held during the comment period. In accordance with CERCLA and DoD policy and guidance, a paid notice advertising the public meeting is published in local newspapers.

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will continue to hold formal public meetings as required by CERCLA. The Army will advertise formal public meetings in other ways, in addition to paid public notices in local newspapers, such as by forwarding meeting notifications to individuals and groups on the site mailing list, and forwarding meeting information to PACE and the towns for distribution through their social media and email networks. Notices will also be placed on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website.



**Appendix C** provides a list of newspapers for public notices and a list of potential public meeting locations.

**Timing:** The Army will continue to hold formal public meetings whenever a public comment period is required (for example, upon completion of draft final proposed plans).

#### 4.2.6 Provide Comment Periods

**Description:** Public comment periods lasting a minimum of 30 days are held to give community members an opportunity to provide input on major decisions in the CERCLA process, such as the selection of removal actions or selected cleanup remedies.

When a public meeting is held during a public comment period, a court reporter is used to accurately capture comments made during the meeting. This transcript becomes part of the final ROD. Community members may also submit written comments at any time during the public comment period. The public comment period can be extended an additional 30 days, if requested by the public. As required, a written response is prepared for significant comments received; this response is included in the ROD.

**Goal:** Provide community members with an opportunity for meaningful involvement in the process and give the Army valuable information for use in making decisions.

**Current Implementation:** Public comment periods are held as required under CERCLA and DoD policy for specific technical activities, such as during the public comment periods on proposed plans. The Army places the document that is available for public comment in the information repository and publishes a notice announcing a 30-day public comment period (for an engineering evaluation/cost analysis) or a 45-day public comment period (for a proposed plan) in local newspapers. The notice includes a brief description of the document and advertises the availability of the document in the information repository.

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will continue to hold and publicize comment periods as appropriate and required under CERCLA.

**Timing:** Comment periods will be held and publicized for specific technical activities as required. The Army will publicize public comment periods in other ways, in addition to paid public notices in local newspapers, such as by forwarding notifications to individuals and groups on the site mailing list and forwarding announcements to PACE and the towns for distribution through their social media and email networks. Notices about public comment periods will also be placed on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website.

#### 4.2.7 Prepare a Responsiveness Summary

**Description:** At the end of a public comment period, a responsiveness summary will be prepared summarizing comments received and the Army's responses to public comments. The summary will inform the decision makers about the community preferences, as well as any general concerns. It also will provide the public with documentation of the concerns raised and the Army's responses to those concerns. Responsiveness summaries are made available to the public in the Administrative Record as a part of the ROD.

**Goal:** Summarize comments received during comment periods; document how the Army has considered those comments during the decision-making process; and provide responses to major comments.

**Current Implementation:** Responsiveness summaries are prepared and published as an appendix to the ROD. A ROD is placed in the information repository for 30 days after it has been signed and is placed in the Administrative Record.

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will continue to produce responsiveness summaries as part of RODs and will place the RODs in the information repository and in the Administrative Record, available online on the website or at the Army's BRAC office.

**Timing:** The Army will continue to issue responsiveness summaries whenever a ROD is prepared.



### 4.2.8 Update the Community Involvement Plan

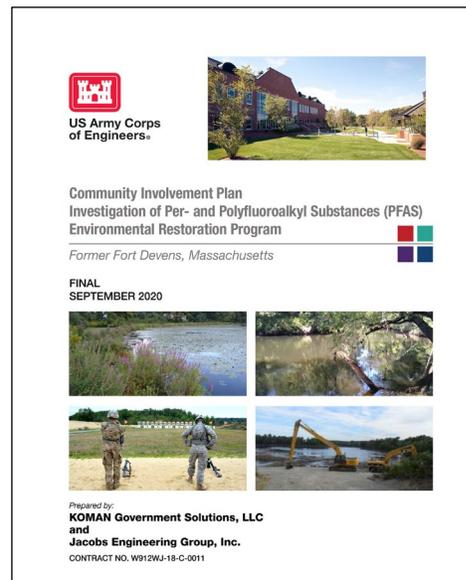
**Description:** The CIP is a written plan of action that provides for interaction with the public, elected officials, and environmental groups, including obtaining their input at appropriate points during the environmental restoration process. Periodic updates or consideration of an update are required at various steps in the CERCLA process.

**Goal:** To provide a current foundation for establishing two-way communication with the public to create an understanding of ERP and related actions, to assure public input into decision-making processes related to affected communities, and to make certain that the Army is aware of and responsive to public concerns.

**Current Implementation:** The last CIP update was published in May 1995. This CIP update was implemented for the PFAS remedial investigation, and is based on the results of written and online questionnaires of local residents and personal interviews with local stakeholders.

**Planned Implementation:** This CIP update will be made available to the public in the Information Repository and on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website.

**Timing:** This CIP was originally published in 1992, updated in May 1995, and again now with the current update for the PFAS remedial investigation. Under CERCLA, a revision to the CIP should be considered: (1) after a ROD is signed, if significant community concerns are discovered that pertain to the RD and construction phase, or (2) as appropriate when a major change in the ERP at the former Fort Devens occurs. The Army may choose to issue an addendum to this CIP to update small portions of the document as needed.



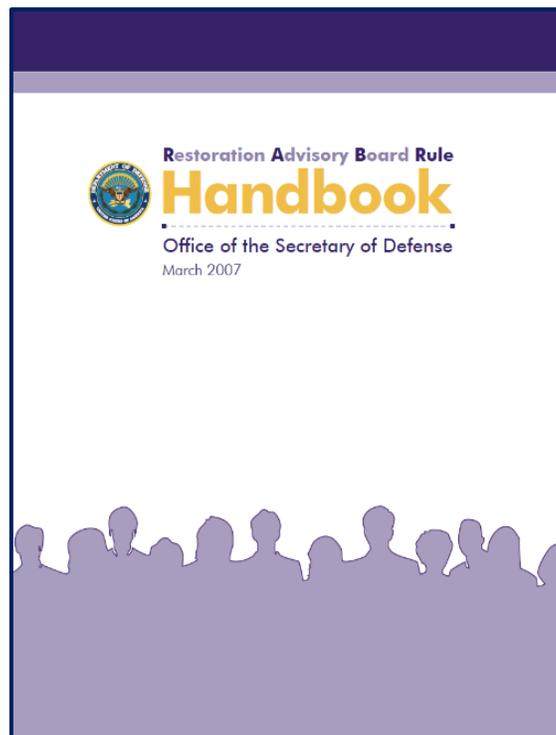
## 4.3 Additional Community Involvement Activities

### 4.3.1 Evaluate Structure of the Restoration Advisory Board

**Description:** A RAB is an advisory group for the restoration process, with members from the public, the Army, and the regulatory agencies. These entities are considered key resources in efforts to communicate openly and effectively with the community at large. A RAB is designed to act as a focal point for the exchange of information between a DoD facility and the local community regarding activities. A RAB is intended to bring environmental restoration community members with diverse interests within the local community together with government officials representing the Army, EPA, and MassDEP. This enables the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the community and the Army, and provides community members an opportunity to be involved in the ERP.

**Goal:** Gain effective input from stakeholders on cleanup activities and increase installation responsiveness to the community's concerns about the ERPs.

**Current Implementation:** The RAB for the former Fort Devens was established in 1994. At that time, there were 24 community members of the RAB, including an elected community co-chair who shared responsibilities with an Army co-chair.





The original RAB met monthly to facilitate communication between the community, the Army, and regulatory agencies. The original official mission statement and RAB charter outlining member responsibilities, operating procedures, and ground rules were not documented at the inception of the RAB. While RAB meetings have continued since 1995, regular attendance and the need for monthly RAB meetings declined. Over time, the more formal structure of the RAB has become more casual and many of the original RAB members stopped attending. There are no longer any “official” RAB members, representing a cross-section of the community and maintaining responsibility for sharing information to and from their contacts within the community. Likewise, there is no community co-chair who would help determine the agenda for each RAB meeting. PACE representatives have continued to attend RAB meetings regularly and share information with the community.

RAB meetings are now held quarterly. The Army typically determines the meeting agendas. The Army and its contractors give presentations. The community participates as an audience, listening to the presentation, asking questions, and advising the Army as individuals, but not as a consensus group.

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will work with the BRAC Cleanup Team (the Army, EPA, MassDEP, and MassDevelopment) to determine how best to restructure the RAB to align more consistently with the guidelines for RABs spelled out in the *Restoration Advisory Board Rule Handbook* (DoD 2007) (and the RAB rule itself). The RAB rule and accompanying handbook were issued in 2006 and 2007, respectively, after establishment of the former Fort Devens RAB. The *RAB Rule Handbook* provides useful guidance on how to establish, maintain, and eventually end a RAB.

Restructuring the RAB will be done in coordination with the BRAC Cleanup Team, including PACE. Specific activities may include:

- Contacting former RAB members to gauge their interest in continuing to serve (particularly those who continue to attend current meetings) and/or, soliciting applications for additional community members interested in serving on the RAB
- Forming a RAB member selection committee made up of key community stakeholders to review applications (if needed)
- Creating a RAB charter to include a mission, operating procedures, ground rules, and roles and responsibilities of RAB members and co-chairs
- Re-establishing co-chairs – one from the Army and a community co-chair elected by the official RAB members

**Timing:** The BRAC Cleanup Team will discuss how best to restructure the RAB to align more consistently with the *RAB Rule Handbook*. Their recommendations for restructuring the RAB will be implemented within one year of finalization of this CIP.

#### 4.3.2 Modify RAB Meetings

**Description:** The purpose of RAB meetings is described in subsection 4.3.1.

**Goal:** Improve awareness and usefulness of RAB meetings for the general public, so that more community members may attend and find RAB meetings useful for meeting their informational needs.

**Current Implementation:** Currently, RAB meetings are publicized by publishing the date and agenda on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website, with emails sent to a list of those who attend regularly. PACE posts an announcement of upcoming RAB meetings on its Facebook page.

RAB meetings are held either in Devens and the Town of Ayer. While the MassDevelopment main conference room in Devens is suitable for RAB meetings, the upstairs Great Room at the Ayer Town Hall is dimly lit, has poor acoustics, and lacks a large screen for the presentation. Other rooms in Ayer Town Hall are better suited for RAB meetings.

RAB meetings are open to the public and typically consist of PowerPoint presentations, followed by questions and answers. The presentations often follow a format that includes a summary of the work and/or findings that have been accomplished since the last RAB meeting.



Currently, technical presentations on the remedial investigation process focus on what activities have been completed since the last RAB meeting (such as, wells drilled and samples collected) and what is planned. Given the scope of the PFAS investigation, this can cover a great deal of information, and community members may not need or want the level of detail provided to understand overall what the Army Corp is doing. Community members have suggested that the technical presentations be restructured around what the Army knows (for example, is the source known? what is the direction of groundwater flow?); what the Army does not know, and what they are doing to find out more.

Currently, RAB meeting summaries capture the questions and answers, and are posted with the presentations on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website. However, anyone who did not attend the meeting may not be able to follow what occurred and would have to review both the presentation and the minutes. In moments when the presentation contains many maps, the content of what is said as part of the presentation may be lost.

Finally, PACE and other RAB meeting attendees have requested that RAB meetings be held every other month, rather than quarterly.

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will modify the way that RAB meetings are advertised, held, and documented to include:

- **Expanding how notifications are made about upcoming RAB meetings**

The Army will send electronic notices to PACE and town officials to be posted on their social media accounts and sent out through their email networks. The electronic notices will be public-friendly and explain what a RAB meeting is, what information will be covered, and what to expect. The Army also will develop a reusable “Upcoming RAB Meeting” poster board which can be placed in public libraries or town halls. These poster boards would have room for specific content (date, time, location, agenda) to be added and removed, so that the board itself can be reused for the next meeting.

- **Re-assessing meeting locations**

The Army will continue to hold RAB meetings in MassDevelopment’s conference room in Devens, but will no longer hold meetings in the upstairs Great Room in Ayer Town Hall, unless provisions are made for appropriate lighting and acoustics. The first floor meeting room in Ayer Town Hall, used by the Board of Selectmen, has been and will continue to be used for RAB meetings. Additional potential meeting rooms are listed in **Appendix C**.

- **Adjusting the style of presentation**

The Army will adjust the style of RAB presentations by beginning them with a layman-oriented overview to provide a framework and context for the presentation to follow. This overview will provide context by addressing general questions, such as: What do we know? What do we need to know? Has the source been identified? What is the Army doing to obtain the additional information needed?

- **Modifying meeting summaries**

The Army will modify meeting summaries to capture the content of the RAB presentations in addition to the questions and answers, so that anyone who is not in attendance would be able to read the meeting summary on the website and generally understand what was discussed at the meeting.

- **Evaluating RAB frequency**

Some regular RAB attendees have requested that RAB meetings be held every other month, rather than quarterly. The Army believes that implementing the additional community outreach activities described in this CIP will better meet the community’s need for information about the ERP, both by improving RAB meetings themselves and by providing additional information in other ways. The Army plans to maintain the current quarterly frequency, but will consider re-evaluating the frequency of RAB meetings in subsequent years, after other activities in this CIP have been implemented.

**Timing:** The Army will expand meeting notification methods, re-assess meeting locations, alter the style of technical presentations, and adjust meeting summaries within one year of finalization of this CIP.



### 4.3.3 Hold Poster Board Open Houses

**Description:** Poster board open houses are informal public meetings designed to enable project staff (Army, regulators, technical consultants) to communicate one-on-one with community members. Open houses are often designed to enable community members to drop in at their convenience during a defined block of time. Posters are set up on tables or easels around the room, so that there is sufficient space around each poster for a small group to talk informally with experts stationed around the room. Poster board open houses are typically a more comfortable environment for community members to ask questions than in front of a larger audience at a RAB meeting or public meeting.

**Goal:** Provide an opportunity for community members and project staff to communicate in an informal setting, and enable community members to arrive and leave at their convenience.

**Current Implementation:** Currently, the Army is not holding informal poster board open houses.

**Planned Activity:** The Army may hold poster board open houses before and/or after RAB meetings or separately. When held before and/or after RAB meetings, the poster board open houses enable community members to get an overview of the PFAS investigation, and ask specific questions of project staff. These poster board open houses would help new community members feel more up to speed before a RAB meeting, where presentations may be more in depth. Posters used for the open house may also be available for use during the RAB meeting as a reference during the presentations.

The Army will also consider holding poster board open houses in the surrounding towns as a means of providing the general public an opportunity to learn about the PFAS investigation in general. The target audience is people who are not typically attending RAB meetings and who are interested in a more general summary of the project status. These poster board open houses could be held in conjunction with other events that attract community members, such as selectmen meetings.

**Timing:** The Army will consider holding a poster board open house in conjunction with a RAB meeting within one year of finalization of this CIP.

### 4.3.4 Maintain a Site Mailing List

**Description:** A mailing list of people known to be interested in the PFAS investigation at the former Fort Devens activities may be maintained to enable the Army to directly notify community members of website updates, meetings, and other community outreach such as fact sheets. The list may include mailing addresses and email addresses.

**Goal:** Provide project information to stakeholders who want to be kept informed about the PFAS investigation.

**Current Implementation:** Currently, the Army does not have an official mailing list. Informally, there are lists of agency stakeholders, RAB sign-in sheets, and property owners for private well sampling, as well as older lists for those interested in prior ERP activities. In addition, many of those who provided input for this CIP also provided contact information to be included on an official site mailing list.

**Planned Activity:** The Army will compile a site mailing list from community questionnaires, sign-in sheets, private well owners, and other informally maintained lists. The Army will continue to maintain and periodically update this mailing list; interested community members and groups will be added to the list upon request.

The updated mailing list will be maintained in a database or spreadsheet to facilitate sorting and printing labels for different types of mailings. In addition, email addresses will be maintained to the extent possible, to enable the Army to send out electronic notifications. The Army will use the mailing list to send notifications of upcoming activities, such as potential RAB meetings and public meetings, as well as project updates, fact sheets, and information about proposed plans and other site activities.

**Timing:** Development and use of the site mailing list will be implemented within one year of finalization of this CIP.



#### 4.3.5 Prepare and Distribute Email Updates

**Description:** Email updates can be used to provide additional information to the community between RAB meetings. The updates can be sent to RAB members and the electronic site mailing list. They can also be sent to PACE and the towns for distribution through their social media and email networks.

**Goal:** Increase the frequency that the Army provides project updates to community members. Make obtaining project updates easy and convenient.

**Current Implementation:** Currently, the Army does not prepare and distribute email updates.

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will prepare and distribute email updates between RAB meetings. By sending brief updates on current activities, community members on the site mailing list and those who obtain the emails through their towns will be kept updated more frequently than only at RAB meetings. A template will be developed to make the email updates engaging.

**Timing:** The Army will begin preparing and distributing email updates between RAB meetings within one year of finalization of this CIP.

#### 4.3.6 Prepare and Distribute Fact Sheets

**Description:** Fact sheets are brief documents to inform stakeholders about technical information and progress of the investigation and cleanup process. Fact sheets are written for nontechnical audiences and use straightforward graphics to describe technical issues.

**Goal:** Provide stakeholders with current, accurate, easy-to-understand information about the Army's ERP, including the PFAS investigation and cleanup process.

**Current Implementation:** The Army produces fact sheets as required or occasionally as needed to communicate about a specific ERP issue. To date, the Army has not prepared a fact sheet about the PFAS investigation, but rather, has provided copies of fact sheets from regulatory agencies about PFAS in general. These fact sheets are posted on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website and available in hard copy at the town libraries and at each RAB meeting. No other ERP issues have recently warranted a fact sheet.

**Planned Implementation:** The results of community interviews and questionnaires indicate that local stakeholders want to know more about the PFAS investigation at the former Fort Devens. Currently, most community members who are aware of the investigation are those who attend RAB meetings. In addition, many respondents were not aware of past ERP activities. Therefore, the Army will produce brief project status fact sheets as needed (such as, one PFAS update per year and/or at key project milestones, such as when a 5-year review is issued). Fact sheets will be distributed broadly in the surrounding community, via email to the electronic site mailing list, electronic files to PACE and to the towns to be distributed through their social media and email distribution mechanisms, and as hard copies at public libraries and town halls. Fact sheets will also be posted on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website. Fact sheets will be brief documents intended to provide an overview, with links for how to find more information (such as, website, contact person, information repository, RAB meetings).

The Army will continue to develop fact sheets required under CERCLA, such as for completion of RD. For proposed remedial actions that require a public comment period, the proposed plan is a summary document that serves the function of a fact sheet.

**Timing:** The Army will produce required fact sheets in accordance with CERCLA policy. In addition, the Army will develop at least one project status fact sheet per year. When produced, fact sheets will be posted on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website, distributed by email to the electronic site mailing list, distributed to towns and PACE for posting on their social media and distribution through their email lists, and distributed as hard copies at town halls and libraries.

#### 4.3.7 Maintain and Update the Former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup Website

**Description:** Internet technology allows new information to be made available quickly and enables information to be delivered in a user-friendly manner, at the convenience of the user. Increasingly, people rely on the internet to

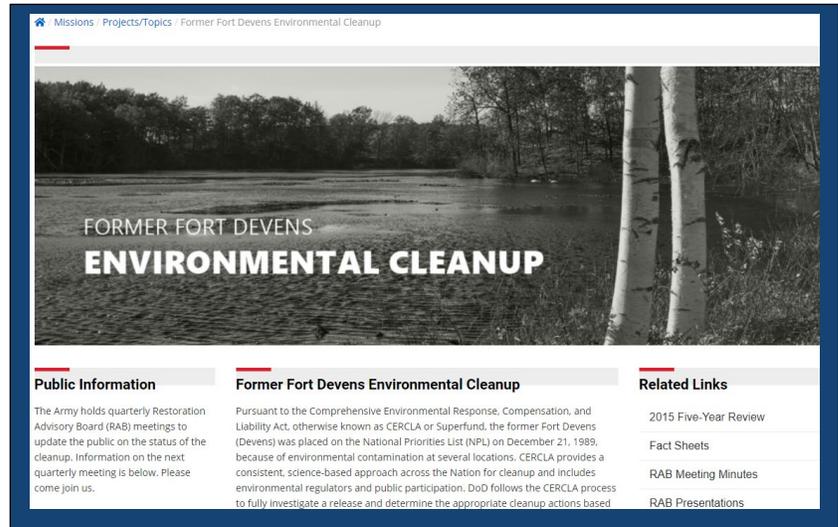


obtain information. Furthermore, maintaining a website, rather than printing large numbers of documents and fact sheets, saves paper and money spent on printing and mailing.

**Goal:** Enable community members to access key information about the PFAS investigation and cleanup on their own time and at minimal expense.

**Current Implementation:** In January 2019, the Army established the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website, primarily to share information about the PFAS investigation. The website provides historical and overview information about the investigation, past RAB meeting minutes, fact sheets, and access to technical documents related to the PFAS investigation and cleanup.

