



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**



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



*Former Fort Devens, Massachusetts*

**DRAFT  
DECEMBER 2019**



*Prepared by:*  
**KOMAN Government Solutions, LLC  
and  
Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.**

CONTRACT NO. W912WJ-18-C-0011



# Contents



<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	Framework for Environmental Restoration under Base Realignment.....	1
1.2	Community Involvement.....	2
1.3	Implementation of the ERP.....	2
<b>2</b>	<b>The Base</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1	Location and History.....	3
2.2	BRAC.....	3
2.3	Facility and Surrounding Land Use.....	4
2.4	ERP and the CERCLA Process.....	4
2.5	History of Environmental Investigation.....	6
2.6	Current Remedial Investigation for PFAS.....	7
<b>3</b>	<b>The Community</b> .....	<b>11</b>
3.2	Demographics.....	11
3.3	Environmental Justice.....	12
3.4	Schools and Recreation.....	12
3.5	Local Water Use.....	13
3.6	History of Community Outreach and Involvement.....	13
3.7	Community Issues and Concerns.....	13
3.7.1	Past Community Issues and Concerns.....	13
3.7.2	Process to Assess Current Community Issues and Concerns.....	13
3.7.3	Current Community Issues and Concerns.....	14
<b>4</b>	<b>The Community Involvement Program</b> .....	<b>17</b>
4.1	Objectives of the Community Involvement Program.....	17
4.2	Required Community Involvement Activities.....	17
4.2.1	Designate a Contact Person.....	18
4.2.2	Establish and Maintain an Information Repository.....	18
4.2.3	Establish and Maintain an Administrative Record File.....	19
4.2.4	Provide Technical Assistance Grant Information.....	19
4.2.5	Hold Formal Public Meetings.....	19
4.2.6	Provide Comment Periods.....	20
4.2.7	Prepare a Responsiveness Summary.....	20
4.2.8	Update the Community Involvement Plan.....	21
4.3	Additional Community Involvement Activities.....	21
4.3.1	Evaluate and Re-Charter the Restoration Advisory Board.....	21
4.3.2	Modify RAB Meetings.....	22
4.3.3	Hold Poster Board Open Houses.....	24
4.3.4	Maintain a Site Mailing List.....	24
4.3.5	Prepare and Distribute Email Updates.....	25
4.3.6	Prepare and Distribute Fact Sheets.....	25
4.3.7	Maintain the Former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup Website.....	25
4.3.8	Provide a Mechanism for Continued Community Input.....	26
<b>5</b>	<b>Timing of Community Involvement Activities</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>References</b> .....	<b>29</b>



Appendices

Appendix A Site Descriptions

Appendix B Letter and Written Questionnaire

Appendix C Compiled Results

Appendix D Meeting Locations and Newspapers

Tables

Table 3-1. Demographic Profile.....12

Table 4-1. Ayer Public Library Hours.....19

Table 5-1. Timing of Required and Recommended Community Involvement Activities with CERCLA Milestones .....27

Table 5-2. Schedule for Additional Community Involvement Activities .....28

Figures

Figure 1. Regional Site Map.....3

Figure 2. CERCLA Process.....3

# 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 poly-fluoroalkyl 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.

## 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 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
AR	Administrative Record
Army	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIP	community involvement plan
DERP	Defense Environmental Restoration Program
DoD	U.S. Department of Defense
EJSCREEN	Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Environmental Restoration Program
FFA	Federal Facility Agreement
FS	feasibility study
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 poly- fluoroalkyl substances
PFOS	perfluorooctane sulfonate
PFOA	perfluorooctanoic acid
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RI	remedial investigation
ROD	Record of Decision
TAG	technical assistance grant
TRC	Technical Review Committee





DERP follows the structure for addressing environmental sites contaminated by past activities as outlined by required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (**CERCLA**) as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA); and certain corrective actions required by the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA).

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

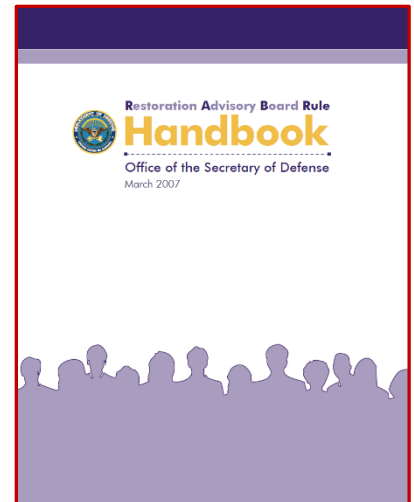
1. Installation Restoration Program (IRP) addresses the investigation and cleanup of past releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants that may pose risks to human health or the environment.
2. Military Munitions Response Program (MRP) addresses environmental health and safety hazards 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 *Code of Federal Regulations (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] Department of Defense Restoration Advisory Boards (*Federal Register* 2006)
- Restoration Advisory Board Rule Handbook (DoD 2007)



## 1.3 Implementation of the ERP

The Army Corps 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. In 1991, the Army and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (**EPA**) signed a Federal Facility Agreement (**FFA**), in which the Army is considered the lead agency and EPA provides oversight as the lead regulatory agency. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (**MassDEP**) has a participatory role in the investigation and remediation process.

<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*.

## 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 **Appendix A**.

### 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.

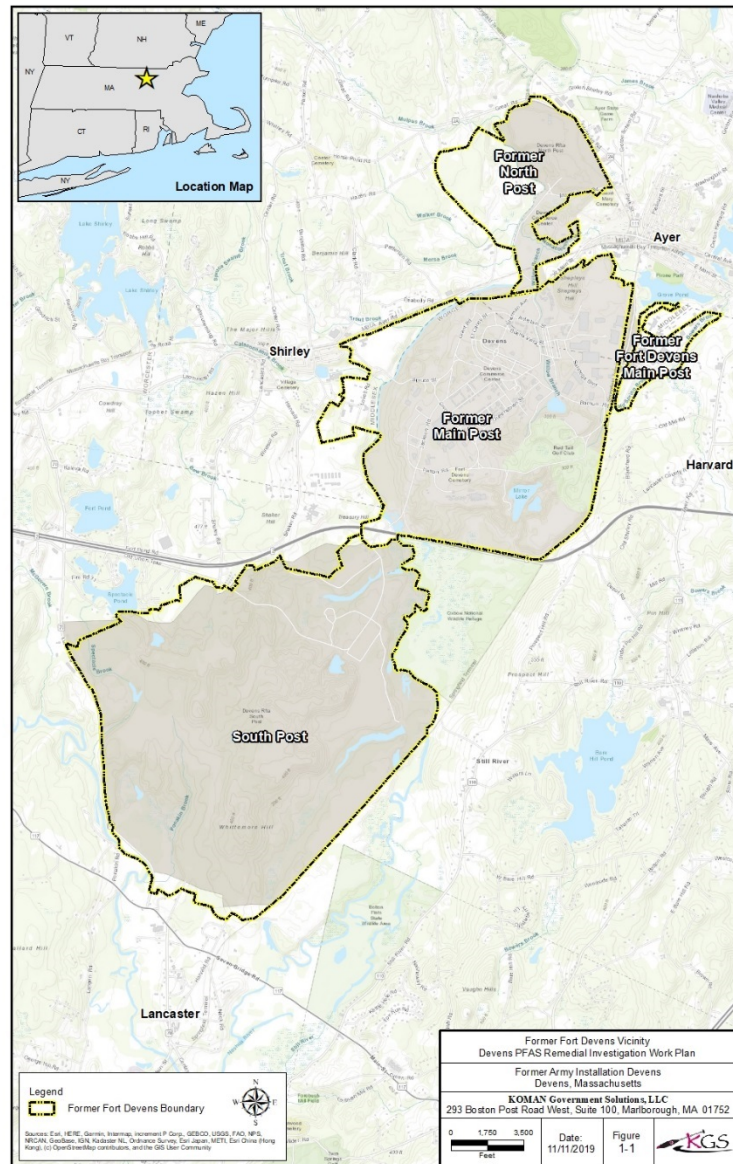
In 1931, the site was officially named Fort Devens upon its designation as a permanent military post. The primary mission of Fort Devens was for commanding, training, and providing logistical support for non-divisional troop units, as well as supporting the Army Readiness Regional and National Guard 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 (KGS 2018). 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 2018).

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 more than 4,000 workers (MassDevelopment 2019). 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, a designated National Wild and Scenic River flows north-south through the region.



### 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:



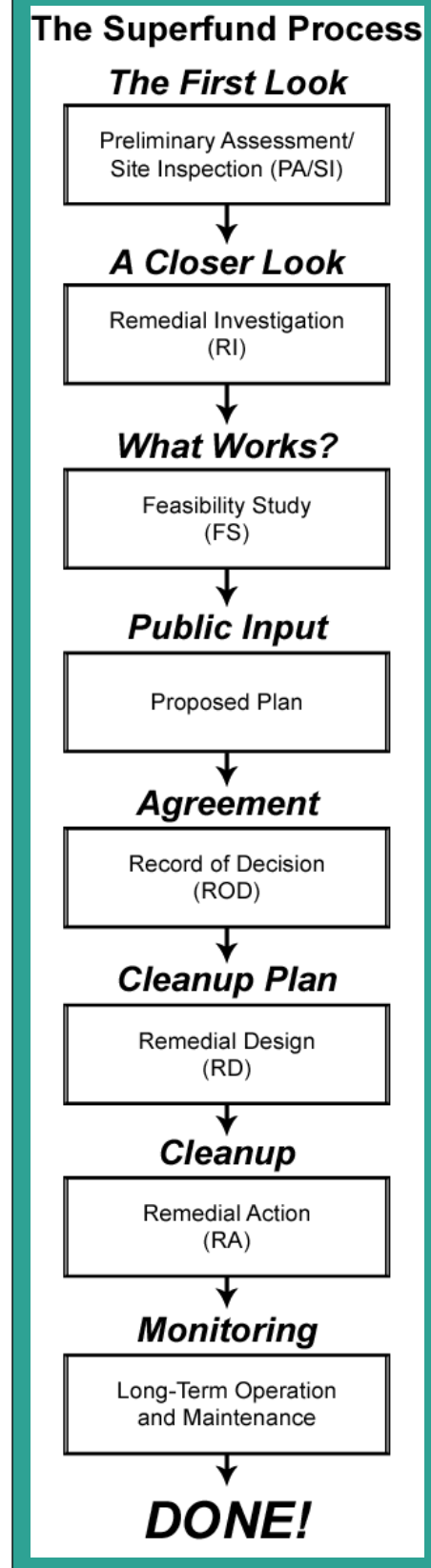


1. **Preliminary Assessment/Site Inspection (PA/SI):** A preliminary evaluation and investigation to determine if there has been a release of hazardous waste or materials causing contamination that warrants further study or cleanup.
2. **Remedial Investigation (RI):** An investigation to determine the nature and extent of contamination and associated human health and ecological risks.
3. **Feasibility Study (FS):** If an RI determines that cleanup is needed, the FS 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 FS. 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 RA 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 (TCRAs) 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 (NCRAs) 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 RI and FS.
- **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.).



*Shepley's Hill Landfill Arsenic Treatment Plant*

Of the 54 sites included in the FFA, 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 sitewide 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. **Appendix A** provides the executive summary from the 2015 5-year review (H&S 2015)

## 2.6 Current Remedial Investigation for Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substance

In 2014, EPA identified perfluorooctane sulfonate (**PFOS**) and perfluorooctanoic acid (**PFOA**) as emerging contaminants. PFOS and PFOA are part of a group of developed chemicals called per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substance (PFAS), which have been shown to have connections to various detrimental health effects, including cancer. In 2016, EPA issued a Lifetime Health Advisory for the sum of PFOS and PFOA at 70 parts per trillion (**ppt**) when applied to drinking water.

The Army is following the CERCLA process for the investigation of PFAS. In September 2016, the Army completed a draft preliminary assessment evaluating the historical use of PFAS compounds at the former Fort Devens. It identified nine potential source areas for a site investigation. In June 2017, the Army began an expedited site inspection intended to determine the presence or absence of PFAS at the former Fort Devens. In response to regulatory review of the expanded site investigation, the Army began supplemental groundwater sampling to assess potential offsite migration of PFAS in groundwater.

General conclusions from the expedited SI report included:

- PFAS was detected in groundwater and soil at several sites, most notably in the Town of Ayer's public water supply wells and Devens' MacPherson Well. PFAS resulted from potential historical releases along Barnum Road, Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, Shepley Hill Landfill, and the former Moore Army Airfield.
- Other public water supply wells tested were at or below the lifetime health advisory.

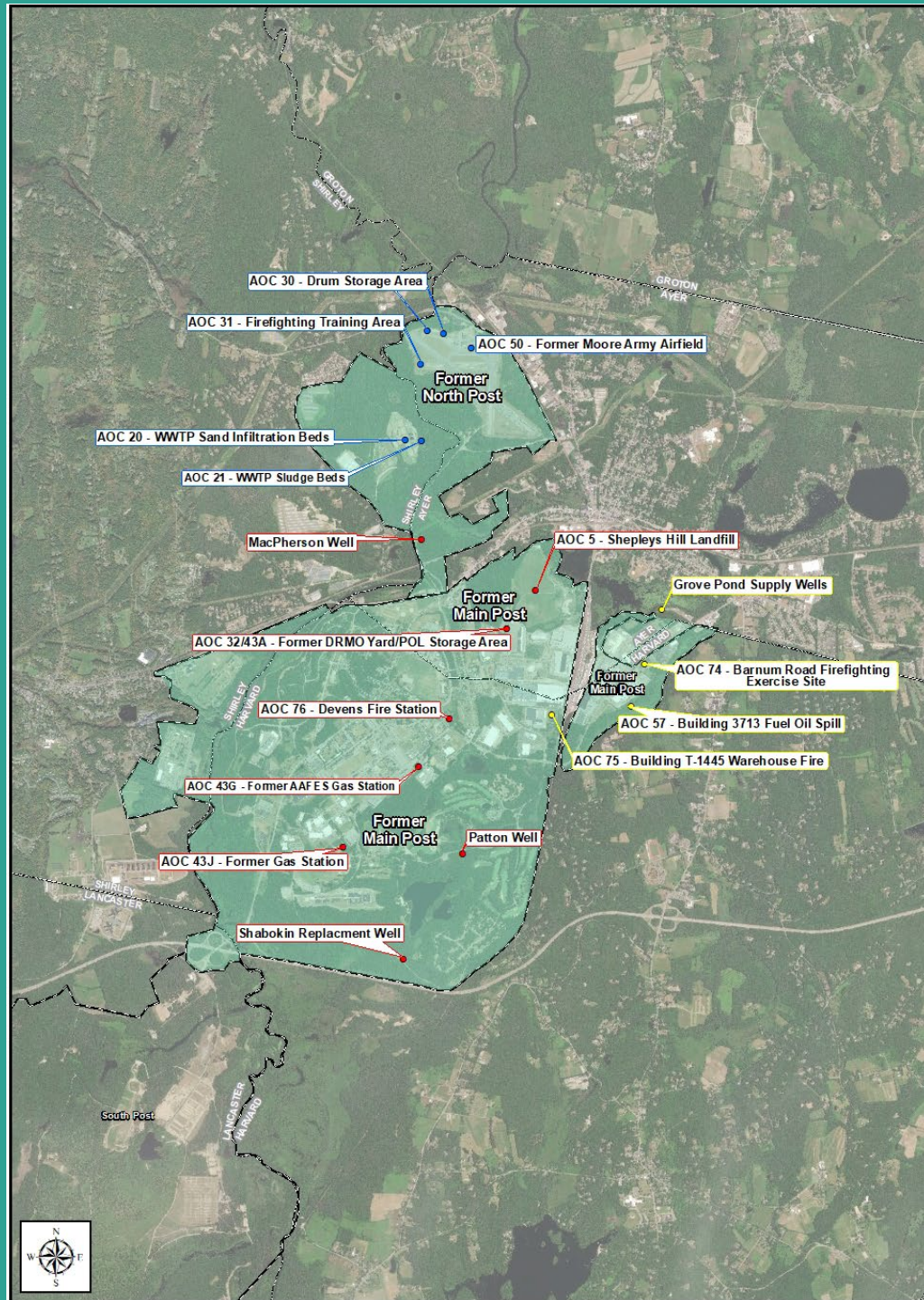
An addendum to the expedited SI included sampling of the Devens fire station, and an additional nine locations, for soil and groundwater sampling. These results indicated that six of the sampling locations had PFOS and PFOA detected at or above the lifetime health advisory in groundwater, including a 4,160 ppt concentration adjacent to the fire station.