**Implementation:** The Army will redesign the website to make information easier to find, add an electronic Administrative Record for documents issued since 2015, and add a mechanism for continued community input (see subsection 4.3.8). Recommendations for updates to the website were submitted as comments on this CIP; these recommendations will be discussed at an upcoming RAB meeting.



In addition, the Army will continue to update the website regularly. Documents, such as project updates, fact sheets, RAB minutes, this CIP, and other documents of interest to the public, will be posted on the website. The website is at the following link:

<https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/projects-topics/former-fort-devens-environmental-cleanup/>

**Timing:** The Army will solicit input from the RAB for improving the website within one year of finalization of this CIP and will then implement the redesign in the following year. Regular updates (including adding agendas, minutes, and documents) will be an ongoing task as needed.

#### 4.3.8 Provide a Mechanism for Continued Community Input

**Description:** An ongoing mechanism for community input, such as an interactive comment page on the website, will allow community members to continue to provide their input as the Army implements various community involvement activities in this CIP.

**Goal:** Enable community members to provide input on community involvement activities and provide a means for them to submit questions and comments at any time, rather than only at periodic RAB meetings.

**Current Implementation:** The Army does not currently provide a mechanism for continuous community input, other than calling the BRAC Environmental Coordinator (and many community members indicated that they did not know whom to call).

**Planned Implementation:** As part of the website redesign described in subsection 4.3.7, the Army will add an interactive comment page on the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website to enable community members to ask questions and provide feedback on community involvement activities as they are implemented. Providing an ongoing means of community input will enable the Army to adjust the program as it is implemented, rather than waiting to complete another CIP update. It will also enable community members to submit comments and questions in a convenient way.

**Timing:** The Army will add an interactive comment page on its website during redesign of the website.

# 5 Timing of Community Involvement Activities



**Table 5-1** presents the general timing of required and recommended community involvement activities associated with CERCLA milestones, as described in Section 4.2. **Table 5-2** presents the timing of additional community involvement activities described in Section 4.3.

**Table 5-1. Timing of Required and Recommended Community Involvement Activities with CERCLA Milestones**

	Preliminary Assessment Site Inspection	Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study	Proposed Plan	Record of Decision	Remedial Design Remedial Action	Pre ROD Significant Changes	Post ROD Significant Changes	Removal Action < 6 Months	Removal Action > 120 Days	Removal Action > 6 Months	Five Year Review
Designate a Contact Person	[Ongoing activity bar]										
Information Repository	■	[Ongoing activity bar]									
Administrative Record		■						■	■	■	○
Technical Assistance Grant Information	■	[Ongoing activity bar]									
Public Notice	■	■	■	■	○	○	■	■	■	■	■
Public Meetings		○	■	○	■	○	■	○	○	○	○
Public Comment Period			■			■		■	■	■	■
Responsiveness Summary				■		■		■	■	■	
Community Involvement Plan	■				■				■	■	○
Restoration Advisory Board	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Fact Sheets			■ <sup>a</sup>		■		■ <sup>b</sup>				○
[Green box]	Ongoing activity										
■	Required activity										
○	Discretionary activity as determined by community interest or as needed										

Source: *Superfund Community Involvement Handbook* (EPA 2016).

<sup>a</sup> Proposed Plan may be published as a fact sheet.

<sup>b</sup> Explanation of Significant Differences may be published as a fact sheet.



**Table 5-2. Schedule for Additional Community Involvement Activities**

Community Involvement Activity	As Needed	Monthly	Within One Year*
Evaluate Structure of the Restoration Advisory Board			X
Modify RAB Meetings			X
Hold Poster Board Open Houses			X
Maintain a Site Mailing List	X		
Prepare and Distribute Email Updates		X between RAB meetings	
Prepare and Distribute Fact Sheets	X		1 per year
Maintain the Former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup Website	X		X
Provide a Mechanism for Continued Community Input			X

\*Pending funding

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**Appendix A**  
**Letter and Written Questionnaire**



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

July 1, 2019

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

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

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) or mail it to:**

**Koman Government Solutions, attn: Amy Brand/Jacobs,  
293 Boston Post Road West, Suite 100, Marlborough, MA 01752**

**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/Zip 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> <p><input type="radio"/> &lt; 1 year                      <input type="radio"/> 11-15 years                      <input type="radio"/> I do not live in Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard, or Lancaster</p> <p><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.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> 6-10 years                              <input type="radio"/> &gt; 21 years</p>
<p>2. How would you describe your role in the community? (select all that apply)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Local resident                              <input type="radio"/> Representative or member of a local environmental group</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Local business owner                              <input type="radio"/> Community leader</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Local employee                              <input type="radio"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>)</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Representative of a homeowner associate or other civic organization</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Public or elected official</p>
<p>3. Have you or any of your relatives ever worked at the former Fort Devens or for the Army?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes (me)                              <input type="radio"/> Yes (relative)                              <input type="radio"/> No (me)                              <input type="radio"/> No (relative)</p>
<p>4. a. How concerned do you think people in the local community are about environmental issues <u>in general</u>?</p> <p><b>not at all concerned</b>                              <b>moderately concerned</b>                              <b>extremely concerned</b></p> <p>b. How concerned are <u>you</u> about environmental issues <u>in general</u>?</p> <p><b>not at all concerned</b>                              <b>moderately concerned</b>                              <b>extremely concerned</b></p> <p>Comments:</p>
<p>5. What do you think are the most important environmental issues facing your community today?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Traffic                              <input type="radio"/> Drinking water                              <input type="radio"/> Trash and littering</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Growth and development                              <input type="radio"/> Air quality                              <input type="radio"/> Surface water quality</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>)</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="radio"/> Social media | <input type="radio"/> Websites - <i>please list websites in comment box</i>             | <input type="radio"/> Radio – <i>please list stations in comment box</i>            |
| <input type="radio"/> Facebook     | <input type="radio"/> Newspaper (print) – <i>please list newspapers in comment box</i>  | <input type="radio"/> Television – <i>please list stations in comment box</i>       |
| <input type="radio"/> Twitter      | <input type="radio"/> Newspaper (online) – <i>please list newspapers in comment box</i> | <input type="radio"/> Other – <i>please provide more information in comment box</i> |
| <input type="radio"/> 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)*

- Social media
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Other
- Former Fort Devens website updates
- RAB meetings
- Email notification *(please provide email address at the beginning of this questionnaire)*
- Mail *(please provide mailing address at the beginning of this questionnaire)*
- Newspaper
- Radio
- Other *(please specify)*

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) or mail it to:  
Koman Government Solutions, attn: Amy Brand/Jacobs,  
293 Boston Post Road West, Suite 100, Marlborough, MA 01752

# **Appendix B**

## **Compiled Results**

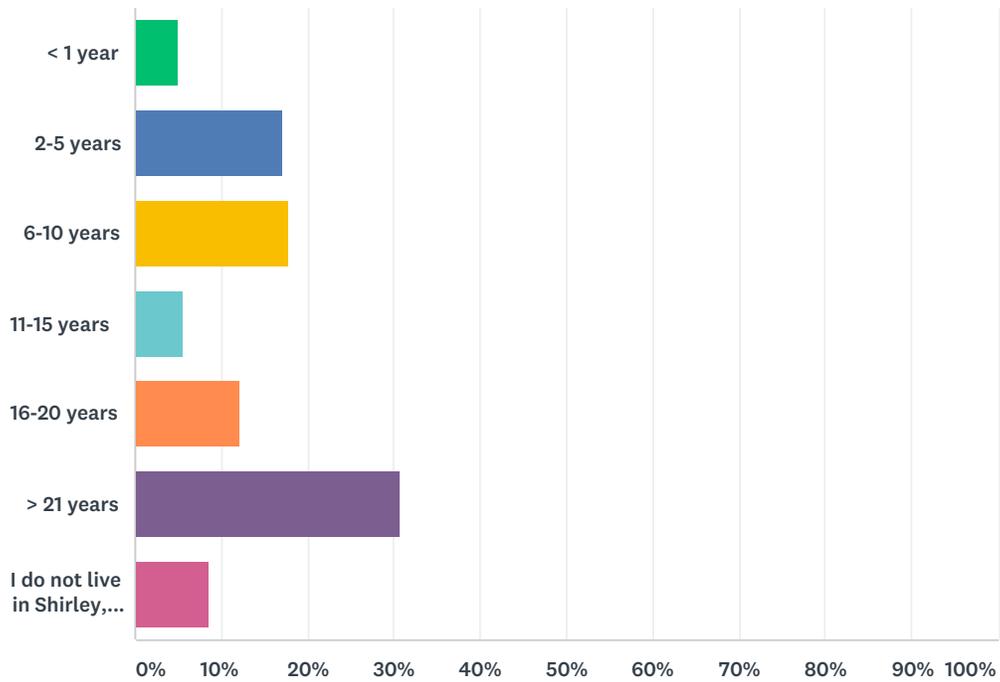
**Q1 If you would like to receive email or mailed notifications, please provide your contact information on this page. Skip if you don't want to provide this information.**

Answered: 85 Skipped: 57

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	94.12%	80
Company (if applicable)	28.24%	24
Address	83.53%	71
Address 2	9.41%	8
City/Town	87.06%	74
State/Province	87.06%	74
ZIP/Postal Code	84.71%	72
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	84.71%	72
Phone Number	63.53%	54

## Q2 How long have you lived in Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard, or Lancaster?

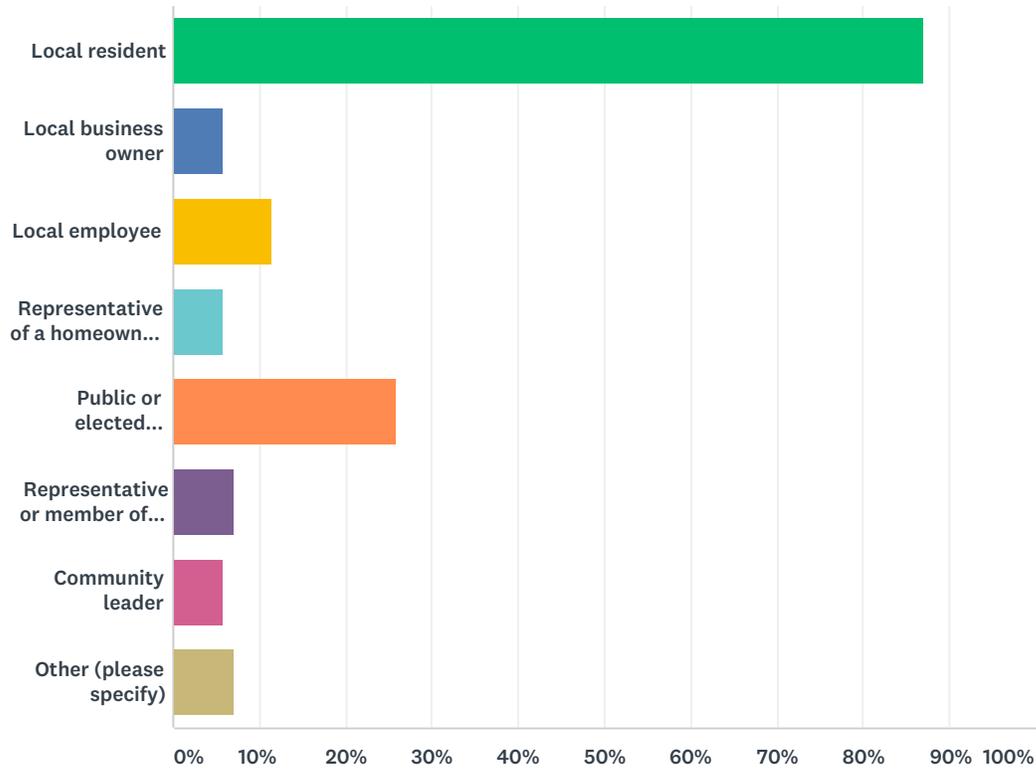
Answered: 140 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
< 1 year	5.00%	7
2-5 years	17.14%	24
6-10 years	17.86%	25
11-15 years	5.71%	8
16-20 years	12.14%	17
> 21 years	30.71%	43
I do not live in Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard, or Lancaster	8.57%	12
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>140</b>

### Q3 How would you describe your role in the community? (select all that apply)

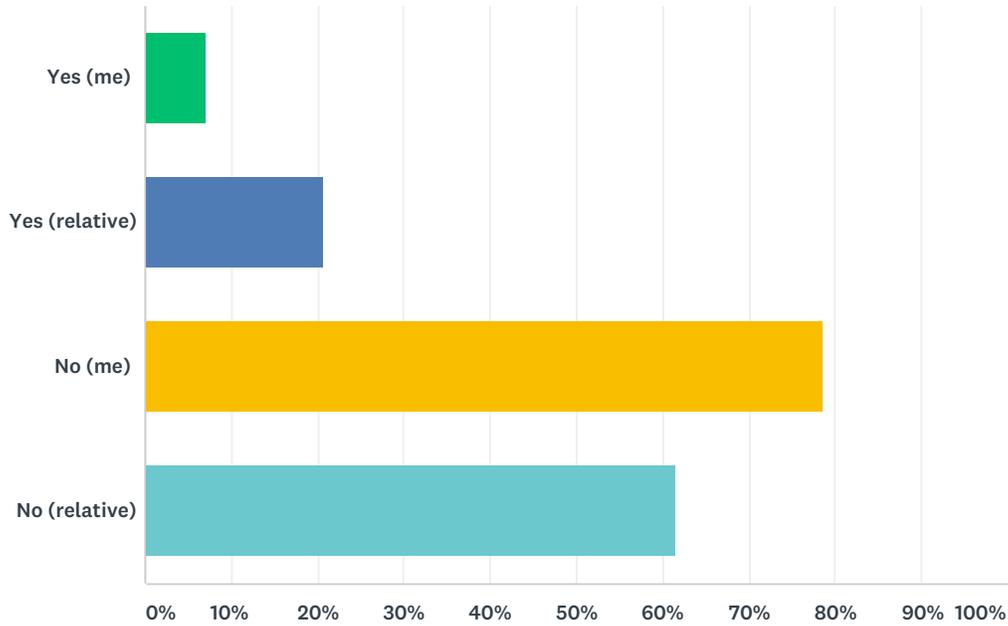
Answered: 139 Skipped: 3



Local resident	87.05%	121
Local business owner	5.76%	8
Local employee	11.51%	16
Representative of a homeowner associate or other civic organization	5.76%	8
Public or elected official	25.90%	36
Representative or member of a local environmental group	7.19%	10
Community leader	5.76%	8
Other (please specify)	7.19%	10
Total Respondents: 139		

### Q4 Have you or any of your relatives ever worked at the former Fort Devens or for the Army? (check all that apply)

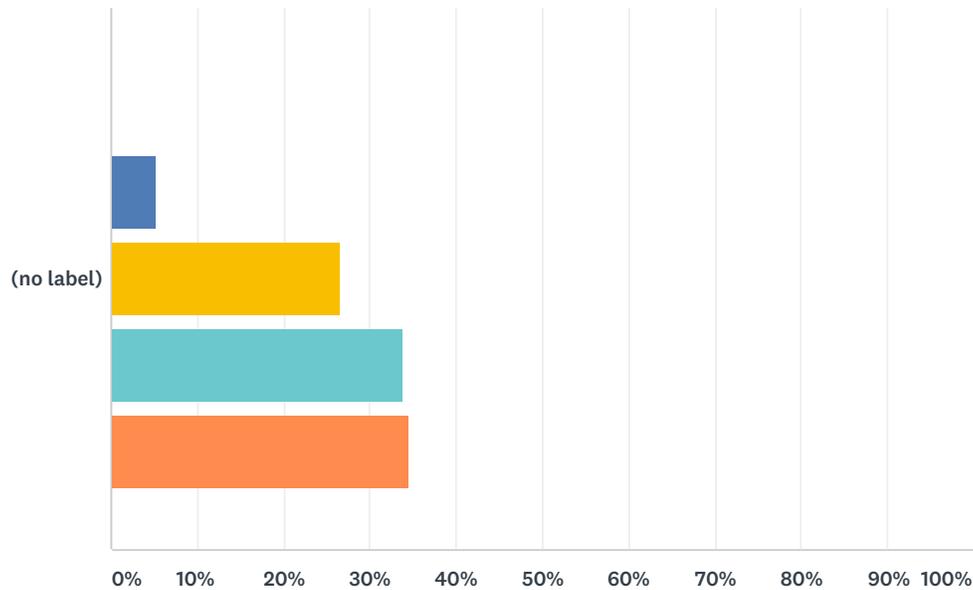
Answered: 140 Skipped: 2



Yes (me)	7.14%	10
Yes (relative)	20.71%	29
No (me)	78.57%	110
No (relative)	61.43%	86
Total Respondents: 140		

## Q5 How concerned do you think people in the local community are about environmental issues in general?

Answered: 136 Skipped: 6



■ not at all concerned   
 ■ (no label)   
 ■ moderately concerned   
 ■ (no label)   
 ■ extremely concerned

	NOT AT ALL CONCERNED	(NO LABEL)	MODERATELY CONCERNED	(NO LABEL)	EXTREMELY CONCERNED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.00%	5.15%	26.47%	33.82%	34.56%	136	3.98
	0	7	36	46	47		

1	Living near a military base can make residents more environmentally concerned (UXO warnings included)- Especially in the town of Harvard; small towns tend to be more plugged in as well. Can't have a garden in Devens-sparks questions and interest Devens received a TAG grant from EPA to hire a technical consultant
2	Tied to conservation and water supply
3	Generally citizens educate themselves to discourage development
4	Harvard is very environmentally concerned
5	There are about 600 parents and roughly 400 kids- So anything that can potentially affect families is paid attention to. The students are actually driving a lot of the change in behavior around the water bottle distribution at the school. Taking the investigation as a learning opportunity especially around the science and technical aspects of the problem
6	When they are made aware of the issues. I don't believe most Ayer residents get well informed about the environmental issues by town and state government.
7	With practical approaches and remedies that are managed and not driven by blind extremism.
8	I live in Ayer and have a well using private water. Many Harvard residents near Ayer also have Wells. Should those be tested? What do we do if our wells are affected by the groundwater plume?

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

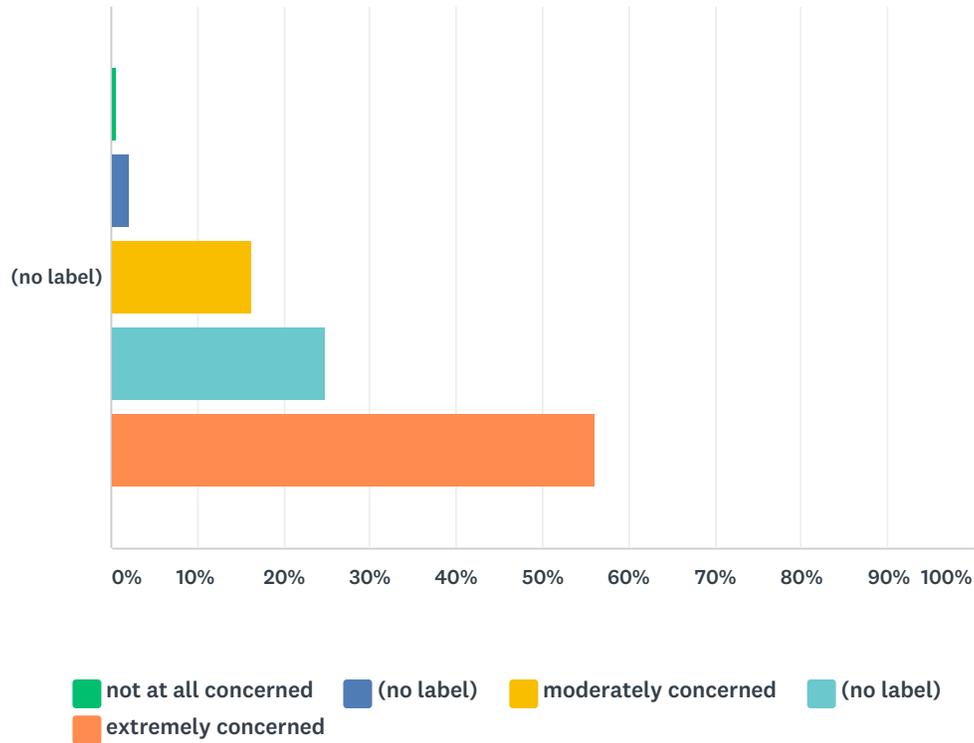
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9	Extremely concerned about PFAS and lack of information regarding levels and action plan.
10	I have not witnessed any outgoing efforts from the local community involving environmental issues or concerns.
11	It's hard to gauge this.
12	I think most people were relatively unconcerned until the recent information about PFAS was shared.
13	Safe drinking water is pretty important...
14	How we treat the environment now is how our future on this planet will determined.
15	The recent detection of PFAS in our water has many residents alarmed and concerned about their health from years of drinking contaminated water.
16	The Former MAAF attracts aircraft to our town and has created a well documented nuisance issue. MASSDevelopment is allowing noisy and disruptive car racing at the field as well.
17	Issue dependent. Drinking water is a major concern. Increasing development close to water and wetlands a concern.
18	Water is a hot topic on local Facebook pages
19	Very concerned about Water and contaminated Devens sites
20	Ayer Residents are very concerned about the PFAS issues.
21	Devens does have more environmental issues than the average community, and residents overall concern is somewhat heightened as a consequence.