PFAS was detected in the groundwater and soil at several sites. Therefore, the RI includes recommendations for multiple AOCs, and evaluation of the source of PFAS in public water supply well systems and potential impacts to other water supplies. Additional sampling of long-term monitoring wells resulted in the inclusion of AOCs 43G and 57 in the RI. **Figure 3** shows the AOCs that are being investigated as part of the PFAS RI.





Figure 3. Areas of Contamination Included in PFAS Remedial Investigation



<p><b>Legend</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: yellow;">●</span> Area 1 - Grove Pond Supply Wells, AOCs 57, 74, and 75</li> <li><span style="color: red;">●</span> Area 2 - MacPherson, Patton and Shabokin Water Supply Wells, SHL, AOCs 32, 76, 43G and 43J</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">●</span> Area 3 - AOCs 20, 21, 30, 31, and 50</li> <li><span style="background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px;"></span> Devens Regional Enterprise Zone</li> <li><span style="border-bottom: 1px dashed black; display: inline-block; width: 20px;"></span> Former Fort Devens Boundary</li> </ul>
---

Devens PFAS Remedial Investigation Areas Devens PFAS Remedial Investigation Work Plan		
Former Army Installation Devens Devens, Massachusetts		
<b>KOMAN Government Solutions, LLC</b> 293 Boston Post Road West, Suite 100, Marlborough, MA 01752		
	Date: 11/12/2019	Figure 3





In 2018, MassDEP issued a public health guideline for PFAS in drinking water. This guideline added three other PFAS compounds to the EPA lifetime health advisory, and included that the sum of the five compounds should not exceed 70 ppt in drinking water. In response to this guideline, one of the Grove Pond Wellfield wells was also taken out of service on February 26, 2018, and the MacPherson water supply well was taken out of service a day later for exceedances of the sum of the five PFAS compounds.

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). In addition, the Town of Ayer, through funding provided in grant by the Army, is installing a permanent upgrade to the Grove Pond Water Treatment Plant, which consists of an ion exchange system to remove PFAS from extracted water more efficiently than activated carbon.

In addition to these steps, MassDevelopment has implemented temporary treatment for its wells. Granular activated treatment began on the MacPherson well in August 2019 and on the Shabokin well in September 2019. The Patton well will receive three ion-exchange filters by the end of 2019. Permanent treatment is planned for the Shabokin and Patton wells.



*Two 20,000-pound carbon units treat water from the Grove Pond wellfield.*



## 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 more than 4,000 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>c</sup> (civilian labor force))	6.0%	4.3%	6.4%	5.1%	4.3%	8.4%
Persons 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.







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 water resources include abundant aquifers, 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 sub basin of the Nashua, Devens lies in the North Nashua River, Mulpus Brook, Catacoonamug Brook, and Bowers Brook sub basins (The Nashua River Watershed Association and the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative Nashua Team n.d.).

The primary aquifer lies in glacial meltwater deposits. Groundwater also occurs in the underlying bedrock, but flow is limited because water only moves in fractures and voids. Groundwater recharge occurs in upland areas and groundwater flows generally from the topographic highs to topographic lows. Groundwater discharges in wetlands, ponds, streams, and directly into the Nashua River (KOMAN Government Solutions 2018).

No private wells are allowed at Devens; however, residential and small agricultural private wells are located in Shirley and Harvard.

### 3.6 History of Community Outreach and Involvement

A Technical Review Committee (**TRC**) was formed in 1991 to review documents and provide comments on technical issues and proposed activities. In 1994, the TRC 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 TRC 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. PACE also participates in meetings of the Base Cleanup Team, which includes representatives of the Army Corps, EPA, and MassDEP. 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 information repositories and an Administrative Record (**AR**) file, and providing other community involvement activities as required or as warranted.

### 3.7 Community Issues and Concerns

#### 3.7.1 Past Community Issues and Concerns

Community concerns identified in the 1995 Community Relations Plan (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 [www.ftdevens.org](http://www.ftdevens.org) 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 re-posted 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 B** 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.

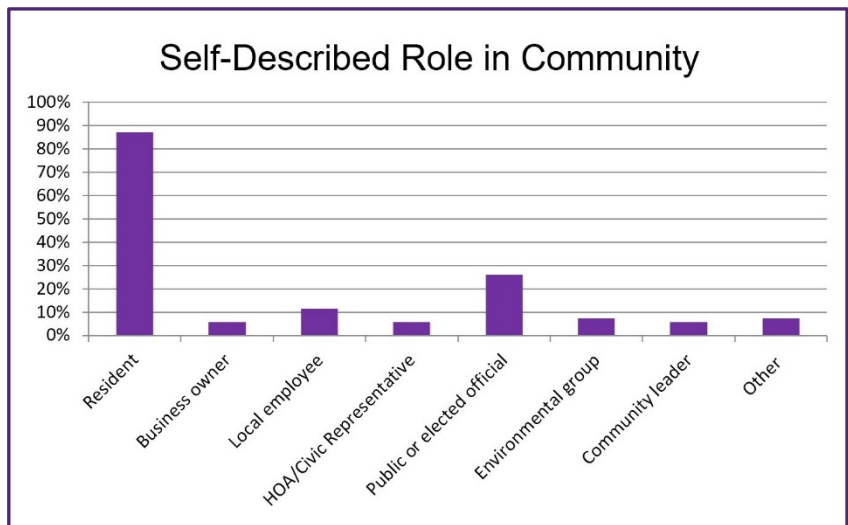
### 3.7.3 Current Community Issues and Concerns

Specific highlights of the results of the written questionnaire and personal interviews are in this subsection.

**Appendix C** provides a compilation of the results (with personally identifying information removed.)

In terms of demographics, the majority of participants:

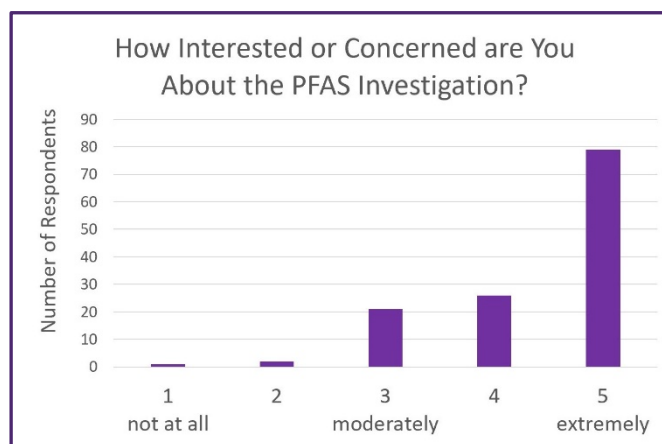
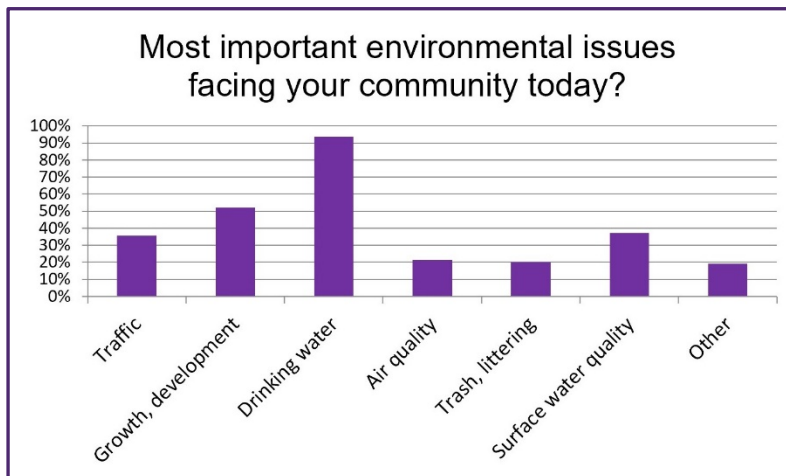
- Have lived in the community (Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard, or Lancaster) for more than 21 years (31%)
- Identified themselves as local residents (87%)
- Have neither worked at the former Fort Devens (79%) nor had a relative work there (61%)
- Chose to provide contact information for future notifications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