---

## Q6 How concerned are you about environmental issues in general?

Answered: 141 Skipped: 1



	NOT AT ALL CONCERNED	(NO LABEL)	MODERATELY CONCERNED	(NO LABEL)	EXTREMELY CONCERNED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.71%	2.13%	16.31%	24.82%	56.03%	141	4.33
	1	3	23	35	79		

#	COMMENTS:
1	
2	I trust PACE
3	I think with Devens as a Superfund site, there is a heightened awareness and concern about environmental contamination in this area in general
4	Go to many meetings, the PFAS meeting by MassDevelopment was well attended both by stakeholders and residents, but usually aren't very well attended (especially HOA and Devens Committee meetings)
5	As a cancer survivor, it is imperative that toxins in the environment are avoided as much as possible
6	Same as #5
7	Quality drinking water and potential side effects from PFAS is a major concern.
8	Pregnant wife and two young children under 4. As a recently new resident of Ayer we are highly concerned about this, given our small children and pregnant wife.

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

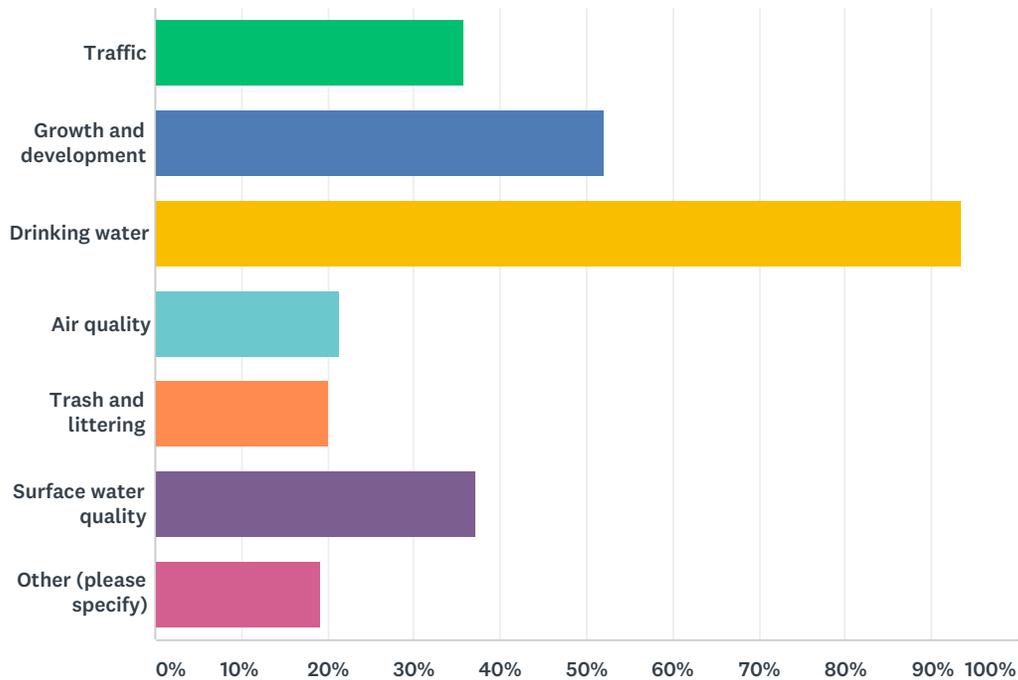
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9	My son attends Page Hilltop Elementary School in Ayer. For quite some time, children were prohibited from using the water fountains due to abnormally high levels of pollutants in the water supply. This was obviously an indication that that there were some significant reasons to be concerned about not only pollutants in the drinking water, but also how the water supply is managed, funded and how information is disseminated to the public regarding this matter.
10	
11	Safe drinking water is pretty important...
12	Esp concerned about PFAS in drinking water/ground water
13	I too am worried that the PFAS have affected my health.
14	MAAF should be used for the Massachusetts State Police, only.
15	Very concerned regarding contaminated, cancer causing drinking water. Have always been conscientious regarding the environment. Actively compost and recycle to reduce waste in the environment. Concerned with the destruction of wetlands and habitats.
16	Pfas in our is very concerning
17	Especially regarding our drinking water.
18	Climate change, land use and stewardship, and protection and conservation of water resources are vital to our planet, and will be significant factors in future regional and global security and conflict.
19	We have an opportunity to open/expand environmental sensitive areas that simultaneously protect valuable resources while maintaining/developing recreational resources for the community. Let's get this right!
20	V Concerned about the water use with major businesses in Devens and past land and water contamination from the old Ft Devens
21	Very concerned about the PFAS issues as well as the Shepley Landfill Issues

---

## Q7 What do you think are the most important environmental issues facing your community today?

Answered: 140 Skipped: 2



Traffic	35.71%	50
Growth and development	52.14%	73
Drinking water	93.57%	131
Air quality	21.43%	30
Trash and littering	20.00%	28
Surface water quality	37.14%	52
Other (please specify)	19.29%	27
Total Respondents: 140		

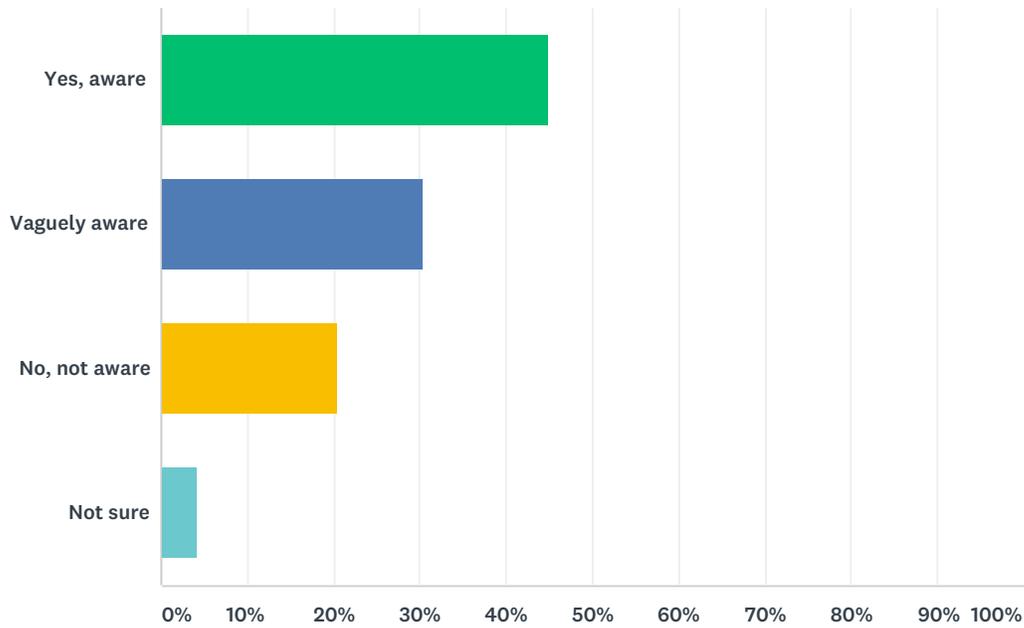
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)
1	PFAS contamination
2	groundwater quality, wildlife, light pollution at night (overlighting), noise
3	Climate change
4	Negative consequences of growth and development
5	Superfund site- concerns about soil quality (can't put in a garden in Devens) and potential unknown issues Stormwater and may be concerns about consumption of fish in local waterways (mercury levels) UXO
6	People pay attention when they're personally affected.

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

7	Drinking water is not as directly affected as far as he knows. Worried about water supply if affected.
8	Town has an active rivers group- town considers itself a heart to Nashua River Direct pump from the ground for drinking water- but not a huge issue Active part of the Army is in Lancaster, decommissioned part in Ayer/Harvard, but very little of what the army does affects the town except for training days with noise pollution, and they notify the town clerk.
9	Private road maintenance- responsibility on HOA; gave private roads to surrounding lots to maintain all costs of. Asphalt is in poor condition. This includes snow removal, runoff etc Water runoff concerns (tied with private road maintenance) MassDevelopment has an easement for utilities and can rip up roads and many times the patch jobs are not great.
10	Plastic pollution and climate change
11	Drinking water issues- not just PFAS but radionuclide and arsenic problems. Climate change is a big topic too- municipal vulnerability meetings for storms and droughts, especially with farmers.
12	solar farm impact on humans and animals
13	chemical ground contaminants
14	Global warming
15	Global warming
16	Loss of wildlife habitat
17	Supplying enough water to community in Summer
18	Climate Change
19	Also, general aviation fuel is leaded. Privately owned and operated flight schools are abusing areas of Ayer and Devens, including the Oxbow Wildlife Refuge. The low and lengthy maneuvering sessions are impacting the lives of wildlife and humans alike. Again, the issue is well documented and has been publicized in the media.
20	Without question, contaminated drinking water
21	effects of global climate change (e.g. extreme weather events, etc)
22	Reminded of potential dangers constantly on my street due to treatment facility and ongoing drilling and testing that has been going on for 15 years plus
23	Noise pollution from Devens, the trains (both freight and commuter) as well as the air field / race track and air traffic over head. Seems to always be some loud annoying noise in Ayer.
24	Pesticide and chemical use on lawns, roadways, etc.
25	Weather/ climate
26	recycling and invasive species
27	climate change

### Q8 Before we contacted you, were you aware of the Army’s PREVIOUS environmental investigations and cleanup at the former Fort Devens?

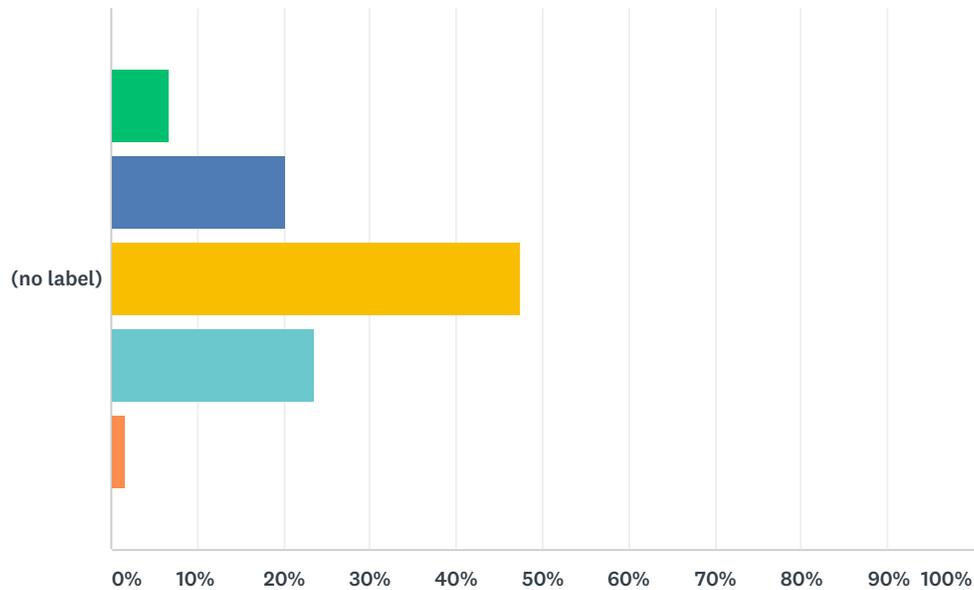
Answered: 142 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, aware	45.07%	64
Vaguely aware	30.28%	43
No, not aware	20.42%	29
Not sure	4.23%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>142</b>

### Q9 (If yes) How satisfied were you with the Army’s previous environmental investigations and cleanup?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 83



■ not at all satisfied   
 ■ (no label)   
 ■ moderately satisfied   
 ■ (no label)   
 ■ extremely satisfied

	NOT AT ALL SATISFIED	(NO LABEL)	MODERATELY SATISFIED	(NO LABEL)	EXTREMELY SATISFIED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	6.78%	20.34%	47.46%	23.73%	1.69%	59	2.93
	4	12	28	14	1		

#	COMMENTS:
1	Great partnership between EPA, Army, and MassDevelopment- positive force. Co-operative relationship and positive partnership.
2	Caught up to speed on environmental investigation when first hired. Fears limited provisions in place to stop anything.
3	Engineers had to come back and seal cracks in concrete slab foundations of houses
4	Superfund sites will never be fully cleaned in my opinion
5	Heard a lot about the Shepley Landfill- but not so much about other investigations. Communication could have been better- would have liked to know about the RAB meetings and presentations
6	unclear of exactly what Army has done to eliminate the threats
7	There has been information showing the movement of water contamination toward Ayer for a long time, which wasn't appropriately acted on.
8	Don't know enough to comment.
9	It would have been better if there were more open to public meetings
10	But I don't really know very much about the cleanup.

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

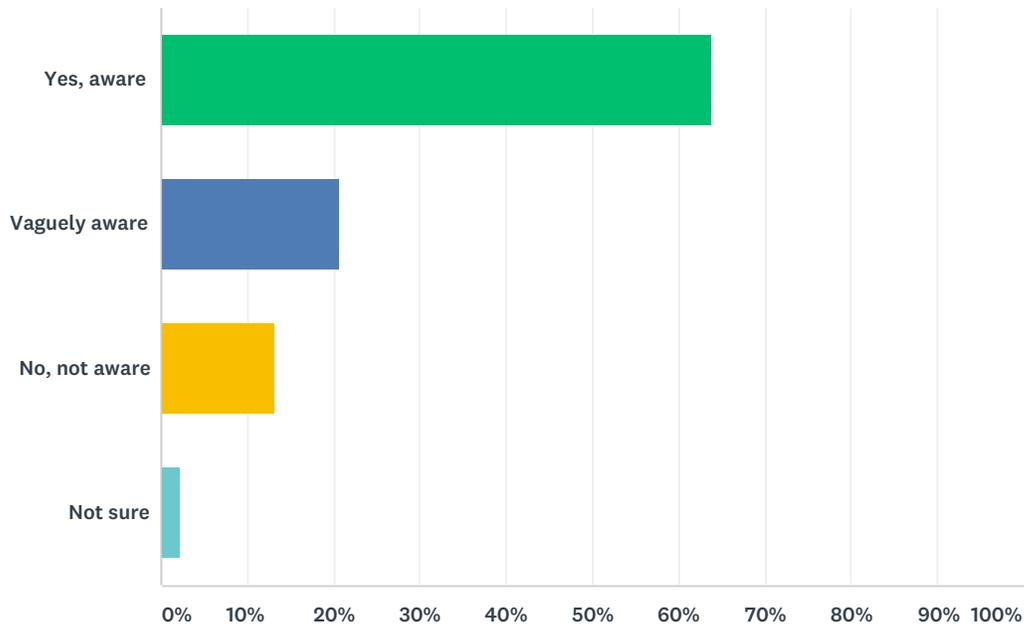
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11	A great deal of effort and money has been invested in cleanup, but there is still a long way to go, and some remedial issues that will be needed well after our lifetimes.
12	I appreciate the Army's efforts. I would be extremely satisfied if the runways at the former Moore Army Airfield were removed and replaced with community open space such as playing fields for our sports programs and for use by Ayer Residents. The Nashua River frontage opens many attractive options for beoutilization of the land.
13	As a former Ft. Devens resident, I am unaware if any effort to notify & educate those who may have had heavy exposure, especially in childhood, to the contaminsted water and soil during our time there. 3 family members developed medical conditions now linked with PFAS exposure. Feel like this is another Agent Orange situation.
14	I honestly don't know enough to have an informed opinion.
15	As with many things, fixing a problem seems to take to long.
16	Shepley Hill Landfill is still ongoing. PFAS still ongoing.
17	The Army seems to do the right thing, albeit with or after some arm twisting by concerned residents, towns administrations, agencies, etc.

---

### Q10 Before we contacted you, were you aware of the Army’s recent environmental investigations of PFAS in groundwater?

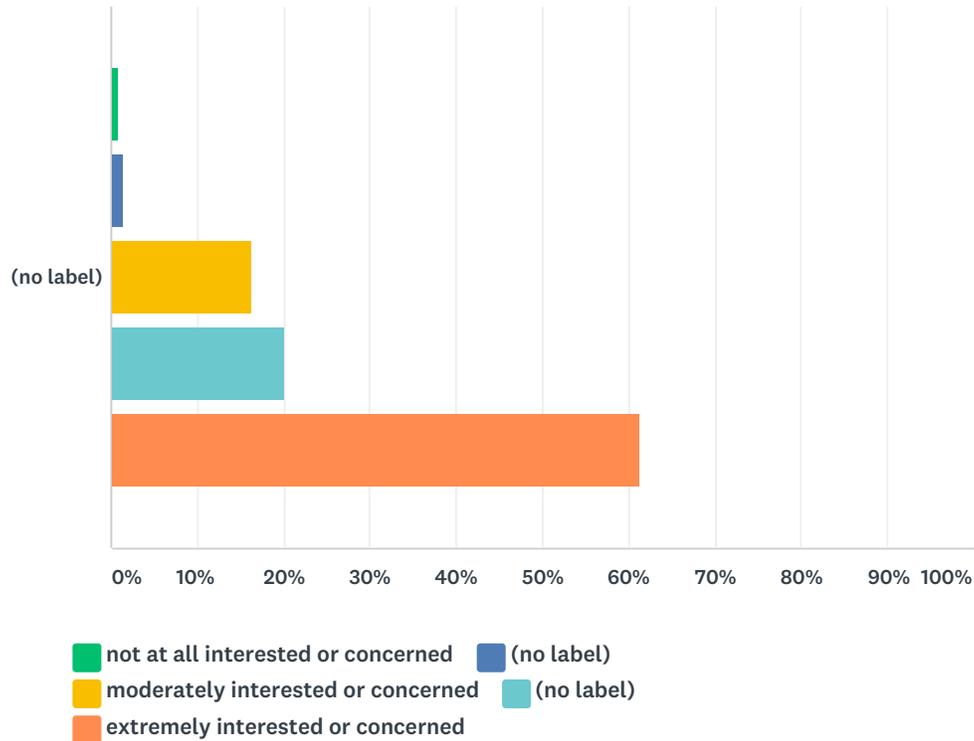
Answered: 130 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, aware	63.85%	83
Vaguely aware	20.77%	27
No, not aware	13.08%	17
Not sure	2.31%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>130</b>

## Q11 How interested or concerned are you about the PFAS investigation?

Answered: 129 Skipped: 13



	NOT AT ALL INTERESTED OR CONCERNED	(NO LABEL)	MODERATELY INTERESTED OR CONCERNED	(NO LABEL)	EXTREMELY INTERESTED OR CONCERNED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.78%	1.55%	16.28%	20.16%	61.24%	129	4.40
	1	2	21	26	79		

#	IF APPLICABLE, WHAT ISSUES INTEREST OR CONCERN YOU THE MOST?
1	Location of PFAS plume, movement of plume, continued monitoring of ground water in region, presence of PFAS in surrounding communities
2	If the levels of PFAS below the 42 PPT can hurt pregnant women, bottled water is not a sure protection since it is unlikely that everyone will become aware of the need.
3	As a town official, I need to be able to make informed decisions concerning our drinking water
4	Drinking water concerns- ingestion of PFAS- therefore wells and groundwater. How is it moving through the subsurface, is it reaching surface water, is it affecting well water? Impacts ability to turn over land to public use and potential detriment to attracting businesses to the area. How responsible is the Army going to be on the PFAS situation- Devens doesn't have an agreement like Ayer does. EPA vs DEP regulations, can be the difference between treating and not treating certain wells and water. Adds years to timeline on publically available land- interest in potential buyers may be dropping. A 'run around' on trying to find information on health concerns, if there are any answers at all (personal vs public health issues). Lifetime exposure concerns and limits information is scarce (definition of lifetime exposure has never been written out in any of the Army Corps' presentations).
5	Health effects of PFAS exposure; Concerned that Ayer is getting more attention from the Army Corps than Devens, even though Devens is the former fort- especially concerning payment for water treatment