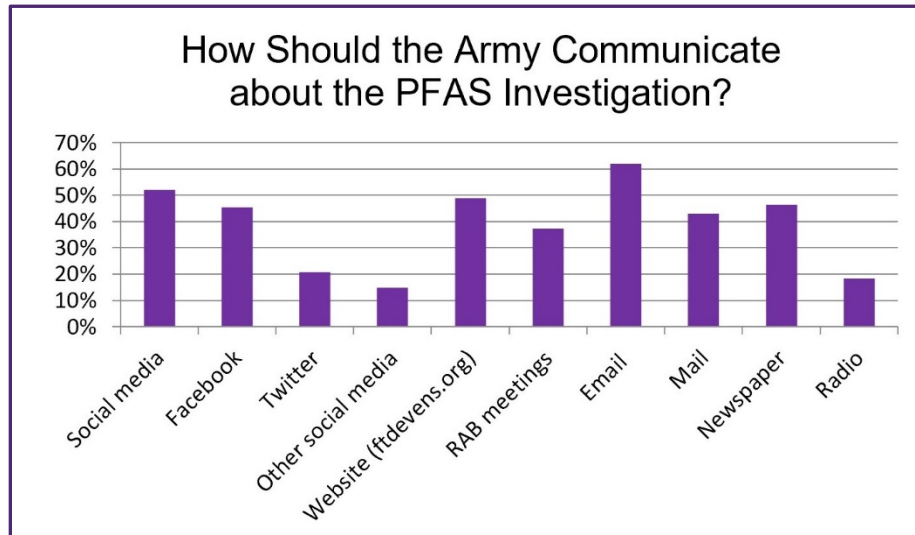


In terms of communications, how people get information, and how they would like to get information, the majority:

- 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, [www.ftdevens.org](http://www.ftdevens.org) (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.



## 4 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 Corps, EPA, MassDEP, other local agency stakeholders, and residents of the towns of Ayer, Devens, Harvard, Lancaster, and Shirley.

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 AR. In addition to specific activities required by CERCLA, other past community involvement activities for the former Fort Devens have included:

- 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 ([www.ftdevens.org](http://www.ftdevens.org))

The activities described in Sections 4.2 and 4.3 comprise 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 primary objectives of the Army's community involvement program during the environmental investigation of PFAS are to:

- Encourage and promote two-way communication between the Army and concerned individuals, including local residents and state and local officials.
- Solicit input and involvement from the community, elected and civic leaders, and concerned agencies, on all cleanup or remedial action decisions as required under CERCLA.
- Keep residents and local officials in the towns surrounding the former Fort Devens informed about planned and ongoing cleanup actions, major findings, and decisions.
- Provide a way for community members, local officials, and agencies to maintain a dialogue with the Army Corps.
- Assist in identifying and resolving issues of community interest and concern.

### 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 about the project.

**Timing:** Ongoing

#### 4.2.2 Establish and Maintain an Information Repository

**Description:** The information repository is a one-stop collection of documents for the public, where people can easily find information about CERCLA in general and the status of the cleanup and remediation at project sites. Under CERCLA, the repository is required to be located at or near the site. Typically, it is located in a convenient, easily accessible public location, such as a public library.

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

**Current Implementation:** An information repository was maintained previously at the Ayer Public Library during active environmental restoration activities at Fort Devens. Currently, this library has handouts, such as fact sheets on PFAS, but is not maintained by the Army as an information repository.

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will establish an information repository focused specifically on the PFAS investigation and remediation at the Ayer Public Library (and/or the MassDevelopment office in Fort Devens) and will maintain it as needed.



**Table 4-1** shows the locations and hours of the public library in Ayer.

**Timing:** Ongoing. The PFAS-focused information repository at the Ayer Public Library will be established within 3 months of finalization of this CIP and will be maintained as needed for documents available for public comment. The information repository will be referenced in future fact sheets and public notices.



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

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

**4.2.3 Establish and Maintain an Administrative Record File**

**Description:** The AR 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 AR is in hard copy, stored 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 AR file as needed.

**Timing:** The Army will continue to update the AR file as needed. The AR 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 AR 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 AR 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:** PACE has held a TAG for the former Fort Devens since August 27, 2013, and uses the funds to hire a technical advisor to review and help interpret technical documents. The technical advisor helps interpret documents and PACE shares the information with community members 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 AR. 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 consider advertising formal public meetings in other ways, in addition to paid public notices in local newspapers. Additional notification could include forwarding meeting information to PACE and the towns for them to include in their social media and email distribution networks. Notices will also be placed on [www.ftdevens.org](http://www.ftdevens.org).

**Appendix D** 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.

#### 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 AR 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 AR.

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will continue to produce responsiveness summaries as part of RODs and will place the RODs in the information repository and AR.





**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 remedial design 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 Corps, 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 Corps, EPA, and MassDEP. This enables the early and continued two-way flow of information, concerns, values, and needs between the community and the Army Corps, 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 Corps, and regulatory agencies. While RAB meetings have continued since 1995, the RAB now meets quarterly. Over time, the more formal structure of the RAB has become more casual. There is no longer an official mission statement and RAB charter, which would outline the responsibilities of RAB members as well as operating procedures and ground rules. There are no longer any official RAB members, who would represent a cross-section of the community and would be responsible 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.

RAB meetings are now held quarterly. The Army typically determines the meeting agendas. The Army and its contractors gives presentations. The community participates as an audience, listening to the presentation and asking questions. There are no official RAB members to collectively advise the Army or participate as a group in the decision-making process.

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will work with the other stakeholders in the Base Cleanup Team to determine whether the more formal structure of the RAB should be reinstated. Should the decision be made to restructure the RAB, the *Restoration Advisory Board Rule Handbook* (DoD 2007) (and the RAB Rule itself) provide guidance, including recruiting community members, establishing ground rules, and handling other logistical issues related to reestablishing the RAB.

Re-structuring the RAB could include:

- Contacting former RAB members to gauge their interest in continuing to serve (particularly those who continue to attend current meetings) OR, soliciting RAB applications
- Forming a RAB member selection committee to review applications (if needed)
- Reviewing and updating the mission and operating procedures or developing a new mission and operating procedures
- Establishing co-chairs – one from the Army and a community co-chair elected by the official RAB members

**Timing:** The Base Cleanup Team (the Army Corps, EPA, MassDEP, and PACE) will discuss whether to restructure the RAB. If they determine to do so, re-structuring will occur within one year of finalization of this CIP.