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

6	Be more concerned if I lived in Ayer- well source is in the opposite direction in Shirley
7	Not a lot of information- doesn't really know what PFAS is, how it effects the citizens etc; Doesn't think the people of Lancaster know much about the PFAS investigation
8	Health effects of PFAS exposure; How the housing market is being affected by the news articles surrounding PFAS and the investigation
9	Long term effects of these chemicals on water previously used, prevention elsewhere in the country, if the current guideline numbers are really safe
10	Not personally affected by PFAS investigation- but if so, would be very concerned
11	Besides the lack of health information- who is going to pay for well head treatment? Are utility rates going to rise due to the ~\$15-18 million bill for treatment? Hard to get information straight from Army Corps- no liaison to contact
12	health impact of exposure and the town or Army to provide free clean drinking water to residents until PFA's are no longer a threat
13	contaminants in the older housing developments; unexploded munitions near the Oxbow refuge
14	Long-term health effects related to drinking water contamination
15	The future of the Ayer water supply, and, for the larger area. I really want to see the PFASs contained.
16	The ingestion of water with chemicals and the side effects to us.
17	As new residents, with two young kids, one being a toddler, and a pregnant wife - we are extremely concerned about the safety of our drinking water.
18	drinking water and levels of PFAS in drinking water and how this interacts with water-mains that deliver water to residents
19	Worry about cancer, property value and resale of our home.
20	Clean up process
21	All of Ayer's drinking water comes from well, some of which are contaminated with PFAS
22	Concerned about speed of addressing drinking water supply
23	Contamination of local water sources
24	Levels and effects
25	Contamination and also lack of water supply given growth of towns and new buildings
26	Safe drinking water without a water ban
27	Impacts on my children's Health.
28	I want accountability for how the drinking water may be affecting residents' health. I want to see a long term research study about Ayer residents's health. I also think we should be reimbursed for having to buy bottled water and purchase water filtration systems for our homes.
29	I have children in school at Parker school
30	Safe drinking water is pretty important...
31	Drinking water exposures over the years.
32	My health! Several people in our neighborhood were found to have cancer ... was it because of the contamination?
33	Quality of our drinking water.
34	The current and future health effects on me and my two sons both currently under 5 years of age, growing up in Ayer with potentially contaminated water
35	Drinking water
36	Drinking water
37	Drinking water contamination

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

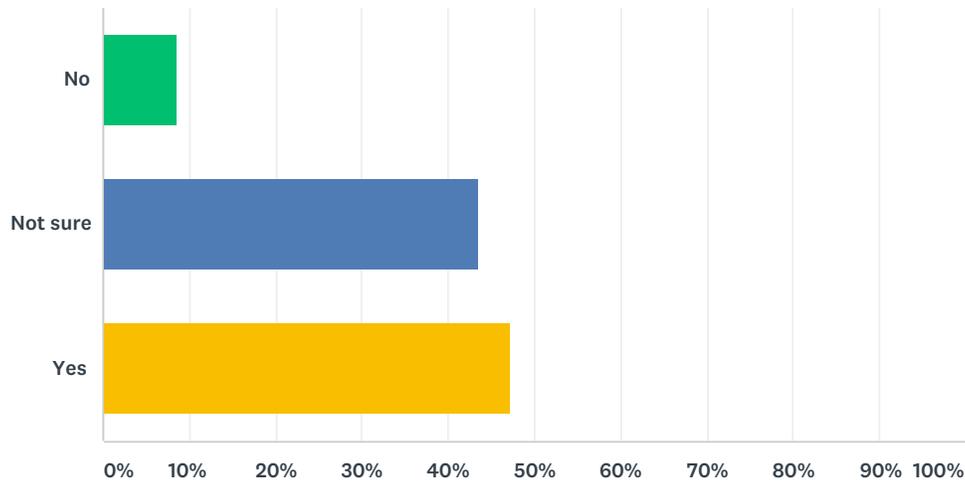
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38	I want to know if leaded ammunition is used in the demolition exercises around Grove Pond (or any other contaminants)
39	Health effects, current and past levels of PFAS in drinking water, and remediation.
40	The safety of the drinking water as well as the contaminants that come from the freight train rail station.
41	Health impacts after daily ingestion, bathing & cooking with PFAS contaminated water, particularly if it occurred in childhood.
42	As an abutter, if/when contaminants are found who would be responsible for cleanup and the long term monitoring.
43	The source of the current PFAS contamination and the on-going contamination of ground and surface water such as the Nashue River. The actions to stop any future contamination by PFAS.
44	Health concerns; primarily for residents, but also for employees at Devens.
45	How will the Army help Ayer with the costs of removing /PFAS from drinking water?
46	Plume migration to the private wells in Harvard.
47	Identifying the plume concentrations and short /long term impacts on Ayer water supply
48	groundwater pollution and plumes toward surface water bodies including the Nashua River

---

## Q12 Do you feel you have been directly or indirectly affected by PFAS contamination?

Answered: 129 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
No	8.53% 11
Not sure	43.41% 56
Yes	47.29% 61
TOTAL	129

#	IF SO, HOW?
1	I don't feel confident in the quality of Ayer's water. We have been buying water ever since we found out.
2	a newspaper article reported this was a problem in Shirley water
3	I've been drinking PFAS.
4	PFAS exists in Harvard's ground water
5	As a representative of the local Board of Health we should be in the loop on PFAS issues.
6	Non-zero levels of PFAS in our drinking water
7	In learning more about the compounds, everyone is being affected to some degree as PFAS is not just associated with military bases- it is in many things we use on a daily basis
8	I had water testing done privately and my results are somewhat concerning.
9	Living near where the potential source areas are- impact growth and development plan of Devens. Potential health concerns drinking water from local restaurants. Lots of residents very concerned about the PFAS situation due to the growing national awareness of the situation and lack of agreement with the Army Corps like Ayer has
10	MacPhersen well was shut down, private wells could be shut down if regulations change
11	Has had health issues including cancer that he has attributed to PFAS contamination in the groundwater
12	No one will know the true long term impact. Perhaps current health issues in my family are connected. There's no way to know at this point.

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

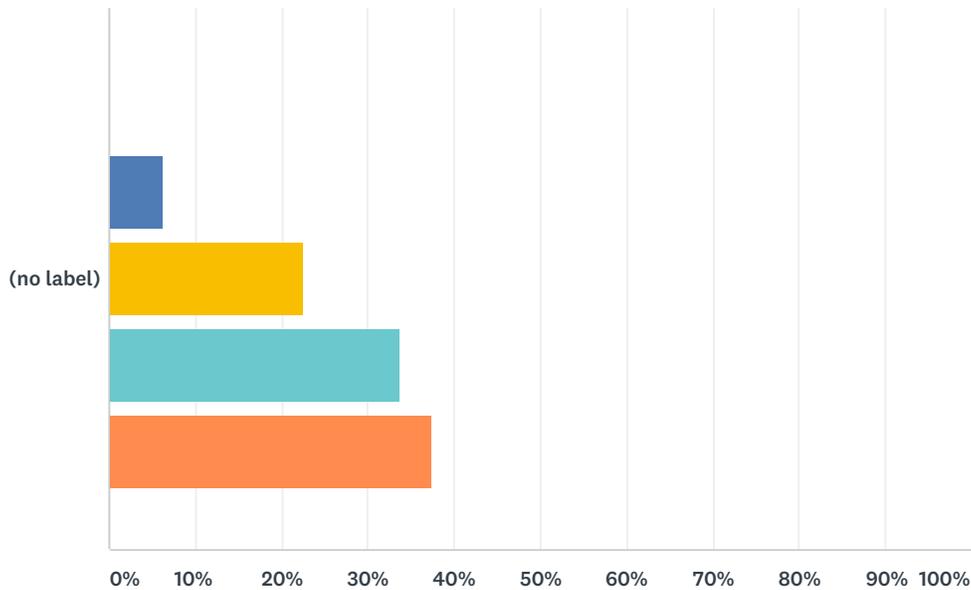
13	
14	The school has been issued water bottles to use as drinking water.
15	Just moved into new house and needed to really establish the lawn.
16	I grew up near Shepley Hill. We played in that area and in the woods where the army held maneuvers.
17	All 3 current members of our household has been diagnosed with cancer
18	I've been drinking Ayer tap water since 1986.
19	Water restrictions in Ayer. Expected cost of water treatment will Affect all residents. People with Wells for drinking water haven't had their Wells tested
20	Ayer water is contaminated. I have family members at extra risk for injury from the contamination. I was appalled to have local restaurant owners tell me they didn't know about the issue and are not doing anything about it.
21	Without any concrete information provided to us other, we are spending a lot of money on bottled water to give our kids and pregnant wife. Healthy drinking water should never be in question.
22	Can't water grass, can power wash house, can't use outside water period.
23	My drinking water has been affected.
24	I lived in Ayer for 1.5 years before the PFAS contamination was made public. I drank water during this time.
25	CHildren attending school on Devens receiving bottled water
26	Drinking water
27	Injecting pfas
28	Worries about drinking water and not enough \$ to purchase a PFSA filter.
29	Water usage restrictions
30	Drinking water
31	Water ban in town. I can't water my lawn and I'm worried about what I'm drinking.
32	I think there were higher than normal levels in my drinking water in the past.
33	Have spent money on bottled water and stopped drinking town water if though it is filtered in our house. Continued using town water when report announced water was safe.
34	20 years of drinking water in Ayer
35	Our water has tasted terrible, especially the past couple years. It was making me feel sick. We stopped drinking it and purchased water delivery from Poland Springs.
36	Requested tap water at a restaurant. Was told the quality was questionable, so I bought bottled water. Also, future home sales may be impacted if issues unresolved.
37	PFASs are in Ayer public water supply, I have raised a family here.
38	We have to filter our drinking water.
39	I have town water in Ayer and I am concerned that I have been drinking, brushing my teeth, and bathing in contaminated water. My water is hard and has an odor to it.
40	My pregnant girlfriend developed pre-eclampsia during her pregnancy nearly taking her life. Our child was born at 29 weeks gestation due to pre-eclampsia. We believe it was directly contributed to the PFAS in the water.
41	I no longer drink water from the facet, opting for bottled water instead which is a cost issue and an environmental issue
42	It's in our drinking water and now appears to be even in local bottled water
43	Now buy bottled water to drink. No longer water outside to preserve water
44	The cause for the contamination is directly related to the use of the runways.

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

- 45 I do not drinking the water at Ayer Shirley regional high school. I do eat the school lunch every now and then, which would obviously be prepared with Ayer water.
- 46 Me and my family have been drinking and bathing in this prior to the notifications.
- 47 Our drinking water is contaminated, the town has a water ban and all the wells are in contaminated areas. I'm also aware the old Tannery is just as much to blame not just devens
- 48 The contaminated water is yhe primary drinking, cooking, bathing source for my family and the community.
- 49 Water use restrictions due to contaminated wells
- 50 I can see Grove Pond out my window. People for thousands of years fished in that pond. I could be going down there for supper if people in the 20th century had not decided on short term pollution solutions. I also have had issues with discolored tap water as the town has been forced to shut off wells.
- 51 Drinking water and Water ban from contamination of existing supply
- 52 A sense of vague unease around drinking water supplies. From my conversations with long-time local residents, drinking water quality has been an issue in Ayer for a long time.
- 53 Drinking and using the water
- 54 Our water tastes terrible. Smells terrible too.
- 55 No longer using water for consumption at house
- 56 We've been drinking contaminated water since moving here.
- 57 Drinking bad water
- 58 My family lived on Devens for 6 years. 3 developed serious, life-changing illnesses that have been linked to PFAS exposure. 2 of them developed them within a year of moving off base . The other had symptoms but was not diagnosed for several more years. I, and another, have had other health problems linked to PFAS & chemical exposure - for 54 years!
- 59 Have to buy bottled water
- 60 Not enough information to make a decision
- 61 As a town official, I field concerned calls/inquiries from residents practically weekly about the PFAS contamination of the water supply.
- 62 We drank the Devens water for three years. We did get a house filter system, but can't tell if it removes PFAS.
- 63 I have certainly been exposed, but the ramifications of that exposure are unclear. This is a concern for many residents I have talked to about this issue.
- 64 grew up near the Shepley's hill. Played up there as a child.
- 65 Ayer DPW has had to turn off one well, reduce usage at other wells and I spend a significant amount of time on supply management PFAS treatment and public outreach
- 66 Public and private drinking water wells

## Q13 How interested or concerned do you think community members are about the PFAS investigation?

Answered: 128 Skipped: 14



■ not at all interested or concerned    ■ (no label)  
■ moderately interested or concerned    ■ (no label)  
■ extremely interested or concerned

	NOT AT ALL INTERESTED OR CONCERNED	(NO LABEL)	MODERATELY INTERESTED OR CONCERNED	(NO LABEL)	EXTREMELY INTERESTED OR CONCERNED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	0.00%	6.25%	22.66%	33.59%	37.50%	128	4.02
	0	8	29	43	48		

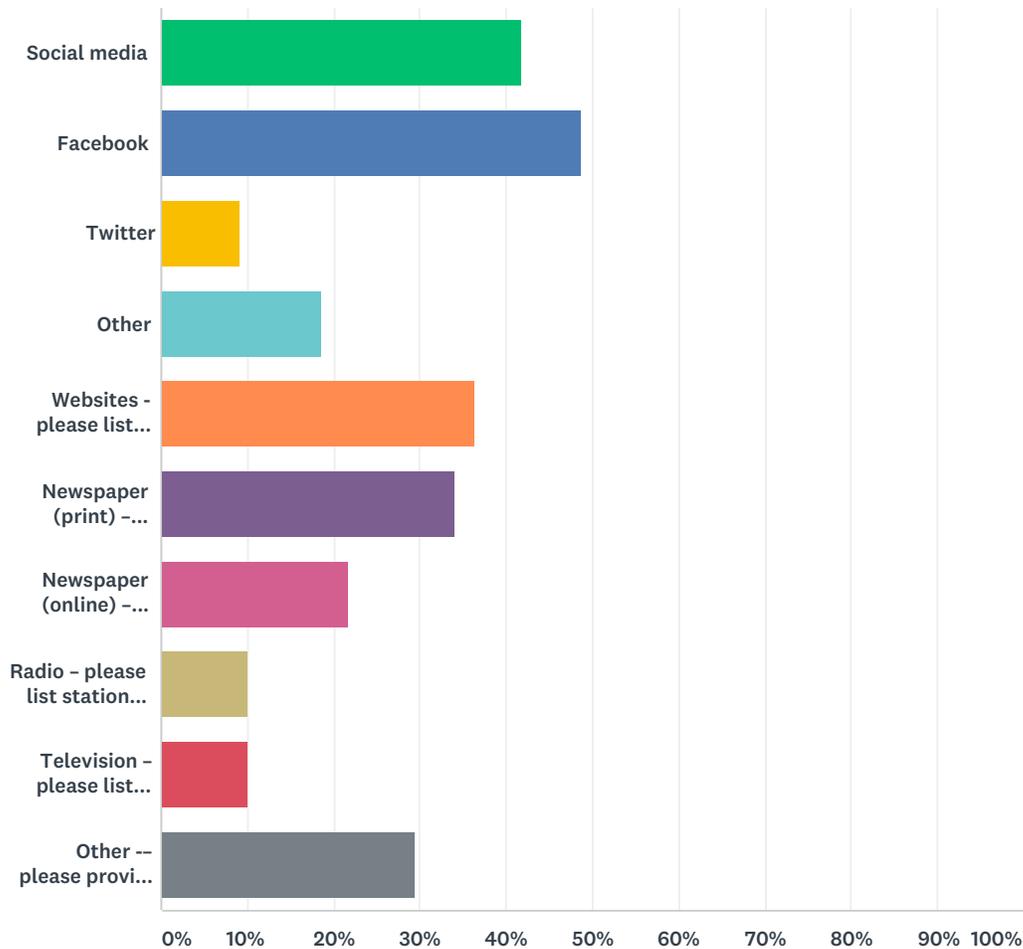
- # COMMENTS:**
- 1 The community is very concerned and a bit panicked about their drinking water being harmful to them.
  - 2 People concerned: Workers, business owners, schools, developers, residents (including future residents), pretty much everybody is interested and/or concerned. Public meetings were 40 people and 70 people in Devens (small population) with information spread via a couple town officials (big turnout)
  - 3 A lot of interest was sparked when the Globe article was published about the PFAS in Ayer's well; Meetings at MassDevelopment after the public notice were well attended. For drinking water- people with young children or are pregnant are very interested. Neighbors want to know how long the Army Corps have known about it.
  - 4 Peaked people's interested when news first broke- but after report to Board of Selectmen (televised) by public works engineers and superintendents concern wasn't as big
  - 5 Not very much aware of the PFAS investigation
  - 6 Health effects from PFAS are unknown in the local community- are the cancer rates from PFAS or another source?
  - 7 Talked about a lot with families around town

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

- 8 Varies by whether or not they're are affected by the PFAS contamination of the their groundwater
- 9 Parents are interested in the health effects of consuming PFAS contaminated water.High school seniors are interested in the technical aspects of the investigation for their senior projects. The school is interested in the investigation as a learning opportunity to understand more technical and scientific aspects of a remedial investigation.
- 10 If they are made adequately aware of the impact and dangers
- 11 It is a hot-button issue in the community
- 12 Other than seeing good attendance at a PACE meeting, it is hard to gauge concern.
- 13 Not sure
- 14 Unanimous support to construct treatment facility in Ayer town meeting
- 15 I find the people of Ayer to be quite apathetic.
- 16 Once residents become aware of the PFAS issue they are very concerned
- 17 When people are informed about PFAS, they become concerned.
- 18 The seriousness of this issue, both from the tone of meetings and informational mailings, as well as the fact that bottled water is being recommended and supplied, has been noticed both by residents and businesses.

## Q14 In general, how do you get news about your local community? (check all that apply)

Answered: 129 Skipped: 13



### ANSWER CHOICES

### RESPONSES

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	Count
Social media	41.86%	54
Facebook	48.84%	63
Twitter	9.30%	12
Other	18.60%	24
Websites - please list websites in comment box	36.43%	47
Newspaper (print) – please list newspapers in comment box	34.11%	44
Newspaper (online) – please list newspapers in comment box	21.71%	28
Radio – please list stations in comment box	10.08%	13
Television – please list stations in comment box	10.08%	13
Other — please provide more information in comment box	29.46%	38

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

Total Respondents: 129

- # **PLEASE LIST WEBSITES, NEWSPAPERS, RADIO, TELEVISION STATIONS, OR OTHER NEWS SOURCES:**
- 1 Town of Ayer websites Town of Ayer emails
  - 2 shirleylibrary.org Shirley-ma.gov Sentinel & Enterprise Nashoba Advocate Hazen Library handouts
  - 3 Ayer Town website
  - 4 Email from MassDevelopment & Devens Enterprise Commission
  - 5 Devens RAB, Town of Ayer websites. Boston Globe, Harvard Press. Other: DEP, DPH, CDC, Mass Association of Health Boards
  - 6 The Harvard Press; MassDEP
  - 7 Devensec.com/News; Nashoba Publications, MD's Devens weekly email blast, DEC's facebook page
  - 8 WB2 Newsradio 1030 Word of mouth gossip
  - 9 Harvard Press, Nextdoor Harvard
  - 10 Harvard Press-local newspaper; Harvard Board of Selectmen email messages
  - 11 Harvard Press, nextdoor.com
  - 12 Boston Globe paper and online as well as Harvard Press
  - 13 devensec.com; devenscommunity.com; Nashoba Valley Voice
  - 14 Harvard Press; also Nextdoor Harvard, a local listserv
  - 15 Harvard Press; harvard.ma.us
  - 16 Harvard Press, Nashoba Valley Voice, Nextdoor pages (Harvard, Devens, Hudson), Hudson Water facebook page, MassDevelopment facebook page, Devens community newsletter, Devens Community Page, Neighbors, NPR, physical message boards for meetings
  - 17 Friday newsletter from MassDevelopment, weekly town newsletters, Nextdoor, Lowell Sun has a local section that sometimes runs articles on Devens (may be less biased than MassDevelopment)
  - 18 Nashoba Valley Voice, Town facebook, Police twitter and facebook, town tv station (spaco)
  - 19 Email list from the local government, bulletin board postings, direct mail (1 page double sided max), town meetings (2x year May and October)
  - 20 Newsletter from MassDevelopment (email), Harvard newspaper
  - 21 Ayer town website - checked about 1/3 months. Also word of mouth
  - 22 Town site, environmental study sites, cnn, bbc, npr, wbz, town mailings
  - 23 Harvard Press- online and print, Nextdoor pages, facebook pages, town websites
  - 24 NextDoor, MassDevelopment, Utility Companies, Parent Newsletter
  - 25 NPR
  - 26 Ayer town website; NPR; friends involved in local issues
  - 27 As a Board of Health member, I receive multiple updates from BRAC and PACE
  - 28 Word of mouth. Rarely do I tap into any local news outlets. I found out about the current PFA's in our water by someone forwarding an article in the Boston Globe to me on Facebook knowing I live in Ayer
  - 29 NPR; Ayer website; Globe and New York Times
  - 30 Nashoba Valley Voice, WCVB, WBZ, WHDH
  - 31 The town of Ayer website