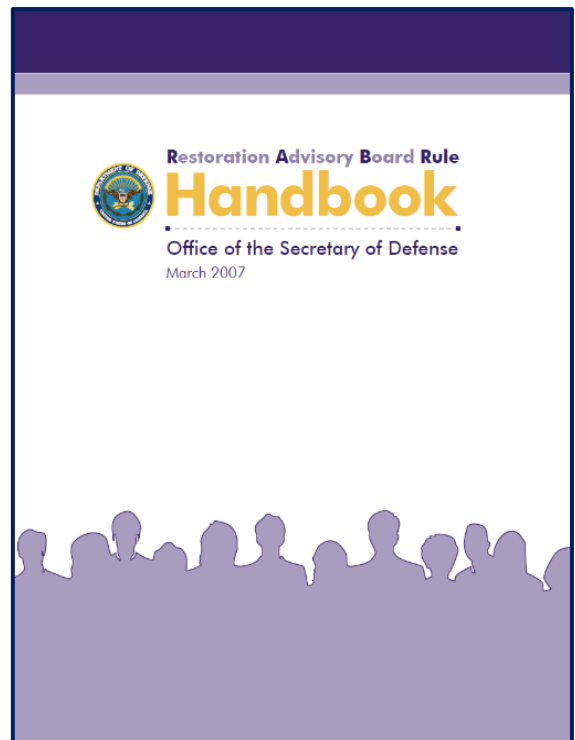
#### 4.3.2 Modify RAB Meetings

**Description:** Current RAB meetings are described in subsection 4.3.1. Modifications to the way RAB meetings are currently run (regardless of whether the RAB is re-chartered) may include:

- Expanding notification of RAB meetings
- Changing meeting locations
- Altering style of presentations
- Creating more detailed meeting summaries
- Evaluating RAB meeting frequency

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

**Current Implementation:** Currently, RAB meetings are publicized by publishing the date and agenda on





[www.ftdevens.org](http://www.ftdevens.org), 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 room at the Ayer Town Hall is dimly lit, has poor acoustics, and lacks a large screen for the presentation.

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 consider improvements to the way that RAB meetings are advertised, held, and documented to include:

- Expanding how notifications are made about upcoming RAB meetings

The Army will consider sending electronic notices to town officials to be posted on their social media accounts and sent out through their email networks. The electronic notices could be designed to be more public-friendly and explain what a RAB meeting is, what information will be covered, and what to expect. The Army may also develop hard-copy flyers, similar to the electronic notices; these flyers could be posted in libraries, town halls, coffee shops, and on other community bulletin boards. Finally, the Army will consider developing a reusable “Upcoming RAB Meeting” poster board (one for each town), which can be placed in public libraries. 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.

- Altering style of presentation

The Army will consider modifying the style of the technical presentations to provide an improved context for participants. One standard structure that was recommended and would include such questions 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?

- Creating more detailed meeting summaries

The Army will consider expanding the 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

The Army will evaluate the request to hold more frequent RAB meetings.

**Timing:** The Army will consider making incremental improvements to the style of the RAB meetings, including expand meeting notification methods, changing meeting locations, altering the style of technical presentations, creating more detailed meeting summaries, and increasing the frequency of RAB meetings or other types of



meetings such as open houses as described below. Changes to current RAB meetings would be evaluated and implemented as appropriate 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 Corps, 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, as needed. 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.

**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 formal 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 can 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 can use this updated mailing list (electronic and print) 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:** This task is immediate and ongoing.



#### 4.3.5 Prepare and Distribute Email Updates

**Description:** Email updates may be prepared and sent to the site mailing list to provide brief updates between RAB meetings. Email updates 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 consider preparing and distributing 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. Email updates may provide sufficient communication, so that more frequent RAB meetings are not necessary (although the frequency may be re-evaluated, as described in subsection 4.3.2). A template will be developed to make the email updates engaging.

**Timing:** The Army will consider preparing and distributing email updates between RAB meetings.

#### 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 consider producing 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 mailing list, electronic files to the towns to be distributed through their social media and email distribution mechanisms, and as hard copy at public libraries and town halls. Fact sheets will also be posted on the 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 remedial design. 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 consider developing 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 site mailing list, distributed to towns and PACE for posting on their social media and distribution through their email lists, and have limited hard copies made available at town halls and libraries.

#### 4.3.7 Maintain 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





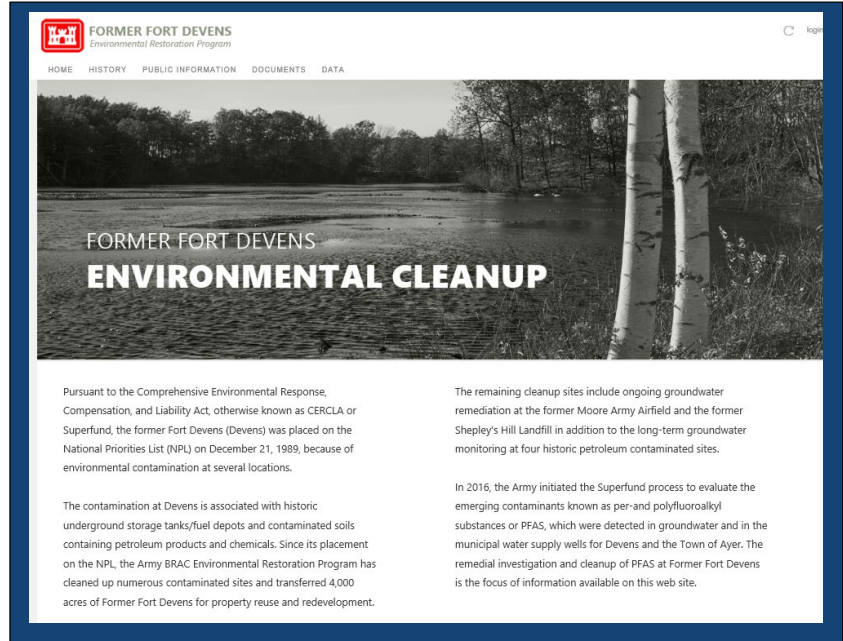
obtain information. Furthermore, maintaining a website rather than printing large numbers of documents and fact sheets saves paper and money spent on printing and mailing.

**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 ([www.ftdevens.org](http://www.ftdevens.org)). 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 continue to update and improve the website regularly. Documents, such as project updates, fact sheets, RAB minutes, this CIP, and other documents of interest to the public, will also be posted on the website.

**Timing:** This task is ongoing 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 who to call.)

**Planned Implementation:** The Army will consider developing 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 consider developing an interactive comment page on its website within one year of finalization of this CIP.

# 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		■	[Ongoing activity bar]					■	■	■	○
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 bar]	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		
Provide a Mechanism for Continued Community Input			X

\*Pending funding

## 6 References

---



Department of Defense (DoD). 2007. *Restoration Advisory Board Rule Handbook*. March.

Department of Defense (DoD). 2018. *Management Guidance for the Defense Environmental Restoration Program*. (Manual 4715.20). Originally published March 9, 2012; updated with Incorporating Change 1, August 31.

Federal Register, Volume 63, Number 21. 1998. *Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary, 32 CFR Part 203, Technical Assistance for Public Participation (TAPP) in Defense Environmental Restoration Activities*. February 2.

Federal Register, Volume 71, Number 92. 2006. *Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary, 32 CFR Part 202, Department of Defense Restoration Advisory Boards*. May 12.

H&S Environmental, Inc (H&S). 2015. *2015 Five-Year Review Report for Former Fort Devens Army Installation BRAC Legacy Sites Devens, Massachusetts*. H&S Environmental, Inc.  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/01/582889.pdf>

Harding Lawson Associates. 2000. *First Five-Year Review Report for Devens Reserve Forces Training Area Devens, Massachusetts*. . September. Accessed November 13, 2019.  
<https://semspub.epa.gov/work/01/34128.pdf>.

KOMAN Government Solutions, LLC (KGS). 2018. *Draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)*. Former Fort Devens Army Installation, Devens, MA. June.

MassDevelopment. 2019. Devens. Accessed November 3, 2019. <https://www.massdevelopment.com/what-we-offer/real-estate-services/development-projects/devens>.

Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce. n.d. Our Communities. Accessed November 6, 2019.  
<https://www.nvcoc.com/our-communities/>.

The Nashua River Watershed Association and the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative Nashua Team. n.d. *Nashua River Watershed 5 Year Action Plan 2003-2007. Devens' Influence on the Environmental Quality of the Nashua River*. [https://www.nashuariverwatershed.org/5yr\\_plan/reading\\_room/devens.html](https://www.nashuariverwatershed.org/5yr_plan/reading_room/devens.html).