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

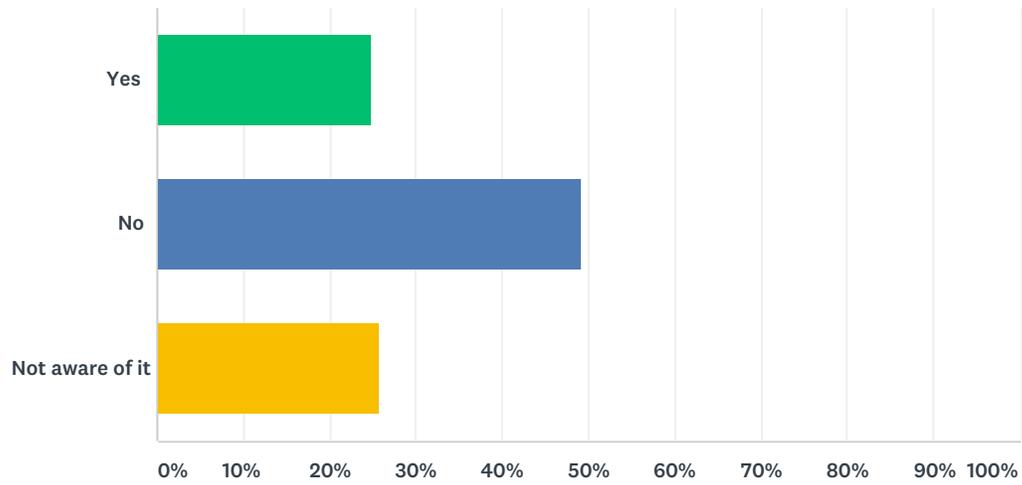
- 32 Local newsfeeds on internet search engines. Mailings from the town of Ayer. Local person to person. Talki
- 33 Emails from town of ayer
- 34 [ayer.ma.us](http://ayer.ma.us)
- 35 Lowell Sun
- 36 Email notification USPS
- 37 Ayer town website, Pace Facebook page, Ayer library, Ayer local Tv
- 38 Town website.
- 39 NPR
- 40 Ayer Town hall - emails and in person updates
- 41 Nashoba Valley Voice, Lowell Sun
- 42 The Ayer town website, word of mount and some basic information provided by Page Hilltop Elementary.
- 43 Town Webpage; Public Spirit, Lowell Sun, WCVB, discussion among neighbors.
- 44 Nashoba Valley Voice. Other: involvement in Town government as the Conservation Commission staff.
- 45 Neighbor, Devens newsletter emailed
- 46 town email
- 47 Live people in community who are involved Boston Globe
- 48 Town of Ayer website Ayer PD Ayer Fd Ayer-Shirley Regional School District website
- 49 WCVB
- 50 Town email
- 51 Town website and town emails.
- 52 [www.ayer.ma.us](http://www.ayer.ma.us)
- 53 Town emails
- 54 Town Facebook, town emails, local newspapers
- 55 Mail
- 56 Public meetings and local government involvement
- 57 Town of Ayer website
- 58 Ayer website and Action Unlimited
- 59 Email, Ayer town website
- 60 Ayer Town website
- 61 Email subscriptions
- 62 Email is best for me. Most often checked. PACE FB page helps. Town email updates & FB.
- 63 Ayer city, weekly reminder
- 64 I get emails from the Town of Ayer
- 65 My spouse
- 66 Sentinel & Enterprise, WBJ
- 67 Town of Ayer website Local cable channel
- 68 Harvard Press. TV NECN, WBZ FOX
- 69 Emails and letters from the town.
- 70 Community pages on Facebook and town mailings to our house

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
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- 71 Public spirit
- 72 YouTube.com
- 73 Mail
- 74 WROR Channel 5, ABC
- 75 Yahoo groups, other bb's, e-mail and conversations with residents
- 76 Town emails. No local paper anymore, town website is useless. We dont do social media
- 77 Ayer town website. Lowell Sun
- 78 Email
- 79 Lowell Sun, Boston Globe, NYTimes, Washington Post, NPR, Reuters, Nashoba Valley Voice, Town of Ayer
- 80 Local town site and mailers
- 81 local friends, The Voice, Lowell Sun
- 82 Ayer Town Site
- 83 Nashoba Valley Voice, Boston Globe
- 84 Town of Ayer website and email lists, Nashoba Valley Voice
- 85 Letters sent home
- 86 Boston Globe and wcvb channel 5
- 87 I receive notifications in my email from the town.
- 88 Boston Globe, CBS news
- 89 Town of Ayer FB & web pages, Ayer Water Dept mailings, Nashoba Valley Voice, Lowell Sun, Sentinel & Enterprise, Boston Globe, Action Unlimited newspapers, Ayer MA Community FB group page, town meetings, and local news stations- WBZ, NECN, WGBH, WCVB & Fox25
- 90 WICN
- 91 Town of Ayer website/email
- 92 www.ayer.ma.us; Nashoba Valley Voice; Lowell Sun Online
- 93 Nashoba Valley Voice / Lowell Sun
- 94 Harvard Press, NPR, Boston Globe and WSJ. I am on the Devens Committee at which the PFAS issue is discussed
- 95 Weekly Devens (MassDevelopment newsletter, monthly Devens Committee meetings, quarterly RAB meetings.
- 96 Boston Globe, Nashoba Valley Voice, WBUR
- 97 yahoo group town email
- 98 I am on the town Board of Health. We receive updates and we attend RAB mtgs.
- 99 Nashoba Valley Voice

### Q15 Are you aware of the new Fort Devens BRAC Environmental Restoration Program website? (<https://ftdevens.org>)

Answered: 128 Skipped: 14



**ANSWER CHOICES**

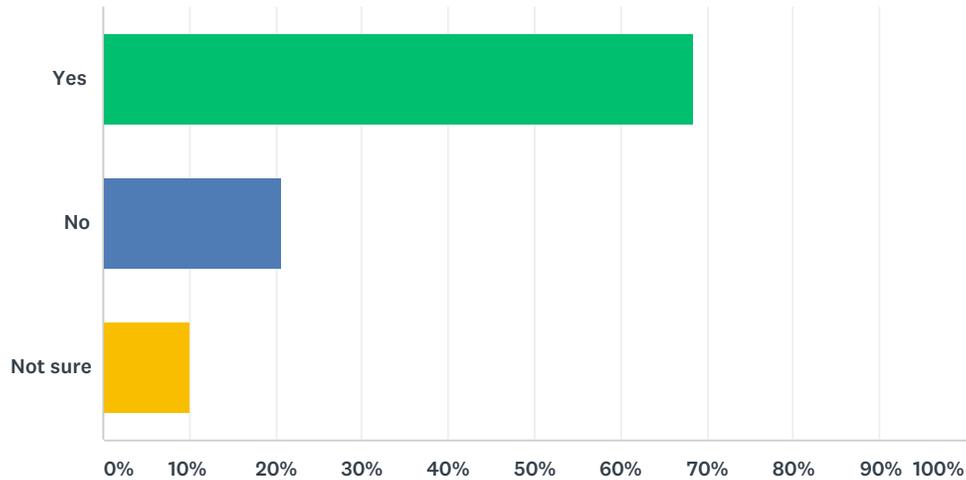
Yes  
No  
Not aware of it  
TOTAL

**RESPONSES**

25.00%	32
49.22%	63
25.78%	33
	128

## Q16 Have you read any fact sheets or websites about PFAS?

Answered: 130 Skipped: 12



### ANSWER CHOICES

### RESPONSES

Yes	68.46%	89
No	20.77%	27
Not sure	10.00%	13
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>130</b>

### # IF YES, WHICH ONES? DID YOU FIND THE INFORMATION HELPFUL?

- 1 I don't have them in front of me. Yes, helpful.
- 2 I don't have them in front of me. Yes, helpful.
- 3 don't recall which ones. Yes, helpful.
- 4 What MassDevelopment sent out; Found this information helpful
- 5 EPA, DEP, CDC, several other states (Michigan, New Jersey, etc); Found the information helpful
- 6 Did not find information helpful
- 7 MassDEP's fact sheets
- 8 The ones distributed at the June meeting in Harvard
- 9 Unsure which but believe dicing and toxic spraying caused this situation
- 10 MassDEP and Devens EC; yes helpful
- 11 MassDEP; yes helpful
- 12 MassDEP Fact Sheet; Yes helpful
- 13 MassDEP, EPA; found the information helpful but also scary
- 14 MassDEP, EPA; Yes found information helpful to a certain extent
- 15 possibly in Ayer's water quality reports
- 16 Can't recall but PFAS national study of water, university studies, water provider sites, town mailed resources
- 17 MassDEP, EPA main fact sheets, CDC website, Ayer DPW site

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

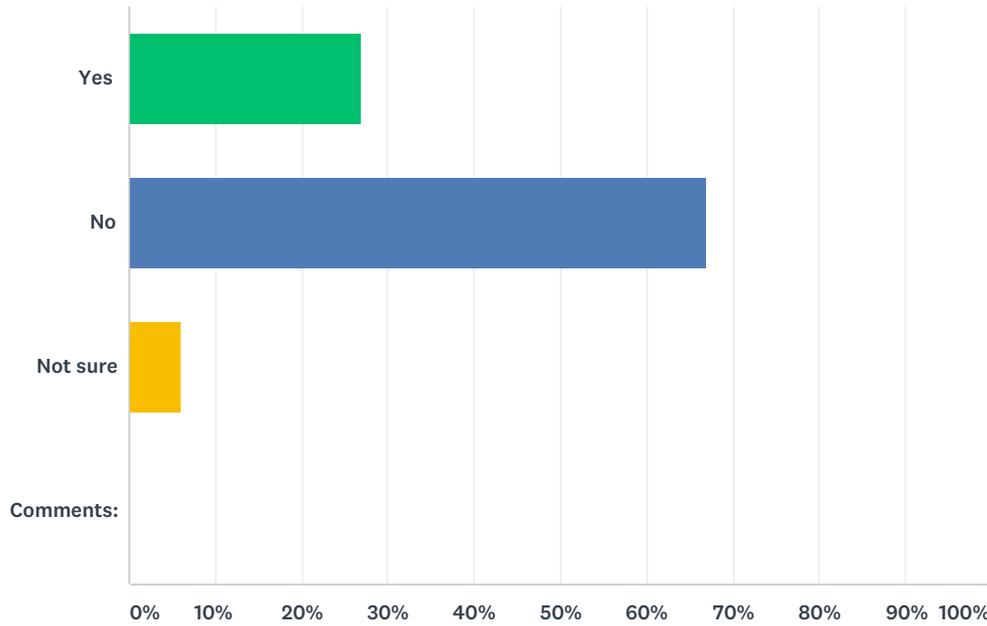
- 18 Yes helped
- 19 Ayer town website; yes, but I did not understand it all.
- 20 Attended an information meeting put on by PACE, a local environmental group to help make residents aware where I was given handouts on PFAS. I prefer "in hand" documents and mail
- 21 Ayer circulated information. Yes
- 22 One supplied by the town. I found the information somewhat reassuring as the levels in our tap water are relatively low
- 23 Ma dph. Also medical toxicology sites
- 24 <https://www.ayer.ma.us/water-department/pages/pfas-drinking-water>
- 25 The articles are not accessible through the browser I use: Mozilla, which is unconscionable.
- 26 Went to the Devens & Ayer Pace meetings on this issue and read the literature. I did find the info helpful, but still did further research.
- 27 Info provided by the town. Found it inconsistent and concerning.
- 28 epa.gov - yes helpful
- 29 Those made available on the town's website. Yes.
- 30 I don't know who published the fact sheet I read.
- 31 I heard a story on NPR about PFAS, but it wasn't related to Devens.
- 32 Whichever one was sent home to the parents of children at Parker. Somewhat
- 33 Town of Ayer provided info
- 34 Pamphlet attached to email from town of air.
- 35 VT drinking water fact sheet, yes
- 36 The Ayer dpw sent one.
- 37 Those mailed to my house. Information made me feel there was not much I could do about it. Yes
- 38 Yes
- 39 EPA
- 40 A little informative no action steps indicated
- 41 NPR Radio
- 42 RAB Meeting minutes. Maps. fact sheets.
- 43 I read all the literature that residents get via US Mail as well as the Town emails.
- 44 Sometimes just brings it more questions than they answer.
- 45 Yes on Ayer website
- 46 Newspaper and magazine articles
- 47 Sort of. Very vague on the cause.
- 48 Information presented at a community information session. Information helpful in understanding the dangers of the contaminants, but does not resolve the issue/concerns/dangers.
- 49 The ones supplied by the Town of Ayer and PACE
- 50 Devens reports and Mass Development
- 51 it was an article in a national magazine. Don't remember which one.
- 52 They were all either too technical or lacking any reliable information
- 53 I do not remember what exactly I read.
- 54 I've read brief overviews of PFAS printed by the Town of Ayer's DPW.
- 55 Somewhat

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

- 56 Not really. It would help to have an information session about them.
- 57 Supplied by the town
- 58 many on the internet
- 59 When the Army first contacted me and gave me their handouts I also contacted a geologist/hydrologist to learn where to go to get facts to verify what I recieved from the Army representatives
- 60 Information submitted to the town Board of Selectmen from the town DPW office.
- 61 From our community meeting.
- 62 Sheets provided in mailings, RAB meetings, and local Devens and Ayer meetings about PFAS. The information is helpfullin terms of understanding the contamination, testing , and regulatory / guideline levels. It is, however, lacking in content with regard to specific health risks, timeframes for those risks, etc.
- 63 Ayer DPW, EPA, Mass DEP, Silent Spring Institute
- 64 EPA's summaries, ATSDR Tox Profile on PFAS, DEP'S information
- 65 I have read everything i can about PFAS

**Q17 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?**

Answered: 130 Skipped: 12



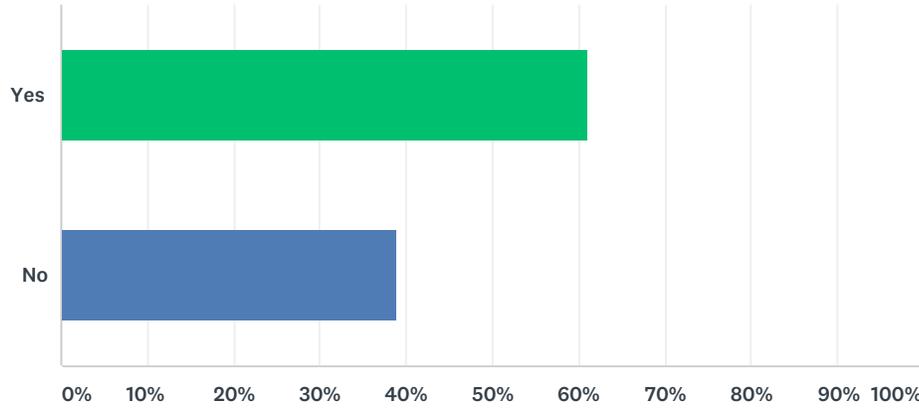
**ANSWER CHOICES**

**RESPONSES**

Yes	26.92%	35
No	66.92%	87
Not sure	6.15%	8
Comments:	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>130</b>

### Q18 If yes, have you ever attended a meeting?

Answered: 36 Skipped: 106



**ANSWER CHOICES**

Yes

No

TOTAL

**RESPONSES**

61.11%

38.89%

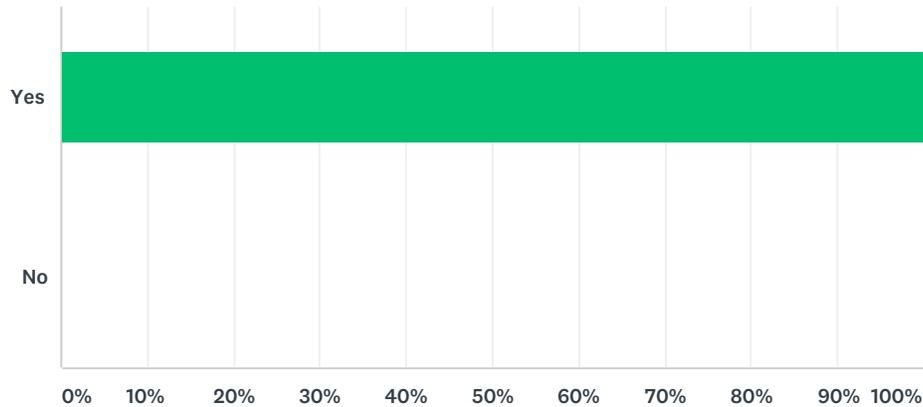
22

14

36

## Q19 If yes, did you find the meeting useful?

Answered: 22 Skipped: 120



### ANSWER CHOICES

### RESPONSES

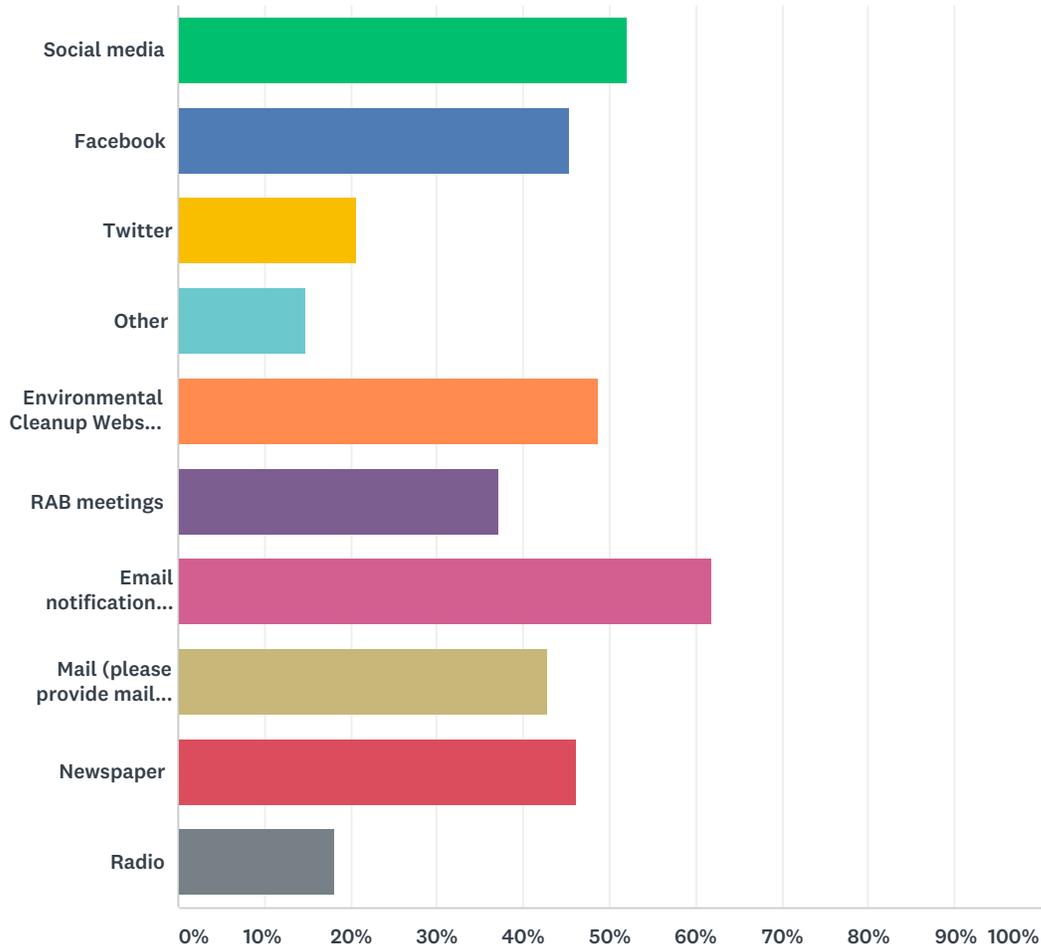
Yes	100.00%	22
No	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>22</b>

### # COMMENTS:

- 1 vary rarely attend (once or twice)
- 2 Publish agenda in advance so we know if relevant topics will be discussed
- 3 I've been on hiatus on this for some years now.
- 4 Unique meetings (right after PFAS news broke)- pretty full rooms due to news. Kind of technical but good information (I'm an engineer, so probably very technical for average resident). EPA, Army Corps, contractors, subcontractors at RAB meetings. DEP is usually at the public meetings, Army Corps not there. Depends on the person presenting- sometimes can make things sound scarier. Presentations may be too long, too technical for the average citizen.
- 5 Knew it existed- thought they would be too technical. Content is great and detailed, answering every question that comes up, likes the variety of stakeholders. Personally would like to see them more often, especially as things are moving more quickly
- 6 Army Corps has been doing a good job of public facing explanations that are in laymen terms
- 7 I am a regular attendee, so I am able to follow the presentations mostly. Others probably cannot follow.
- 8 The meetings are helpful and provide much more detail than the informational pamphlets and mailings. They also provide a much needed sense that the issue is being monitored and addressed rather than swept under the rug. However, they do not include any info with regard to specific health risks.
- 9 The meeting provided a great deal on information on remediation plans on Devens. I hope the next meeting includes information from the private well testing in Harvard.
- 10 Meeting provides me with information on the status of investigations

## Q20 What are your recommendations for how the Army should communicate about the PFAS investigation at the former Fort Devens? (check all that apply)

Answered: 121 Skipped: 21



### ANSWER CHOICES

### RESPONSES

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES (%)	Count
Social media	52.07%	63
Facebook	45.45%	55
Twitter	20.66%	25
Other	14.88%	18
Environmental Cleanup Website Updates (https://ftdevens.org)	48.76%	59
RAB meetings	37.19%	45
Email notification (please provide email address at the beginning of this questionnaire)	61.98%	75
Mail (please provide mailing address at the beginning of this questionnaire)	42.98%	52
Newspaper	46.28%	56
Radio	18.18%	22

Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

Total Respondents: 121

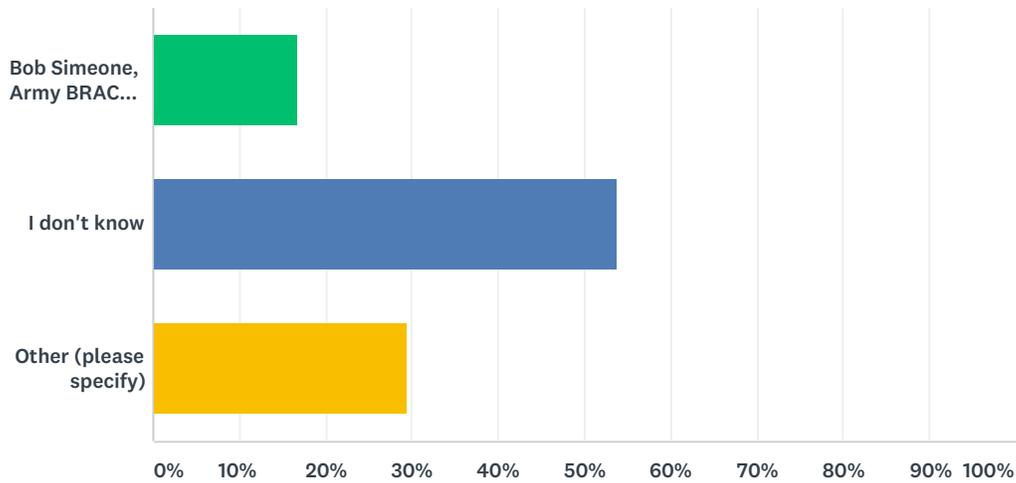
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)
1	Hazen Library handouts
2	Updates to local Boards of Health, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, local civic orgs, press releases to local newspapers, town government (Select Board, town administrator)
3	Devens Board of Health
4	Harvard Board of Selectpersons
5	Harvard's Next Door Forum website
6	Nextdoor Harvard; Harvard Press
7	The messaging hits different when different people are presenting- one presenter could convey a different level of scary compared to a different presenter.
8	Weekly newsletter from MassDevelopment- link to ftdevens.org
9	Come to a Selectmen's meeting every 6 months or if something changes
10	Phone call, Quarterly meeting with Commander
11	Weekly newsletter from MassDevelopment footnote (1-2 sentences or so)
12	You need social media, mail, and newspaper to reach the various age generations in the town. Transparency and honesty are not negotiable.
13	Getting people to the ftdevens.org website; getting word out about RAB meetings (on Nextdoor etc). No press release for testing in Harvard- taken by surprise by a Globe article (potential false information about PFAS in municipal water); more press releases about where the drilling would be happening and when
14	A face to talk to; having different messaging for different groups
15	Each of the towns' websites (Ayer, Shirley, Groton, Fort Devens. Something could go in the Action free paper
16	Mail is the only way you will be sure to reach all residents who do not tap into local news outlets
17	Use town communications to have the greatest circulation to town residents.
18	On Town of Ayer website
19	the web site needs to be more friendly: - accessible to different browsers - include the drop down links on the pages access by headings etc.
20	Give information to the surrounding towns to post on the towns website. Post in library. General call to local residents (a reverse 911).
21	The schools would be a great network to get information out to younger adults with great concerns on the future of the community. Often, they are busy with childrearing and working and tend to miss this type of important information.
22	LinkedIn
23	Urge Army to make ftdevens easier to find with cross references- we should be able to enter any of the following and find this website - and last time I tried it, we cannot: Devens, Deven, PFAS MA, PFAS Ayer, PFAS Devens, Ayer contamination, drinking water issues ayer, drinking water issues Devens, etc.
24	I think you should be using every method possible since this directly affects our health.
25	I think the more methods for communication, the better. Everyone gets their news in different ways.
26	Local cable channels Local town board members
27	Ayer selectmen
28	Perez releases

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- 29 Directly mailings to residents. Not everyone has access or wants access to social media or has newspaper subscriptions.
- 30 THe Town of Ayer DPW does a good job communicating and PACE People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment, also the Nashua River Watershed Association
- 31 In addition to all of the methods I checked, I'd suggest offering to present public information sessions in the affected communities. Reaching out to schools, town boards, local environmental groups such as Nashua River Watershed Association, and area public libraries could provide the Army with opportunities to partner with these groups and thus better disseminate information. Ayer Library may be able to host such a public program in Ayer.
- 32 Mailings to every residential address - NOT owner - in the impacted towns. Not everyone uses social media & email, and many people rent & won't receive notices from owners.
- 33 Mail to "Ayer Resident" or with DPW bills

## Q21 Who would you call if you had questions about the Army's PFAS investigation?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 23



### ANSWER CHOICES

### RESPONSES

Bob Simeone, Army BRAC Environmental Coordinator, robert.j.simeone.civ@mail.mil or 918.796.2205	16.81%	20
I don't know	53.78%	64
Other (please specify)	29.41%	35
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>119</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)
1	Mark Wetzel
2	email address
3	Town DPW
4	MassDevelopment or the Army
5	Mass DEP individuals such as Robert Bostwick, Dept. of the Army contractors Penny Reddy.
6	I would call Ron O. or his replacement
7	Laurie Nehaine
8	I would start with MassDEP, I guess
9	For Devens public affairs officer Pao
10	Harvard Board of Health
11	local Board of Health or MassDEP
12	Jessica Strunkin- VP of Devens
13	The Commander
14	His senator
15	Town hall
16	Would like a public relations/contact to call from the Army to clarify details
17	Nashoba BOH

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- 18 The PACE group seems most interested in having the residents backs in this crisis
- 19 Ayer town hall
- 20 I am utterly frustrated, so I say neighbors, spiritual support, and my realtor.
- 21 DPW Director of Ayer
- 22 I would start with Ayer's DPW Superintendent
- 23 Laurie Nehring, I know her and know she is very involved in the PFAS issue.
- 24 Ayer town hall
- 25 Town of Ayer, DPW
- 26 Town hall ask
- 27 Town Hall
- 28 Laurie Nehring
- 29 Mark Wetzel, Ayer Department of Public Works
- 30 Probably Mark Wetzel at the Ayer DPW.
- 31 Unclear, I would check websites for the Army at Fort Devens and possibly any Devens/ mass development sites to get pointed in the right direction
- 32 Peter Lowitt, Devens Enterprise Commission
- 33 Jim Moore or Jessica Strunkin or members of PACE in Ayer.
- 34 In addition to Bob, I would contacting other representatives that frequent the RAB meetings (from MassDevelopment, KGS, MassDEP, EPA, etc.)
- 35 Laurie Nehring, PACE

## Q22 Who do you think we should talk to as part of these community interviews?

Answered: 65 Skipped: 77

#	RESPONSES
1	Shirley Conservation Commission Shirley Water District board
2	Local Boards of Health, local water districts
3	I would get a sampling of respondents from the business community on Devens, the Chamber of Commerce, as well as residents.
4	Local Boards of Health, Nashoba Associated Boards of Health, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Shriver Job Corps, Devens HOA and Devens Condominium Associate, Devens businesses, Parker Charter School and other non-profit and social service programs on Devens like Transitions Women's Shelter, Veterans Housing, Local Council on Aging
5	everyone in affected neighborhoods
6	Parents of school aged children
7	Board of Health for Harvard Town administrator Tim Bragen
8	Town Meeting Attendees
9	I don't know
10	Long time residents, people who worked at Devens when it was active.
11	Myself and People who may be already experiencing health and financial impacts, "at risk" residents and those who might feel slighted by local town officials.
12	get broadest random sample - use good polling and sampling methods.
13	Anyone who lives in the affected area and wishes to be interviewed
14	Harvard abutters with private water. Orchards that use private Wells and may be putting contam water into top soil
15	Community members interested
16	Everyone in Ayer and the surrounding towns, especially towns past Ayer in the water flow pattern.
17	Residents from the towns effected. Not the elected officials since they're bias might come through.
18	Directly to the effected public.
19	the community
20	The schools - see above.
21	town officials
22	Ayer Environmental Committee, the Board of Selectmen and the public through a town meeting forum.
23	Local businesses, Beverage, Food Producers and restaurants
24	Ayer and Harvard Town Hall personnel and DPWs.
25	?
26	Hospitals, CDC, local leaders
27	Dpw.
28	No suggestions
29	Come to town meetings

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- 30 Local town officials
- 31 Department of public works
- 32 Local doctors, parents, school nurse, department of public works
- 33 First responders health organizers community leaders local residents
- 34 State environmental officials.
- 35 -All who attended any RAB meetings or PACE meetings -All relevant boards in all 4 towns: BoS, BoH, ConsComm, DPW dept, PB, Schools, daycares, churches, community organizations
- 36 water and other concerns
- 37 I think you should mail a survey to all residents, similar to what the US Census does. Feel free to reach out to me.
- 38 Unsure.
- 39 Citizens, business owners, towns board members
- 40 The large number of women who have devolved pre-eclampsia in our town during their pregnancies.
- 41 Home owners in established neighborhoods
- 42 State Representative Sheila Harrington Alan Manoian at the Town of Ayer.
- 43 All residents and business owners
- 44 No clue
- 45 Environmental watchdog groups, residents of towns impacted
- 46 Local water departments, conservation agents, Nashoba Nursing Service & associated Boards of Health, and other town officials, environmental groups (PACE, NRWA), Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce, local realtors, and businesses that may be especially affected by water quality or other environmental issues.
- 47 Selectmen; Cons. Comm. members; Town Manager; Water Dept.
- 48 members of local organizations, businesses, etc.
- 49 At a minimum the Board of Selectmen
- 50 Everyone! I just saw this notice today, when I stumbled upon it while searching the Ayer Town page for info on a Planning Board agenda . What if I hadn't seen it? Plus, you did a poor job of informing the community that this site exists, let alone making us aware of the chance for interviews LAST WEEK by publishing this info today. You need to extend the interview period over several weeks, so people can have a real opportunity to get time off work/childcare, and do the interviews here, in town hall & our senior housing, so that seniors & handicapped can also participate.
- 51 Townspeople, businesses, town governments.
- 52 Unknown
- 53 Dept of Public Works Manager
- 54 Alan Manoian!!!!!! No one is better at getting the word out. Also, local Ayer citizen, Ernie Guertin -- get him on your side and he'll make sure his fellows will hear the word.
- 55 Unclear- Do you have enough science to draw conclusions and develop plans of action that aren't controlled- constrained by other groups agendas
- 56 The Ayer Board of Selectmen: Scott Houde shoude@ayer.ma.us Jannice Livingston jlivingston@ayer.ma.us Chris Hillman chillman@ayer.ma.us
- 57 The Ayer Conservation Administrator.
- 58 Businesses, schools and organizations at Devens. The Devens Committee (residents). Real Estate agents and developers at Devens.
- 59 I hope that businesses are also being included in your interviews. Ken Quast at MagneMotion would be a good example of representing that perspective.

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- 60 Good cross-section (age, income, length of residence) of residents - not just people already involved with PACE or RAB
- 61 Ayer town Administrator Ayer conservation commission Ayer DPW Ayer planning board
- 62 Harvard residents on Old Mill Rd., Blanchard Rd., Harvard Depot Rd north of Old Shirley Rd.,
- 63 Long time residents, people who worked on Devens
- 64 Board of Selectmen
- 65 Ayer's PACE group

## Q23 Do you have any other questions or comments about the Army's PFAS investigation?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 83

### # RESPONSES

- 1 It would be good if you could hold a few information sessions at the Ayer Library and other local libraries. Could you please do more to inform the Town of Ayer? Thank you.
- 2
- 3 Does the Army plan to continue to monitor wells in the region? Water moves, which means that PFAS move. A single test is not sufficient. How long will the Army monitor?
- 4
- 5 Is there a plan to provide or reimburse for filters and filter refills?  
Please keep us in the loop.
- 6 There is no place as "Devens". By Statute it is the Devens Regional Enterprise Zone (DREZ). Calling it "Devens" is one of MaD's plans to try to make it seem like a municipality to make it easier for them to steal our towns' land, to create a new town for themselves!
- 7 Very interested in remediation options; also interested in federal vs state guidelines
- 8 RAB Meeting results should go to local newspapers for info awareness Maybe give more info/background on where, when, and why these contaminants were used. Have a tough time wanting to believe these toxins we're knowingly used despite laws to the contrary. Thanks.
- 9
- \*
- 10 Will you do testing of Harvard wells that border Devens?
- 11
- 12 I hope this can be done in a timely fashion. I am concerned that if we want to sell our house within the next year, we need to be sure our water is safe.
- 13 The outcome of turning over Devens to the surrounding towns is in flux due to the investigation. Around 8000 jobs were lost when the base closed-parts of the former fort are being sold for development and housing. Currently around 400 residents in 150+ households, anyone can come live in Devens. PFAS seems somewhat analogous to BPA- in the way that it captures national attention and prompts quick action. PFAS concerns are mainly about private wells from most citizens as many are not on water/sewage systems. Local restaurants- especially Devens Grill and Natural Cafe are concerned about PFAS in water as using bottle water would not be sustainable for businesses. Dislike the 'one drop in an Olympic sized pool' analogy, describe it as condescending and presenting a risk communication problem. Would love to know how long the Army Corps has known about PFAS and how long it has been a concern

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14 MassDevelopment has been doing a lot of good advertising of what the Army Corps has been saying/putting out. A big problem is that presenters keep referring health questions to primary care doctors, but primary care doctors don't know a lot about PFAS and the health risks associated with it. Appreciates the water bottles being handed out, both the thought and the quantity. Less local newspapers such as the Lowell Sun might be more transparent about the PFAS issue than MassDevelopment is Other towns may have a jaded view of Devens- especially the cleanup- due to the amount of tax payer money going to support the whole process of redevelopment, might have greater scrutiny whenever articles are written about the area Worried about future costs of well head treatment especially if Devens becomes its own town- questions why is Ayer getting money but Devens isn't? Why has the Army Corps taken responsibility for Ayer but not Devens? Appreciate how open the Army is being about the investigation and having the chance to ask questions. Thinks RAB meetings would be too technical, but know people who go (Devens advisory committee) who think they're very informative but can get long. Devens advisory committee gives a report of the updates to the investigation about once a month (and gives report to Jessica)- meetings are open to everyone. The town of Devens is being very proactive about wellhead protection and getting levels down to non-detect.

15  
16 Meeting with Commander with the bordering towns (quarterly) Someone from the Army to a Select-board meeting (1x year) Keeping him informed means just keeping policymakers informed

17 Collect health information on residents- how health issues have changed since 2000 (when they started moving people into these homes) especially cancer rates. Public Works has made a good effort to supply bottled water to residents. Other comments in general: -Most of the non-main roads in Devens are responsibility of the home owners but MassDevelopment has domain over them. This puts the cost of burden on individuals and families and HOAs, which is expensive and usually ineffective. Water runoff from private roads is not being maintained by the local government either. Utility work ends up degrading roads due to patch jobs. -Devens government is large for such a small community but only do what they have to do -Housing/buildings: build a lot of new things but aren't using many of the older buildings

18 This should have been monitored and fixed a long time ago. The use of these chemicals on base was no secret. It's shameful. The military needs to take care of its families and communities where it operates much more responsibly and proactively.

19 Data section of ftdevens.org- no real explanation about which data set is which, links could be more explanatory. Minutes- should be more detailed for the actual slides Agendas are missing- would like to see for the meetings

20 Currently a faceless problem- would like someone to go to for questions to the Army Corps. A liason who can message the investigation to different groups, as news hits differently for different people. Devens utilities seems to be more on top of communication of the problem than the Army Corps- thus he tends to get information from them rather than the Army Corps, or from MassDevelopment and other places like Nextdoor. Doesn't want to have any communication be a bureaucratic run around, wants a phone number or email to contact and speak with someone if he has questions. Would love to work with the Army Corps regarding learning opportunities for the students and to greater understand the extent of the problem.

21 no  
22 Yes, when will it be cleaned up and is there any recourse to those who may be negatively impacted

23 What is the long term plan to mitigate the PFAS?

24 Not right now....as new resident need to catch up on local issues

25 Too little, too late. I am deeply demoralized.

26 Not at this time.

27 Yes. Is there a resource center that can list filters equipped for removing PFAS from our water? Given the nature of this issue, are there any free filter that the town or army is willing to provide to residents?

28 what type of filtration system is required to remove PFAS

29 not at this time

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- 30 What is the status/outcome of the investigation so far? What are the current and long term effects to the local water supply? How wide spread is the contamination are? What is being done to resolve the issue? What needs to be done to address/resolve this matter?
- 31 No
- 32 ?
- 33 You should be paying for the water filtration system on the affected well. And it should have been done by now.
- 34 Keep me in the loop. Thanks
- 35 No
- 36 Typical DOD poor job of driving decisive action for a problem they created.
- 37 I'd like to know how residents will be compensated for having to purchase bottled water and water filters. I want the Army held accountable for long-term health effects for residents. I want a long-term study of residents' health!
- 38 Is Army following MA State guidelines, which are more stringent for drinking water limits to the family of PFASs compounds? Caution is the better path!
- 39 na
- 40 How long has the contamination existed? Will I get cancer/
- 41 Not at this time. Taking this survey has informed me on methods to learn more about the investigation.
- 42 How will my child be affected due to the exposure?
- 43 Are we safe during these years that only investigations are occurring? Especially vulnerable populations like infants, pregnant women, sick or elderly?
- 44 No
- 45 Yes, skip the investigation and fix the problem.
- 46 No
- 47 Just want to know what current activities are contributing to longterm water quality issues.
- 48 I'm a bit concerned about the short time period for completing this survey. I had not heard that this community survey was underway until I received an email from the Town of Ayer this morning - five days before the conclusion of the survey. Also, although I just returned from a week of vacation, I hadn't seen any printed copies of the surveys or posted information about it in town either. There are a lot of people who are not going to be able to complete an online survey, or even to print out a paper copy in order to complete it, so I fear that you will miss out on getting input from a significant portion of the local population. Again, I'd suggest that local town halls & public libraries could be helpful in getting the word out about the community involvement plan and making paper copies of the survey available to the public.
- 49 I appreciate your informing me of all of the above and hope you will continue to keep me informed via e-mail. Thank You
- 50 What is BRAC? It seems to be an important initialism but I don't see it defined anywhere.
- 51 I would like to know what water filters we can use in our home to protect us. No one has been able to provide that information in a clear and concise manner.
- 52 Not happy that the problem was known for so long, and dismissed by DoD, and that our town has had to impose severe water restrictions, expense, and effort to address the problems, and to educate residents & address their concerns. We're a military town - many of us served, or were dependents, and made deep sacrifices to support our country. Thus is like another slap in the face - taking away promised benefits to soldiers who served 20+ years during the WWII, Korea & Vietnam era, substandard VA care & facilities, no more full honor guards at military burials, even for a Purple Heart vet of 2 wars, buried at a military cemetery, substandard, dangerous housing for active duty families, and now this. It's disgrace. Change can start here & now.
- 53 No
- 54 Hopefully all info is easily accessible to the public.

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- 55 It would be helpful if the Army considered hosting a large community informational meeting in Ayer (not a RAB meeting) in which it was effectively publicized to the residents of Ayer and targeted toward the general public for general information.
- 56 Not at this time.
- 57 no
- 58 A handout from the Army would be most welcome at Ayer's spring and fall town meetings - should include how the Army intends to help Ayer with drinking water costs
- 59 Anxious for information about treatment systems for private wells.