Town of Harvard, Massachusetts. n.d. History of Harvard. Accessed November 6, 2019.  
<https://www.harvard.ma.us/discover-harvard/pages/history-harvard>.

U.S. Army (U.S. Army). n.d. Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy & Environment. Baseline Realignment and Closure Program. Accessed November 5, 2019.  
<https://www.asaie.army.mil/Public/ESOH/brac.html>

U.S. Army. 2019. *Devens Reserve Forces Training Area- Mission and Vision*. Accessed November 6, 2019.  
<https://home.army.mil/devens/index.php/Misson%20and%20Vision/mission>.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 2016. *2016 Five-Year Review Report for Former Sudbury Training Annex, Sudbury, Massachusetts*. September.

U.S. Census Bureau. 2019a. *2013–2017 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates*. Accessed November 1, 2019. [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml).



U.S. Census Bureau. 2019b. *Census 2010 Demographic Profile*. Accessed November 1, 2019. [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). n.d. "Remediation and Redevelopment at the Former Fort Devens, Massachusetts, USA." 21 RODs. Accessed November 6, 2019. [https://cluin.org/ottawa/download/former\\_military\\_sites/us\\_ft-devins.pdf](https://cluin.org/ottawa/download/former_military_sites/us_ft-devins.pdf).

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2011. *Plan EJ 2014, Office of Environmental Justice*. September.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2016. *Superfund Community Involvement Handbook*. January.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2019a. *Environmental Justice Program*.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2019b. *EPA's Community Involvement Toolkit*. Accessed October 2019. <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-community-involvement-tools-and-resources>.

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. 1994. *Devens Reuse Plan*. Prepared for the Boards of Selectmen, Town of Ayer, Town of Harvard, Town of Lancaster, Town of Shirley. November 14.



# **Appendix A**

## **Site Descriptions**

**2015**  
**FIVE-YEAR REVIEW REPORT**  
  
**for**  
**Former Fort Devens Army Installation**  
**BRAC Legacy Sites**  
**Devens, Massachusetts**

---

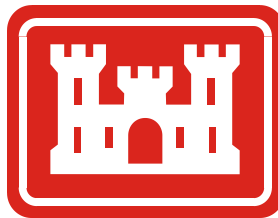
Contract No.: W912WJ-15-C-0002

---

*Prepared for:*



**Army Base Realignment and Closure Division**  
**U. S. Army Garrison Fort Devens**



**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**  
**New England District**  
**Concord, Massachusetts**

**September 2015**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

H&S Environmental, Inc. (H&S) has prepared this comprehensive Five-Year Review of the remedial actions for Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites at the former Fort Devens Army Installation (Devens). This review, completed in accordance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Comprehensive Five-Year Review Guidance, dated June 2001, was performed from February 2015 through June 2015. This is the fourth comprehensive Five-Year Review performed for the former Fort Devens Army Installation. The previous Five-Year Review was completed in September 2010.

The purpose of Five-Year Reviews is to evaluate the implementation and performance of a remedy to determine if the remedy continues to, or will meet, the remedial action objectives specified in the ROD and are, or will be, protective of human health and the environment. In addition, Five-Year Review reports identify deficiencies, if any, found during the review, and identify recommendations to address them.

This review is required by statute and is being implemented consistent with CERCLA and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). Five-Year Reviews should be conducted by statute if both of the following conditions are true:

- Upon completion of the remedial action, hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants will remain on site; and
- The Record of Decision (ROD) for the site (or sites for a multiple site Five-Year Review) was signed on or after October 17, 1986 [the effective date of the Superfund Amendment and Reauthorization Act (SARA)] and the remedial action was selected under CERCLA Section 121.

The sites are designated in the Army Administrative Record as Areas of Concerns and for purposes of the report will be referred to as such. EPA in their CERCLIS database refers to the sites as operable units. The following sites are included in this 2015 comprehensive Five-Year Review:

- Shepley's Hill Landfill (SHL) [Area of Concern (AOCs) 4, 5, and 18] - Operable Unit 1;
- Devens Consolidation Landfill (DCL) [AOCs 9, 40, and Study Area (SA) 13] – Operable Unit 2.
- South Post Impact Area (SPIA), [AOCs 25, 26, 27, and 41(groundwater)]- Operable Unit 3;
- Barnum Road Maintenance Yards (AOC 44 and 52) – Operable Unit 4;
- Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO) Yard (AOCs 32 and 43A) Operable Unit 5;
- Historic Gas Station (AOCs 43G and 43J) – Operable Unit 6;
- Former Elementary School Spill Site (AOC 69W) – Operable Unit 7;
- Former Moore Army Airfield (AOC 50) – Operable Unit 8; and,
- Building 3713 Fuel Oil Spill Site (AOC 57) – Operable Unit 9.

A brief description of each site where a ROD has been executed along with a summary of findings of the Five-Year Review is provided below.

**Shepley's Hill (AOCs 4, 5, and 18):** SHL encompasses approximately 84 acres in the northeast corner of the main post of the former Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Landfill operations at SHL began at least as early as 1917, and ceased operation on July 1, 1992. Landfill capping was complete in May 1993. Remedial Investigation (RI) and RI Addendum investigations were performed between 1991 and 1993 and concluded potential human exposure to arsenic in groundwater is the primary risk at the site. A Feasibility Study (FS) was completed in 1995 to evaluate alternatives to reduce potential exposure risks, and in September 1995, the ROD was signed. The selected remedy consists of landfill closure, landfill maintenance, long-term groundwater and landfill gas monitoring, and institutional controls (IC).

The Fort Devens Reuse Plan specifies that Army land bordering Plow Shop Pond is zoned for open space and rail-related uses. The SHL property remains in Army ownership and is under a Lease in Furtherance of Conveyance (LIFO) Agreement with the LRA, pursuant to BRAC policy requirements. A Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) has not been executed by the Army for this lease premise known as Parcel A.1 (SHL) since the SHL remedy has not been determined to be Operating Properly and Successfully (OPS). The SHL ROD requirement for the ICs to “*protect potential human receptors from risks resulting from exposure to contaminated groundwater*” is implemented and enforced by the Army through the LIFO agreement. Specifically, Article 16.05 states “*No groundwater will be extracted for any purpose.*” The Army long-term monitoring and periodic inspections of the SHL and surrounding Army property ensure that this use restriction is in compliance per the LIFO agreement.

The Army has performed additional investigations and activities to address recommendations from the previous 2010 five-year review. These included three follow up actions including implementation of Institutional Controls (ICs) in the Northern Impact Area (NIA), installation of a barrier wall for Plow Shop Pond (PSP) discharge and the development of remedial alternative via Focused Feasibility Study (FFS).

In 2010-2011, the *Supplemental Groundwater and Landfill Cap Assessment –Addendum Report (Sovereign, August 2011)* evaluated hydrogeologic conditions and the fate and transport of As from anthropogenic and naturally-occurring sources. The Report concluded that the primary source of arsenic in groundwater appears to be aquifer sands rich in amorphous iron hydroxide solids with other sources of arsenic including landfill waste, peat, and bedrock/till. Arsenic solubility is controlled by desorption from the iron solids and by reductive dissolution of the iron (III) solids created by biodegradation of landfill waste and peat within the landfill and the NIA. The time to return the aquifer to “pre-landfill” conditions was estimated at 270 years. Based on this information, the Army has concluded that the dominant SHL Groundwater Conceptual Site Model is reductive dissolution of naturally occurring Arsenic and that the restoration potential to achieve groundwater MCLs is LOW.

A vertical barrier wall was installed in 2012 along the eastern portion of the landfill to mitigate the arsenic in groundwater from SHL to Red Cove/Plow Shop Pond.

In October 2012, *Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) (Sovereign 2013)* outlined the Land Use Controls (LUC) needed to address the RAO protecting potential off-site residential receptors in the NIA from migrating landfill groundwater. The LUCs included restricting groundwater use in the NIA. A Land Use Control Implementation Plan (LUCIP) was submitted in August 2014 and residences were notified in November to December 2014.