**Appendix C**  
**Meeting Locations and Newspapers**

# Local Newspapers and Other Information Sources

## Harvard Press

1 Still River Road  
Harvard, MA 01451  
(978) 456-3700  
[www.harvardpress.com](http://www.harvardpress.com)

## Lowell Sun

491 Dutton Street, Suite 1  
Lowell, MA 01854  
(978) 459-1300  
[www.lowellsun.com/](http://www.lowellsun.com/)

## Nashoba Valley Voice

491 Dutton Street  
Lowell, MA 01854  
978-459-1300  
[www.nashobavalleyvoice.com/](http://www.nashobavalleyvoice.com/)

## Facebook Pages

Devens Enterprise Commission:  
<https://www.facebook.com/devensec/>

Town of Ayer:  
<https://www.facebook.com/AyerMA>

Town of Harvard:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Harvard-Massachusetts-120479257967897/>

Town of Lancaster Community Center:  
<https://www.facebook.com/lancastermass/>

Town of Shirley:  
<https://www.facebook.com/TownofShirleyMA/>

## The Acton-Boxborough Beacon

150 Baker Avenue Extension  
Concord, MA 01742  
978-371-5732  
<https://acton.wickedlocal.com/>

## Sentinel & Enterprise

808 Main Street  
P.O. Box 730  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
(978) 343-6911  
[www.sentinelandenterprise.com/news/local-news/](http://www.sentinelandenterprise.com/news/local-news/)

## The Clinton Item

156 Church Street  
Clinton, MA 01510  
(978) 368-0176  
[www.telegram.com/the-item](http://www.telegram.com/the-item)

# Public Meeting Locations

Town	Location	Phone	Capacity	Notes
Ayer	Ayer Town Hall	(978) 772-8220	50+	Large room upstairs but has poor acoustics and limited audio/visual resources Smaller room downstairs Book in advance. POC: Carly Antonellis (cantonellis@ayer.ma.us)
	Ayer Public Library	(978) 772-8250	Smaller room up to 10 Larger room up to 45	There is a large parking lot. Book in advance. POC: Samantha Benoit (sbenoit@cwmares.org)
	Ayer Fire Department	(978) 772-8231	Up to 10	
	Ayer Police Department	(978) 772-8220	Up to 50	Limited parking
	Department of Public Works Office	(978) 772-8240	6-8	
	Ayer Shirley Regional High School	(978) 772-8600	Auditorium: 600 Smaller room 40-45	Requires an online application - <a href="https://www.asrsd.org/">https://www.asrsd.org/</a>
	Ayer Shirley Regional Middle School	(978) 772-8600	Auditorium: 500	Requires an online application - <a href="https://www.asrsd.org/">https://www.asrsd.org/</a>
Harvard	Harvard Town Hall	(978) 456-4103	50+	Requires an online application - <a href="https://harvard.seamlessdocs.com/f/uppertownhall">https://harvard.seamlessdocs.com/f/uppertownhall</a>
	Harvard Public Library	(978) 456-4114	Up to 90	Requires advance reservation – only opens on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday through 9:00 pm.
Lancaster	Lancaster Town Hall	(978) 365-3326 x 1201		POC: Kathy Rocco: (krocco@lancasterma.net)
	Lancaster Public Library	(978) 368-8928	Larger room 68 Smaller room 22	Requires an online application: <a href="https://thayermemoriallibrary.org/meeting-room-request/">https://thayermemoriallibrary.org/meeting-room-request/</a>
Shirley	Shirley Town Hall	(978) 425-2600 x200	25-30	
	Shirley Public Library	(978) 425-2620	90	Requires an online application <a href="http://www.shirleylibrary.org/index.php/resources/meeting-room.html">http://www.shirleylibrary.org/index.php/resources/meeting-room.html</a>
Devens	MassDevelopment Office	(978) 784-2900 x 2933	100+	POC: Karen Davis

# **Appendix D**

## **Points of Contact**

OFFICE/ORGANIZATION	NAME	ADDRESS 1	ADDRESS 2	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>USACE and REGULATORS</b>								
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	Robert Simeone	30 Quebec Street		Devens	MA	01434	978-615-6090	robert.j.simeone.civ@mail.mil
USACE	Penny Reddy	696 Virginia Road		Concord	MA	01742	978-318-8238	penelope.w.reddy@usace.army.mil
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Carol Keating	5 Post Office Square, Suite 100	Mailcode OSRR7-03	Boston	MA	02109	617-918-1393	Keating.Carol@epa.gov
EPA	ZaNette Purnell, Public Affairs, Community Involvement Coordinator	5 Post Office Square, Suite 100	Mailcode ORA01-1	Boston	MA	02109	617-918-1306	Purnell.ZaNetta@epa.gov
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP)	David Chaffin	1 Winter Street		Boston	MA	02108	617-348-4005	david.chaffin@state.ma.us
Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)		250 Washington Street		Boston	MA	02108	617-624-6000	<a href="https://www.mass.gov/forms/contact-dph-by-web-form">https://www.mass.gov/forms/contact-dph-by-web-form</a>
<b>SHIRLEY</b>								
Town Administrator	Michael McGovern	7 Keady Way		Shirley	MA	01464	978-425-2600 x200	
Chair, Board of Selectmen	Debra Flagg	7 Keady Way		Shirley	MA	01464	978-425-2600	selectmen@shirley-ma.gov
Chair, Planning Board	Sarah Widing	7 Keady Way		Shirley	MA	01464	978-425-2600 x240	planning@shirley-ma.gov
Chair, Board of Health	Joseph Howlett II	7 Keady Way		Shirley	MA	01464	978-425-2600 x260	
Town of Shirley - Facebook Page								<a href="https://www.facebook.com/TownofShirleyMA/">https://www.facebook.com/TownofShirleyMA/</a>
<b>AYER</b>								
Town Manager	Robert Pontbriand	1 Main Street		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-8220	Ta@ayer.ma.us
Chair, Board of Selectmen	Shaun C. Copeland	1 Main Street		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-8220	
Superintendent, Public Works	Mark L. Wetzal, P.E.	25 Brook Street		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-8240	mwetzel@ayer.ma.us
Board of Health	Pamela Papineau	1 Main Street		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-8220	PPapineau@Ayer.ma.us boh@ayer.ma.us
Town Planner	Mark Archambault	1 Main Street		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-8218	planning@ayer.ma.us
Economic and Community Development	Alan Manoian	1 Main Street		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-8206	
Council on Aging	Karin Dynice-Swanfeldt	18 Pond Street Rear		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-8260	
Fire Department	Janet Poitras	Ayer Fire Station	1 West Main Street	Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-8231	
Police Department	William A. Murray	Ayer Police Department	54 Park Street	Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-8200	
Community Garden								AyerCommunityGarden@gmail.com
Ayer Library	Tim Silva	26 E. Main Street		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-8250 x 105	ayerlibrary@cwmar.org
Town of Ayer - Facebook Page								<a href="https://www.facebook.com/AyerMA">https://www.facebook.com/AyerMA</a>
<b>DEVENS</b>								
Director, Devens Enterprise Commission	Peter Lowitt	33 Andrews Parkway		Devens	MA	01434	978-772-8831	peterlowitt@devensec.com
Environmental Planner, Devens Enterprise Commission	Neil Angus	33 Andrews Parkway		Devens	MA	01434	978-772-8831 x3334	neilangus@devensec.com
Devens Enterprise Commission - Facebook Page								<a href="https://www.facebook.com/devensec/">https://www.facebook.com/devensec/</a>
MassDevelopment	Kathy O'Connor	33 Andrews Parkway		Devens	MA	01434	978-784-2933	koconnor@massdevelopment.com
MassDevelopment	Ron Ostrowski	33 Andrews Parkway		Devens	MA	01434	978-784-2900	rostrowski@massdevelopment.com
MassDevelopment	Jessica Strunkin	33 Andrews Parkway		Devens	MA	01434	978-784-2933	jstrunkin@massdevelopment.com

OFFICE/ORGANIZATION	NAME	ADDRESS 1	ADDRESS 2	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	EMAIL
MassDevelopment	Jim Moore	33 Andrews Parkway		Devens	MA	01434	978-784-2931	jmoore@massdevelopment.com
<b>HARVARD</b>								
Town Administrator	Timothy Bragan	13 Ayer Road		Harvard	MA	01451	978-456-4100 x313	tbragan@harvard.ma.us
Director of Community and Economic Development	Christopher Ryan	13 Ayer Road		Harvard	MA	01451	978-456-4100 x323	
Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent	Liz Allard	13 Ayer Road		Harvard	MA	01451	978-456-4100 x321	
Board of Health	Sharon McCarthy	13 Ayer Road		Harvard	MA	01451	978-456-4100 x328	sharonharvardboh@gmail.com
Town of Harvard - Facebook Page								<a href="https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Harvard-Massachusetts">https://www.facebook.com/Town-of-Harvard-Massachusetts</a>
<b>LANCASTER</b>								
Town Administrator	Orlando Pacheco	701 Main Street	2nd Floor	Lancaster	MA	01523	978-365-3326 x 1201	
Chair, Board of Selectmen	Jay Moody	701 Main Street	2nd Floor	Lancaster	MA	01523	978-365-3326 x 1201	
Superintendent, Public Works	Kevin Bartlett	329 Mill Street Extension		Lancaster	MA	01523	978-365-3326 x 1101	
Chair, Board of Health	John Farnsworth	701 Main Street	Suite 6, Lower Level	Lancaster	MA	01523	978-365-3326 x 1310	
Town of Lancaster Community Center	Alexandra Turner	695 Main Street	Suite 7	Lancaster	MA	01523	978-733-4076	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/lancastermass/">https://www.facebook.com/lancastermass/</a>
<b>FORT DEVENS</b>								
Chief, Directorate of Public Works	Ray Prisk	Devens RFTA	31 Quebec Street	Devens	MA	01434	978-615-6104	raymond.a.prisk.civ@mail.mil
Public Affairs Office		Devens RFTA	31 Quebec Street	Devens	MA	01434	978-615-6021	
<b>COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES</b>								
PACE Technical Consultant	Richard Doherty							ecr10@verizon.net
PACE, President	Laurie Nehring							lnehring100@gmail.com
PACE, RAB Co-Chair	Julie Corenzwit							julie.corenzwit@verizon.net
PACE	Beth Suedmeyer							bsuedmeyer@hotmail.com
Devens Committee	Thomas Kinch	61 Elm Road		Devens	MA	01434		
Devens Committee	Robert Corrieri	21A Elm Road		Devens	MA	01434		robertcorrieri@gmail.com
Devens Committee	Kathleen Cuoco	27 Elm Road		Devens	MA	01434		
Assistant Director of Advocacy Mass Audubon	Heidi Ricci	208 South Great Road		Lincoln	MA	01773	781-259-2172	hricci@massaudubon.org
Chairman of the Board Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce	Melissa Fetterhoff	2 Shaker Road	Suite B200	Shirley	MA	01464	978-425-5761	melissa@nvcoc.com
Executive Director, North County Land Trust	Anna Wilkins	325 Lindell Avenue		Leominster	MA	01453	978-466-3900	awilkins@northcountylantrust.org
Nashua River Watershed Association	Elizabeth Ainsley Campbell, Executive Director	592 Main Street		Groton	MA	01450	978-448-0299	EAC@NashuaRiverWatershed.org
Seven Hills ASPIRE!		22 Grant Road		Devens	MA	01434	978-391-8221	
Shriver Job Corps Center		270 Jackson Road		Devens	MA	01434	800-733-5627	
Nashoba Association Boards of Health	William J. Brookings, R.S.						978-772-3335 x 304	wbrookings@nashoba.org
TaraVista Behavioral Health Center	Dr. Michael Krupa, CEO and Founder	85 Patton Road		Devens	MA	01434	978-615-5200	
VFW Post 6556 of Nashoba Valley		21 Taylor Street		Littleton	MA	01460	978-486-3966	
AMVETS		5 South Street		Hudson	MA	01749		
The Harvard Conservation Trust		102 Prospect Hill Road		Harvard	MA	01451	978-456-9292	
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	The Reverend Joyce L. Sherer-Hoock, Rector	7 Faulkner Street		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-2615	info@standrewsayer.org

OFFICE/ORGANIZATION	NAME	ADDRESS 1	ADDRESS 2	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	EMAIL
Nashoba Valley Catholic Collaborative	Reverend Edmond Derosier, Pastor	31 Shirley Street		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-2414	pastor@nvcc-ma.org
Congregational Church of Harvard	The Reverend Ed Koonz, Interim Minister	5 Still River Road		Harvard	MA	01451		office@harvardmaucc.org
Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church	Rev. Jill Cowie, Minister	9 Ayer Road		Harvard	MA	01451	978-456-8752	minister@uuharvard.org
Ayer Shirley Regional School District	Dr. Mary Malone, Superintendent	115 Washington Street		Ayer	MA	01432	978-8600 x1508	mmalone@asrsd.org
Applewild School	Sherri Ebner	27 Jackson Road		Devens	MA	01430	978-796-5183	sebner@applewild.org
Evergreen Garden Playschool/Oxbow Schoolhouse	Paula Sousa, Director	270 Barnum Road		Devens	MA	01434	978-772-9500	
Francis W. Parker Charter Essential School	Todd Sumner, Principal	49 Antietam Street		Devens	MA	01434	978-772-3293	tsumner@theparkerschool.org
Guild of St. Agnes	Melissa Nikander, Director	172 Jackson Road		Devens	MA	01434	978-772-4323	
Mount Wachusets Community College	Dr. James Vander Hooven	444 Green Street		Gardner	MA	01440	978-632-6600	
Mount Wachusets Community College Department of Earth/Environmental Science		One Jackson Place	27 Jackson Road	Devens	MA	01434	978-630-9569	devens2@mwcc.mass.edu
Harvard Hills Homeowners Association	Mike Donabedian	53 Walnut Street		Devens	MA	01434	978-772-4050	
Harvard Hills Condominium Association	Phil Crosby	46 Central Avenue, #1		Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-9424	
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry	Pam Stern, Executive Director	P.O. Box 1	234 Barnum Road, Devens	Ayer	MA	01432	978-772-4627 x 310	online form at <a href="https://loavesfishespantry.org/contact-us/contact-form/?recip=director">https://loavesfishespantry.org/contact-us/contact-form/?recip=director</a>

ORGANIZATION	TITLE	NAME	ADDRESS 1	ADDRESS 2	CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE	EMAIL
<b>FEDERAL ELECTED OFFICIALS</b>									
U.S. Senate	Senator	Elizabeth Warren	2400 JFK Federal Building	15 New Sudbury Street	Boston	MA	02203	617-565-3170	online form: <a href="https://www.warren.senate.gov/contact/send-me-updates">https://www.warren.senate.gov/contact/send-me-updates</a>
U.S. Senate	Senator	Ed Markey	975 JFK Federal Building	15 New Sudbury Street	Boston	MA	02203	617-565-8519	online form: <a href="https://www.markey.senate.gov/contact">https://www.markey.senate.gov/contact</a>
U.S. Representative, District 3	Representative	Lori Trahan	126 John Street	Suite 12	Lowell	MA	01852	978-459-0101	online form: <a href="https://trahan.house.gov/contact/">https://trahan.house.gov/contact/</a>
<b>STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS</b>									
Governor	Governor	Charlie Baker	Massachusetts State House, Office of the Governor	Sroom 280	Boston	MA	02133	617-725-4005	constituent.services@state.ma.us
Senate, Middlesex and Worcester	Senator	James B. Eldridge	255 Main Street		Marlborough	MA	01752	617-722-1120	James.Eldridge@masenate.gov
Representative, 1st Middlesex	Representative	Sheila C. Harrington	24 Beacon Street	Room 237	Boston	MA	02133	617-722-2305	Sheila.Harrington@mahouse.gov
Representative, 37th Middlesex	Representative	Jennifer E. Benson	24 Beacon Street	Room 237	Boston	MA	02133	617-722-2430	jennifer.benson@mahouse.gov

**Appendix E**  
**Responses to Comments**

**Comments on Draft Community Involvement Plan (Koman Government Solutions/Jacobs, draft submittal dated December 19, 2019)**

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<b>Devens Enterprise Commission</b>				
<b>Comment No.</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Comment (December 23, 2019)</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	3.4- Schools and Recreation	12-13	Under Schools in section 3 please add the Parker Charter School (grades 7-12) and Applewild Community School (k-1) to your list of schools in Devens.	These schools have been added to Section 3.4.

<b>Bob Burkhardt</b>				
<b>Comment No.</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Comment (January 7, 2020)</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	General	Global	Regarding the CIP for PFAS, you should consider including the prison population in Shirley as a separate community (and perhaps the Federal prison population in Ayer although I'm not sure how significant it is). The demographics are very different, and the communities are very separate. I think you will get a more accurate portrayal of the population in the area if you do this.	Thank you for the comment. A representative of each prison will be offered an opportunity to participate in a phone interview to provide their input on the CIP, particularly regarding any different communication needs for the prison communities. Should the interviews occur, results will be added to the CIP, including any differing outreach needs. In addition, a representative of each prison will be added to the mailing list to make sure they receive general public communications.

<b>Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)</b>				
<b>Comment No.</b>	<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Comment (January 24, 2020)</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	2.6	7, final paragraph	This description of the PFAS RI should be updated to: (1) clarify that the RI was undertaken to determine the nature and extent of PFAS contamination because the results from the SI confirmed the presence of PFAS contamination, (2) note that RI work plans were prepared during summer 2018, (3) note that field work commenced during fall 2018, and (4) provide a brief summary of the current status of the investigation.	Section 2.6 will be updated with the details noted and to capture the dynamic nature of the current RI and the most current status. Reference to the website will be added for readers to find updates on the status of investigations.
2	2.6	9	A short paragraph should be added to provide an update on the regulatory status of PFAS. In particular, the plan should note that in December 2019 MassDEP proposed regulations that would replace the cited ORS Guideline with a Maximum Contaminant Level of 20 ppt for the total concentration of six PFAS contaminants, and the paragraph should explain that the RI will be adjusted as necessary to satisfy the requirements resulting from the promulgation of the MCL.	Section 2.6 will be expanded to include the suggested details.
3	Table 3-1	12	Footnote c should be added.	Footnote c will be removed from table 3-1 – the footnote for unemployment rate should be footnote b.
4	4.3	21-26	The plan indicates the Army will consider conducting several non-required community involvement activities, including modifying the RAB meetings (Section 4.3.2), poster board open houses (Section 4.3.3), distributing email updates (Section 4.3.5), preparing and distributing fact sheets (Section 4.3.6), and developing an interactive comment page (Section 4.3.8). Assuming the plan is intended to serve as description of the activities that will be conducted, rather than a description of activities that will be considered, the non-required activities that may be conducted should be considered now along with the recently acquired community feedback to determine the activities that will be conducted, and the plan should be revised to present the decisions reached.	Section 4.3 will be updated to reflect which non-required community involvement activities the Army plans to implement. However, some language may remain open ended to provide Army with the flexibility to alter community involvement activities during implementation to meet the needs and/or request of community stakeholders.

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5	General	Global	MassDEP suggests that microphones and a portable PA system be used to compensate for poor acoustics when conducting meetings in the Ayer Great Room.	Comment acknowledged. The Army plans to use rooms with better acoustics for future RAB meetings and will book in advance accordingly. Should meetings need to be held in the Ayer Great Room, the Army will use appropriate acoustic instruments.
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MassDevelopment				
Comment No.	Section	Page	Comment (January 30, 2020)	Response
1	2.3, paragraph 2	4	Please change "more than 4000 workers" to "approximately 5000 workers."	Section 2.3 will be revised with the suggested edit.
2	2.6, paragraph 4	7	When referring to the "Devens Fire Station" please include the fact that this is also the location of the Former Fort Devens Fire Station which was operated historically by the Army.  The phrase "including a 4,160 ppt concentration adjacent to the fire station" inappropriately singles out the maximum PFAS concentration detected near the former Fort Devens fire station, but is silent on the 4-digit to 5-digit ppt PFAS concentrations detected at Moore Airfield and other AOCs. Please change this paragraph to either delete numeric PFAS concentrations or put them into better perspective with the rest of the SI and early RI findings.	Comment acknowledged. Section 2.6 will be revised to incorporate comments provided by MassDevelopment as well as other stakeholders. The revised Section 2.6 will incorporate the suggestions provided in this comment.
3	2.6	9	Consider adding an additional Section Heading at the top of the page with regard to water treatment.  This section is confusing to the reader because the deactivation of MacPherson well is acknowledged, and then the start of treatment is mentioned two paragraphs down. Further explanation is warranted, and a timeline may be helpful.	Comment acknowledged. Section 2.6 will be revised to incorporate the suggestions provided in this comment and those of other Stakeholders.
4	2.6	9	Please change "by the end of 2019" to "the beginning of 2020." Also please change the last sentence to "Permanent treatment is planned for the MacPherson, Shabokin, and Patton wells."	Section 2.6 will be revised with the suggested edits.
5	3.1, paragraph 5	11	Please change "more than 4000 workers" to "approximately 5000 workers."	Section 3.1 will be revised with the suggested edits.
6	3.5	13	To clarify for lay-people, it would be helpful if this section stated that the "abundant aquifers" are the source of water to both Devens' water-supply wells and Ayer's Grove Pond wells. Further, it would be helpful to distinguish these sand and gravel aquifers, which the quote refers to, from the underlying bedrock, as most lay-people associate water-supply wells with deep bedrock "artesian" that are the most common wells used to supply potable water to homes and farms.  Please change "No private wells are allowed at Devens" to "No private drinking water wells are allowed at Devens."	Section 3.5 will be revised to clarify for the lay reader what the aquifers are, and which are used to for public water supply wells.
7	4.2.2, paragraph 4	18	Please note that MassDevelopment is not currently able to provide regular public access for an information repository at its Devens office, and suggests that the surrounding town libraries (e.g., Ayer, Shirley, and Harvard) would be more appropriate locations.	Comment acknowledged. The Army is working to ensure that the Information Repository, which is a small set of very public-friendly documents, can be located at the Ayer Library. The current Administrative Record, which contains all technical reports, resides at the Devens BRAC office. Many recent technical documents are available online through the ftdevens.org website, which the Army plans to expand to include all documents since 2015.