ROD ICs are in place and functioning properly. As documented in the *t Shepley's Hill Landfill 2014 Annual Report (Sovereign/HGL, 2014)* all properties are connected to municipal water, and there were no undocumented private/irrigation wells present (M2S JV, 2015).

The landfill cover is functioning as designed as continued landfill inspections and maintenance indicate the landfill cap is in good condition

The SHL Annual Reports (2011 – 2014) evaluate the contingency pump & treat remedy performance as per *A Systematic Approach for Evaluation of Capture Zones at Pump and Treat Systems* (USEPA, 2008) and have concluded that the system is effectively controlling the migration of arsenic impacted groundwater at the north end of SHL. Despite apparent minor seasonal fluctuations and brief system operational shutdowns, the extraction wells are effective in maintaining a capture zone across the toe of the landfill as designed. However, due to site conditions specified in the CSM, the current SHL remedy (i.e., extraction and treatment of arsenic contaminated groundwater) is unlikely to achieve the groundwater cleanup levels within a reasonable timeframe as set forth in the 1995 SHL ROD.

The current remedy (landfill cap, contingency pump and treat system, barrier wall, and IC's) at SHL is considered protective in the short-term. Long-term protectiveness will be accomplished through continued performance of operation, maintenance, and monitoring activities and the eventual restoration of the groundwater to cleanup goals or background conditions.

**Devens Consolidation Landfill (DCL) and Contributor Sites:** In addition to the Consolidation Landfill, the DCL includes the seven contributor sites that were small former landfills and debris disposal areas and a former housing area at the former Fort Devens. The seven DCL contributor sites include:

- SA 12: A half-acre location where construction debris and yard waste were deposited (approximately 8,700 cubic yards [cy]);
- SA 13: A one-acre area used from 1965 to the mid-1990s for yard-waste (approximately 10,000 cy);
- AOC 9: An area used for storing wood, concrete, asphalt, metal, brick, glass, and tree stumps (approximately 121,000 cy);
- AOC 11: A former landfill used from 1975 to 1980 for disposal of wood-frame hospital demolition debris (approximately 35,000 cy);
- AOC 40: Four acres used for construction debris, ash, stumps, and logs (approximately 125,400 cy);
- AOC 41: A one quarter-acre landfill in the SPIA that was used up to the 1950s for disposal of non-explosive material and household debris (approximately 1,500 cy); and
- Housing areas Grant, Locust, and Cavite: Soils contaminated with volatile organics or pesticides and walling material contaminated with volatiles or pesticides (approximately 2,290 tons of soil and approximately 1,240 tons of concrete).

The USEPA approved the ROD for landfill remediation of the first six areas in July 1999. The selected remedies included provisions for either on-site or off-site disposal options. The approved remedial alternative documented in the 1999 ROD called for limited removal at SA12 and AOC41 and full excavation of AOCs 9, 11, 40 and SA13. The on-site landfill construction alternative was selected as



the preferred alternative. Construction of the DCL commenced in September 2000 and was completed in November 2002. The Remedial Action Closure Report, prepared by Shaw Environmental (formerly Stone & Webster, Inc. [SWETS]) in September 2003, was accepted by EPA and DEP, certifying that the DCL was constructed and capped in accordance with the ROD, and met the performance standards and/or response objectives in the ROD.

Construction activities at the associated contribution sites (AOC 9 AOC 40, and SA 13) are complete and remedial action objectives (RAOs), as defined by the ROD, have been achieved. Long-term protectiveness of the remedial action will be verified by continued operation and maintenance (O&M) and long term groundwater monitoring (LTM) at the DCL. Current O&M and LTM data indicate that the remedy is functioning as required.

Operations and Maintenance (O&M) at the DCL includes monthly inspections of the landfill system, annual leachate sampling, semi-annual groundwater sampling and well gauging. LTM samples are collected and submitted for VPH, EPH, pesticides and metals analyses. DCL leachate effluent samples are collected annually and submitted for analyses per the discharge permit No.17.

The remedy in place at the DCL is functioning as intended and continues to be protective of human health and the environment. Exposure pathways from the contributor sites have been removed.

Under the CERCLA Five Year guidance, the DCL contributor sites meet the ROD remediation goals for unlimited use/unrestricted exposure (UU/UE). As a result a technical assessment is not required. It is recommended the DCL contributor sites AOC 9, 40 and SA13 be removed from the five year review process.

**South Post Impact Area (SPIA) (AOCs 25, 26, 27, and 41-groundwater):** The SPIA is located within the 4,800-acre area known as the South Post of Fort Devens. The SPIA is a 964-acre area that includes four AOCs: 25, 26, 27, and 41. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Range, AOC 25, is operating under a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act emergency permit and is used periodically for disposal of waste ordnance. AOC 26 is known as the Zulu Ranges and includes the Zulu 1 (Light Demo) and Zulu 2 (Hand Grenade Familiarization) ranges; AOC 27 is known as the Hotel Range; and AOC 41 includes the Unauthorized Dumping Area Site A. Each range is active and has a unique ordnance use: AOC 25 is used for emergency explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) detonation; AOC 26 is used for EOD training (Zulu I) and grenade training (Zulu II); AOC 27 is used for small arms training such as M-16s and other small caliber weapons, smoke grenades, and pyrotechnics; and, AOC 41 was used as a landfill consisting of non-explosive military and household debris. The SPIA is currently used by the Army, the U.S. Army Reserve Command, the National Guard, and local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

A ROD for the four AOCs (AOCs 25, 26, 27, and 41), collectively referred to as the SPIA monitored area, was issued in July 1996. The ROD documented the “No Action” remedy for the SPIA monitored area groundwater, surface water, soil, and sediment. The following components were included as part of the selected No Action Remedy: groundwater monitoring for potential contaminant migration out of the SPIA monitored area, groundwater monitoring at the individual AOCs, sampling of Well D-1 (classified as a transient non-community supply well), developing a LTMP and Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), restricting development of new drinking water sources within the SPIA monitored area, and submitting annual reports.

The LTM activities include annual sampling of monitoring wells and a nearby drinking water well (D1).

Samples are submitted for VOCs, explosives and metals analyses. Perchlorate was added as a COC in 2006. An investigation was conducted in 2014 to better define the perchlorate and explosives plumes at AOC26.

The remedy at SPIA currently protects human health and the environment through continued annual LTM sampling.

**Barnum Road Maintenance Yards (AOCs 44 and 52):** AOCs 44 and 52 comprise the Barnum Road Maintenance Yards at the former Fort Devens and are located in the northeast corner of the former Main Post, near Barnum Gate. The site consists of four former vehicle maintenance yards with a history of vehicle storage and repair. Contamination at the site was primarily attributed to petroleum and oil releases associated with maintenance activity. The ROD describing the selected cleanup remedy was signed in March 1995. Remedial actions consisting of soil excavation, asphalt batching of contaminated soil, repaving, and installation of a stormwater collection system were completed in April 1996. The Remedial Action Completion Report for AOCs 44 and 52 was issued in June 1996 (Weston, 1996). The remedial action at AOCs 44 and 52 is considered complete. The U.S. Army (Army) has no plans to transfer the property.

Construction activities completed in 2010 included construction of the Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) complex which includes a large training building, located at the former vehicle maintenance shop, and a U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) and U.S. Marine Corps Reserve (USMCR) Organizational Maintenance Shop (OMS)/Area Maintenance Support Activities (AMSA) building. The OMS/AMSA building footprint overlays a portion of the former AOC 44 and 52 remediation areas. Construction activities were performed in accordance with an Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) that incorporated the provisions of the 1995 ROD. As-builds are also available verifying compliance with the ROD.

The remedy at AOCs 44 and 52 is protective of human health and the environment and exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks are being controlled. The asphalt batching of contaminated soils conducted in 1995 and 1996 remains effective at immobilizing the petroleum related contaminants and has met the objectives of the remedial action. The cover over the untreated subsurface soils remains in place and recent on-site construction activities have complied with the provisions of the ROD concerning construction activity soil management practices. Previous groundwater monitoring has confirmed that migration of surface soil contaminants to the aquifer following the historic releases at the site, or because of remedial activities, has not occurred.