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8	Appendix A		It seems ill advised to simply excerpt the last Five-Year-Review instead of preparing a current description of AOCs that are actually associated with the PFAS Remedial Investigation. Appendix A includes certain site descriptions that are not related to the PFAS Remedial Investigation and does not discuss PFAS at all. In fact, because PFAS is not addressed, the protectiveness statements are misleading.	Appendix A will be removed and Sections 2.5 and 2.6 will be updated to provide context regarding the AOCs and the PFAS RI. Rather than including an excerpt from a previous Five-Year-Review, the Community Involvement Plan will provide stand-alone information and reference the Five-Year Review currently in progress.
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Environmental Protection Agency				
Comment No.	Section	Page	Comment (January 31, 2020)	Response
1	2.6, line 4	7	I think we should remove 'including cancer' and change to 'increases risks of cancer' or remove the mention of cancer and only reference the EPA or ATSDR link or factsheet on PFAS	Section 2.6 will be revised to reference EPA sources of information about PFAS.
2	General	Global	Add a site team contact list of Army, EPA and MassDEP	An up-to-date contact list will be included in the revised CIP.
3	General	Global	Add an action plan that shows a sequence of activities tied to milestones within the Superfund cleanup process, if possible, with anticipated time frames	Army is working closely with EPA and DEP in developing and implementing a schedule for PFAS-related activities. Given the dynamic nature of PFAS regulations and the investigations completed to date, specific milestone dates are not recommended to be included in the CIP so as to avoid creating potential conflicts with other forthcoming regulatory submittals. Table 5-1 shows when required community involvement activities will be implemented in relation to CERCLA process steps, and Table 5-2 indicates the frequency with which additional community involvement activities will be implemented.
4	General	Global	Add a tentative schedule of major activities coming up in the next five years with "(subject to change)" in parentheses near the heading	A general summary of activities anticipated within the next five years will be added to the CIP. As stated above, specific milestones are not recommended to be included in the CIP.
5	General	Global	Possibly mention the source of funding for site cleanup	Section 1.3 will be revised to address funding.
6	3.7.3	14	In communication tools and concerns, add a brief summary on how the site team responded to those concerns	Community concerns were gathered primarily through one-way communication (Survey Monkey); this CIP represents the Army's plan for addressing those concerns.

People of Ayer Concerned about the Environment (PACE)				
Comment No.	Section	Page	Comment (March 6, 2020)	Response
1	1	1-3	I appreciate this report including the following:  1. List of Acronyms and abbreviations. (Please continue to limit the use of these during RAB meetings and/or make sure to define them as they are used!) 2. Good historic summary	Thank you for the comment.
2	2.4	4-6	I really like this table and summary and suggest that this be created as a FACT SHEET and made available at all future RABs, so that the general public can visualize how complex this process is, and where we are in the process. Perhaps even include it in all future reports.	Thank you for the comment. Content for the future fact sheets will be considered during CIP implementation.
3	2.3	4	<i>"The Nashua River, a designated National Wild and Scenic River flows north-south through the region"</i>  -Please state date this occurred to imply its significance	Section 2.3 will be revised with the suggested edit.

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4	2.6	9	<p><i>"The Army is currently implementing a time- critical removal action for the Ayer public wells. This action includes temporary treatment of well 8 using granular activated carbon (online in June 2019)."</i></p> <p>- Suggest removing "currently" and replace with a specific time. Please explain/elaborate what well 8 means, and why this was the only well being treated at Ayer's wells.</p>	Section 2.6 will be revised to incorporate this comment, as well as comments provided by other stakeholders.
5	2.6	9	<p><i>"In addition to these steps, MassDevelopment has implemented temporary treatment for its wells. Granular activated treatment began on the MacPherson well"</i></p> <p>- Please verify: Is GAC temporary at MacPherson wells?</p>	Section 2.6 will be revised to incorporate this comment, as well as comments provided by other stakeholders.
6	3.3	12	Has the calculation for EJ communities changed since the last CIP? Or since 1994, when this work began?	Environmental justice applicability was not previously analyzed for the Former Fort Devens and was not included in this last CIP. The EPA tool used to analyze environmental justice applicability, EJSCREEN, was introduced in 2015 while the original CIP was written in 1994.
7	3.4	12	Schools: Please also mention other schools on Devens: Parker Charter Essential School, Middlesex Community College and daycare programs.	Section 3.4 will be revised with the suggested additions.
8	3.5	13	Please include a description of the public water supplies for Devens and Ayer, who obtain their water from groundwater. Include a map, showing Zone I areas.	Section 3.5 will be revised to clarify for the lay reader what the aquifers are, and which are used for public water supply wells.
9	3.6	13	<p><i>"PACE also participates in meetings of the Base Cleanup Team..."</i></p> <p>- We appreciate the supporting comment about PACE. Please reword about PACE's attendance at BCT meetings, as PACE participates when we are allowed (or invited) to attend. We recognize that some meetings need to cover sensitive topics and cannot be opened to PACE, however, we always find them very informative on a more deeply technical level than the RABs.</p>	Comment acknowledged. Section 3.6 will be revised with the suggested additions.
10	3.6	13	<p><i>"...maintaining information repositories and an Administrative Record (AR) file and providing other community involvement activities as required or as warranted."</i></p> <p>- How does one access these repositories and/or the AR?</p>	Section 4.2.3 identifies how the Administrative Record is currently accessed.
11	4	17	Please avoid acronyms: AR. Write out Administrative Record instead. And, again, where is the AR?	The use of acronyms through the CIP will be limited, as applicable. The currently location of the Administrative Record is described in Section 4.2.3. – it is currently at the Devens BRAC office.

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12	4	17	<p><i>“Regular TRC meetings beginning in 1991; then RAB meetings beginning in 1994 (currently held quarterly) • Distribution of periodic fact sheets as needed • Establishment of the former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup website (<a href="http://www.ftdevens.org">www.ftdevens.org</a>)”</i></p> <p>- Please add that RAB meetings were formerly held monthly for many years. When did they become Quarterly? Later, we ask to consider bimonthly meetings (i.e., 6 times per year.) due to the rapid increase of work on PFAS, along with the ongoing remediation of the other sites.</p> <p>- The website <a href="http://www.ftdevens.org">www.ftdevens.org</a> is now considerably more easy to find through Google. Thank you for this fix. The website itself, however, could be a lot more user friendly. Reports links identified as “AOC 5 Water Results,” for example, do not provide a new user with any idea of what they are looking at. Please consider librarian-like guides to these sites and sources, where keywords and site names are identified. Include a map on every tab that likewise identifies the site names.</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged. The CIP will be updated to note that RAB meetings were previously held on a monthly basis.</p> <p>The Army will consider more frequent RAB meetings if needed, but believes that implementation of additional community outreach activities as described in the CIP may meet the communication needs of the general public, without adding more frequent RAB meetings.</p> <p>The Army plans to upgrade the website to make it more user-friendly and, if possible, to modify the documents section of the website into a searchable online Administrative Record for all documents post-2015. These comments will be considered in the implementation of changes to the website.</p>
14	4.1	17	<p><i>“Keep residents and local officials in the towns surrounding the former Fort Devens informed about planned and ongoing cleanup actions, major findings, and decisions”</i></p> <p>-Highly recommend that they Army/EPA/DEP representatives attend Board of Selectmen and/or Board of Health meetings in each of the towns at least once per year, or on an ‘as needed’ basis to keep the communication lines open and comfortable. When people meet face-to-face, they are more likely to communicate directly, when they need to. Do not wait to ‘be invited’. Make this an annual and expected update meeting</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged. The Army is willing to consider making annual update presentations to the Boards of Selectmen and/or Boards of Health for each town, but will need to coordinate with EPA and DEP.</p>
15	4.2.1	18	<p>Please designate a Contact Person. I am unable to locate Mr. Robert Simeone’s contact information on any of the pages in the Ftdevens.org webpages. Please correct this.</p>	<p>Mr. Simeone’s contact information is available on the website under the “Contact Us” tab.</p>

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16	4.2.2	18	<p>As a frequent user of the Ayer Library, I am deeply concerned about the references made to the Ayer Library being a repository for Devens remediation documents. On February 26, I contacted the adult librarian there (Samantha Benoit) to verify the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o –“Ayer PUBLIC Library” is not correct. Please rename as “Ayer Library”</li> <li>o -The Ayer Library WAS a repository until about 1999 (according to Samantha. I remember, however, these documents were there longer- until about 2002). The documents were not maintained by the Army- the librarians were overwhelmed with the quantity and didn’t understand how to organize them. The Ayer Library has since discarded all of the older reports. So, while they do maintain a special collection for Military resources in our region, they do NOT have any Devens remediation reports from the Army.</li> <li>o -The Ayer library has not committed to holding onto PFAS reports or documentation now, or in the future. My opinion is that unless Army makes a specific and clear arrangement to have the Ayer Library maintain such documents and make them available to the public, the Ayer library will <u>not</u> be willing or able to manage this addition to their already very full and busy library services. I recommend talking directly to the new library director, Mr. Tim Silva.</li> </ul> <p>-I asked about location of the PFAS Fact Sheets. Due to concerns about theft, Samantha stated these were available behind the librarian’s desk, and available upon request. Again, a conversation with Tim Silva, library director, would likely result in making these fact sheets readily available to the public, as Army had intended.</p> <p>-Timing: Please ensure that the entire AR is maintained through some accessible resource, in perpetuity. While I prefer hard copies, especially in reviewing maps, I recognize this is probably not feasible. The AR could be maintained in electronic format through the State Library or through a local university, such as Fitchburg State University</p>	<p>Comments acknowledged. The Information Repository is distinct from the Administrative Record and is intended to include only brief summary material and documents available for public comment for a limited time. In the past, the much larger Administrative Record file, containing all environmental documents and reports related to a site, were typically kept at public libraries, often overwhelming local resources. Administrative Record hard copies and electronic files for the former Fort Devens are currently kept at the BRAC office for public review.</p> <p>The Army plans to upgrade the website to make it more user-friendly and, if possible, to modify the documents section of the website into a searchable online Administrative Record for all documents post-2015. These comments will be considered in the implementation of changes to the website.</p> <p>The Army is currently coordinating with the Ayer Library, and if needed, with other local public locations such as other libraries or town halls, about placement of the significantly smaller Information Repository.</p>
17	4.2.4	19	<p>Please write out PACE as People of Ayer Concerned About the Environment. Include our FB page: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PACEayer/">https://www.facebook.com/PACEayer/</a></p>	<p>Section 4.2.4 will be revised with the suggested addition.</p>
18	4.2.5	19-20	<p>Please include statement that notifications will also be forwarded to all those individuals and organizations that request to be on the email list. Please make a deliberate effort to include press releases to local social media sites and plan to update these quarterly</p>	<p>Section 4.2.5 will be revised with the suggested addition.</p>
19	4.2.6	20	<p>When referring to the “Information Repository” Please strive to make hard copies of documents readily accessible to the public for each and every announcement. State the location, contact information and the hours of availability.</p>	<p>Please note that the Information Repository is distinct from the Administrative Record and is not intended to include comprehensive data reports. Documents currently available for public review during a public comment period, and information of general interest will be placed in the Information Repository. When established, the location and contact information for the information repository will be publicized, as well as the website address for finding documents.</p>
20	4.3.1	21-22	<p>I agree fully with the description of the RAB. This is clearly articulated, highlighting the purpose and goals of local community members communicating directly with the Army Corps, US EPA and MassDEP</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged.</p>

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21	4.3.1	22	<p><i>"Current Implementation"</i></p> <p>-I am troubled by this description, and do NOT agree with several of the statements made. It would be helpful to include what the original "official" mission statement and RAB Charter was, along with the outline of responsibilities of RAB members, operating procedures and ground rules. How did one become an "official" RAB member? How would these "official" RAB members communicate effectively with the Army Corp and its consultants to learn the status/issues of the various ongoing projects, to determine how to set the Agenda?</p> <p>I believe that PACE members (and others) who attend these meeting regularly should be considered "Official Members of the RAB." It was my understanding that Julie Corenzwit is still the community co-chair for Ayer. Members of PACE make significant contribution and comments during the discussions at the RAB. I believe these are taken seriously and seem to be considered in the decision making process. Mr. Robert Simone regularly asks for suggestions for agenda items at future RAB meetings, so a discussion of the current projects for discussion would be an easy next step.</p> <p>I agree that RABs can be less formal. During RAB meetings, however, regular attendees, (such as PACE and the Ayer Board of Health), must be able to "collectively advise the Army or participate as a group in the decision making process." This CIP seems to indicate that currently, there are no official RAB members that can do this</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged. The section will be updated to reflect that the original mission and charter of the RAB were not documented, including written member responsibilities, operating procedures, and ground rules. These written guidelines for RABs are spelled out in the RAB Rule and the RAB Rule Handbook, which were issued in 2006 and 2007, respectively.</p> <p>The Army intends to bring the Fort Devens RAB more in line with current RAB guidelines, as spelled out in the RAB Rule Handbook, without fundamentally changing the structure or operations, or membership of the current RAB. Changes will be made by re-chartering the RAB, which will be in consultation with the current RAB attendees.</p>
22	4.3.1	22	<p><i>"Planned Implementation"</i></p> <p>-With the new concerns regarding PFAS, certainly recruiting new community members and involvement is an important goal. For future planned implementation, PACE, along others (i.e., Boards of Health, Devens Community Meeting members, NRWA) should be included as a stakeholders to determine the future structure of the RABs (not just the BCT).</p> <p>I support holding RAB meetings 6 times per year (every other month). There is not adequate time available under the current quarterly meeting format to cover both PFAS issues and the ongoing remediation of the other sites</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged. Specific measures to re-charter the RAB will be determined in consultation with current RAB attendees and in accordance with the RAB Rule Handbook. Should additional RAB members be recruited, a RAB selection committee consisting of representatives of stakeholder community groups will be established, along with criteria for selecting individual RAB members.</p> <p>The Army will consider more frequent RAB meetings if needed, but believes that implementation of additional community outreach activities as described in the CIP may meet the communication needs of the general public, without adding more frequent RAB meetings.</p>
23	4.3.1	22	<p><i>"Restructuring the RAB"</i></p> <p>- A plan to recruit new members through outreach efforts is warranted, especially in the surrounding towns. It is imperative that PACE and other regular attendees be involved with this process in order to review and discuss the DoD 2007 RAB Handbook and the RAB Rule itself.</p> <p>It must be clear that the Army is NOT trying to eliminate or downsize the intent and legal purpose of the RAB. For example, what does "soliciting RAB applications" mean? Certainly, encouraging new interest and involvement would be helpful, but this sounds threatening</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged. As stated above, should RAB members be recruited, a RAB selection committee and selection criteria will be established, as per the RAB Rule Handbook. "Soliciting RAB applications" means allowing additional people to apply to be members of the RAB; those applications would then be reviewed by the RAB selection committee.</p>

Comments on Draft Community Involvement Plan (Koman Government Solutions/Jacobs, draft submittal dated December 19, 2019)

Former Fort Devens Superfund Site

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24	4.3.2	22	<p>Change "may include" to "will include"</p> <p>I strongly support expansion of notifications of RAB meetings, as described previously. I also support all of the other bulleted items in this section.</p> <p>Suggest move RAB meetings held in Ayer to the Ayer-Shirley regional High School. Meeting reservations must be made online, in advance. A high tech room can provide all of the needed presentation technologies with microphones, if requested in advance. (There may, however, be a small fee for setup and cleanup)</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged. Re-chartering the RAB will be part of CIP implementation; however, specific changes should not be spelled out in the CIP in order to allow the Army to work with the regulators and existing RAB to determine exactly what will be changed.</p> <p>The Ayer-Shirley High School is included in the list of public meeting locations in Appendix D. The Army will ensure that RAB meetings are held in rooms that adequately meet the needs for the meetings, including appropriate size and acoustic.</p>
25	4.3.2	22-23	<p><i>"Current Implementation"</i></p> <p>- This section describes how current RABs cover a great deal of information and that community members may not want or need the level of detail provided.</p> <p>PACE members and others DO want this level of detail, and in fact, we'd like even MORE detail! If the RABs evolve to NOT include opportunities to go into detail, please come up with another opportunity to do so, such as regularly inviting PACE (and our TAG Consultant) to the BCT meetings that are held each month.</p> <p>For RAB meeting summaries, consider videotaping meetings for those who would like to replay the discussions to better understand the presentations.</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged, efforts to make RAB meetings more accessible will be considered during CIP Implementation.</p>
26	4.3.2	23	<p><i>"Planned Implementation"</i></p> <p>- Please change statements in this section to requirements, not possibilities. i.e., Please change "The Army will <u>consider</u> sending electronic notices.." to "The Army <u>will</u> send electronic notices.. "</p> <p>Change "could" to "will" throughout this paragraph.</p> <p>Change "may:" to "will"</p> <p>Change "will <u>consider</u>" to "will"</p> <p>I support the idea of placing reusable poster boards in libraries and ideally also outside, in key town locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great idea to create more detailed meeting summaries. I fully support this.</li> <li>• Evaluating RAB frequency: Discussed previously to have more frequent meetings.</li> <li>• Consider offering light refreshments at meetings. This is a proven motivator!</li> </ul>	<p>The draft final CIP will include which activities the Army plans to conduct (using definitive verbs such as "will") and which activities may be considered. By including activities that are not initially planned but may be considered, or may be implemented as needed, the CIP provides the Army with flexibility to adapt its community outreach plans as needed to meet community needs.</p> <p>Detailed changes to the RAB will be determined during re-chartering of the RAB.</p>
27	4.3.3	24	<p>This is an interesting idea/concept. Offering them before and/or after RAB meetings is a great idea. Please consider the possibility of coordinating Poster Board meetings when another [local] event or community gathering brings people out (i.e., voting day or before a Board of Selectmen meeting). I believe these local meetings will be better attended if offered within the towns, in locations that are comfortable in each town, and not at Devens DCC. They will also need to be well advertised, especially for the first session. Also, offering light refreshments does help bring in people to meetings</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged. Suggestions will be considered during CIP Implementation.</p>
28	4.3.4	24	<p>I fully support the "Planned Activity" which describes the Army keeping an updated email and mailing list electronically.</p>	<p>Comment acknowledged.</p>

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29	4.3.6	25	This is a good plan, moving forward. I recommend considering updating PFAS Fact Sheets more frequently than annually to keep current on our knowledge about this rapidly evolving COC.	Comment acknowledged. Suggestion will be considered during CIP Implementation.
30	4.3.7	25-26	<p>Please get feedback from the public about how to make the ftdevens.org website easier to use. While it is a good start for someone who is already familiar with how the CERCLA documents are organized, it is difficult to follow for the general public.</p> <p>Specific examples: the tab for 'Data' provides a list of reports by their title, but with no description of what "AOC" means and does not indicate the location or the meaning of the work being done. When clicking on "Soil results" for example, a list of results is provided in a table, with no context.</p> <p>Please add a summary description of each document listed, incorporating keywords that are searchable and that provide context. Please also incorporate a key that is site based, where people can search by location by clicking on a map that links directly to the relevant document.</p> <p>Please consider adding a tab for "maps" that incorporates the results of PFAS sampling from the various studies. To start this, I suggest a duplication of the maps provided during RABs. Please also keep this website better updated.</p> <p>The tab for Access to the RAB Presentations should be greatly improved. This will become more important as the list grows over time. Please make it searchable by date, keywords, and topics covered at each RAB. Include searchable maps. Please reverse the order, so that the most current documents are on the top of this list Please add a description with keywords included with each title, so that a user can readily locate a RAB presentation by a topic, keyword or location without having to open and search each record.</p>	Comment acknowledged. The Army plans to upgrade the website to make it more user-friendly and, if possible, to modify the documents section of the website into a searchable online Administrative Record for all documents post-2015. Additional recommendations will be considered in implementation of the website upgrades.
31	4.3.8	26	The provision of an interactive community input page is a great idea. It will require dedicated time to respond efficiently and effectively to citizen questions and comments and may be cyclic as new issues arise.	Comment acknowledged. The Army plan to upgrade the website to include a mechanism for input and will be responsive to community input received through the website.
32	Table 5.1	27	Please review this table for all of the items identified as "Discretionary," particularly for the Five-Year Review reports and the RAB meetings. Are RAB meetings required under CERCLA, particularly when a TAG grant has been given?	Table 5.1 will be reviewed and updated as needed.
33	Appendix D		If this is intended to list out how the public becomes informed about future RAB meetings or other announcements, it should be expanded to include the social media sites that all towns now have.	Appendix D will be updated with the suggested edits.