**DRMO Yards (AOCs 32 and 43A):** AOC 32 was an active materials storage facility from approximately 1964 to 1995. It consisted of three fenced areas where various materials were processed and stored, and contained a former waste oil UST (UST #13). The tank was removed in 1992; and contaminated soils were excavated and disposed off site. Monitored natural attenuation (MNA) was the selected remedy in the 1998 ROD for addressing the groundwater contamination.

AOC 43A, known as the POL (petroleum, oil and lubricants) Storage Area served as the central distribution point for all gasoline stations at Fort Devens during the 1940s and 1950s, and was subsequently used to store fuels for various purposes. The distribution facility consisted of a main gasoline station, a pump house, four 12,000-gallon USTs, one 10,000-gallon UST, two 12,000-gallon above-ground storage tanks (AST), and two 8,000-gallon ASTs. Gasoline was delivered by rail car and transferred to the tanks. The POL Storage Area consisted of a fenced lot within a developed industrial area of buildings, roads, and grass lots. Monitored natural attenuation was chosen as the selected remedy

for groundwater and incorporated into the sites' 1998 ROD.

Remedial actions at AOC 32 included excavation and disposal of contaminated soils and debris. Removal actions were completed in 1998. An MNA assessment was conducted in 2000 and LTM was recommended as an effective remedial action at AOCs 32 and 43A. COCs identified in the 1998 ROD and 2000 MNAA included: VOCs, VPH, EPH and arsenic and manganese.

The excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soils have been effective at removing any contaminant source soils and has met the objectives of the remedial actions. Analysis of groundwater data to date has indicated that off-site migration is not occurring. While a slight rebound was observed in 32M-01-18XBR during the 2014 LTM event, the current groundwater analytical data for well 32M-01-18XBR indicates significantly diminished COC concentrations as a result of the February 2009 persulfate injection event.

The remedy at AOC 32 and AOC 43A is protective of human health and the environment because ICs are incorporated into the deed that prohibit the use of groundwater from the site, and contaminants are not migrating offsite.

**Historic Gas Stations (AOC 43G and 43J):** AOCs 43G and 43J is located in the central portion of the former Main Post of Fort Devens. AOC 43G consists of the former Army Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) gas station and historic Gas Station G. The historic gas station was used as a motor pool to support military operations during World War II. Contamination at both sites is attributed to releases from gasoline and waste underground storage tanks (UST). Site Investigations (SI) and Supplemental Site Investigations (SSI) were performed between 1992 and 1994 at both sites. A RI/FS that evaluated potential remedial alternatives was completed in June 1996.

A ROD was then signed in October 1996 documenting intrinsic remediation as the final selected cleanup remedy at both AOCs 43G and 43J. Specific components of the selected remedy for both AOCs included: intrinsic bioremediation assessment, data collection and groundwater modeling, installation of additional monitoring wells, long term monitoring, and annual data reports. Contaminants of concern defined by the ROD included: iron, manganese, nickel, and BTEX. The focus of the remediation was organic compounds (BTEX) associated with petroleum release within the source area. Concentrations of BTEX within the source areas continue to decline and sentry wells meet the cleanup goals for BTEX.

The remedy at AOC 43G and 43J is protective of human health and the environment and exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks are being controlled.

**Former Elementary School (AOC 69W):** AOC 69W is located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Jackson Road and Antietam Street on the northern portion of what was formerly the Main Post at Fort Devens. AOC 69W is composed of the former Devens Elementary School (Building 215) and its associated parking lot and adjacent lawn extending approximately 300 ft northwest to Willow Brook. Contamination at AOC 69W is attributed to two separate releases of No. 2 heating oil in 1972 and 1978. It is estimated that 7,000 to 8,000 gallons of No. 2 heating oil were released into soil from each release.

In 1999, a Limited Action ROD was signed. The Limited Action consisted of long-term groundwater monitoring and ICs to limit potential exposure to contaminated soils and groundwater under both existing and future site conditions. The COCs were identified as VPH, EPH, arsenic and manganese. Annual LTM groundwater samples are collected. Groundwater concentrations for VPH and EPH are stable or decreasing over time and sentry wells indicate no off site migration.

The remedy in place at AOC 69W is protective of human health and the environment and exposure

pathways that could result in unacceptable risk are being controlled.

**Former Moore Army Airfield (AOC 50):** AOC 50 is located on the northeastern boundary of the former Moore Army Airfield (MAAF), within the former Fort Devens North Post in Ayer, Massachusetts. AOC 50 is currently defined by three distinct areas: the Source Area (Area 1), Southwest Plume and North Plume. Sources of groundwater contamination within AOC 50 include two World War II fueling systems, a drywell, and the former Drum Storage Area. These sources are collectively referred to as the Source Area. Although these sources have been removed or decommissioned, groundwater underlying AOC 50 contains elevated concentrations of chlorinated volatile organic compounds (CVOC); most notably tetrachloroethene (PCE). The primary area of groundwater contamination at AOC50 is referred to as the Southwest Plume. The Southwest Plume extends from the Source Area approximately 3,000-ft downgradient to the Nashua River and is divided into 5 areas (Area 1 (source area) and Areas 2 through 5) extending south/southwest to the Nashua River.

In March 2004, a ROD was signed to select a remedy with the following components: an enhanced reductive dechlorination (ERD) program, in-well stripping (IWS) system, soil vapor extraction (SVE), long-term groundwater monitoring, ICs, a contingency plan, and five- year reviews. The remedy was implemented in 2004. COCs identified in the 2004 ROD included VOCs, dissolved gases and metals.

The ERD treatment was amended in 2008 to maintain remedy effectiveness and reduce the CVOC concentrations throughout the plume, As reported in the 2014 O&MM Report, the remedy in place at AOC 50 is operating as designed and in accordance with the 23 year timeframe estimated during the remedial design, with the possible exception of the AOC 50 Source Area. A focused source area investigation in 2014 identified deeper impacts in the source area that appear to be untreated by the current remedial alternative. Annual ERD optimization will continue and the injection strategy modified as necessary to achieve the remedial goals within the estimated 10 to 15 year ROD timeframe.

The remedy at AOC 50 currently protects human health and the environment. Exposure pathways that could lead to unacceptable risk are being controlled. Human health is currently not at risk because groundwater at the site is not a potable water source nor is it planned to be used as a potable water source. However, the remedial actions at AOC50 are expected to allow unlimited use and unrestricted exposure following attainment of groundwater remediation goals.

**Former Building 3713 Fuel Oil Spill Site (AOC 57):** AOC 57 is located between Barnum Road and Cold Spring Brook on the northeast side of what was formerly the Main Post of Fort Devens in the town of Harvard, Massachusetts. AOC 57 is located to the south of a Zone II aquifer protection area and portions of AOC 57 are located within a Non-Potential Drinking Water Source Area and a medium-yield aquifer. The portion of the former Devens site that includes AOC 57 was used primarily as a storage and maintenance area for military vehicles. AOC 57 consists of three sub-areas (Area 1, Area 2, and Area 3) that are located south to southeast of Building 3713 and former Buildings 3756, 3757, and 3758. The sub-areas received storm water runoff and waste from vehicle maintenance at former vehicle storage yards related to Building 3713 and former Buildings 3757 and 3758.

Data obtained and observations made at Area 2 between 2002 and 2003, during the soil excavation activities and subsequent investigations prompted the submittal of an ESD in March 2004. The ESD expanded ROD mandated long-term monitoring (LTM) activities to include extractable petroleum hydrocarbons (EPH) C<sub>11</sub>- C<sub>22</sub> aromatics and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) as contaminants of concern (COC) for Area 2 groundwater, include EPH as a COC for Area 2 soil, monitor for the presence of petroleum waste at Area 2, and increase the soil volume and associated cost for Area 2 soil removal



activities.

The 2001 ROD determined that Area 1 required No Further Action (NFA) and selected remedies for Areas 2 and 3 to protect human health and the environment under current and future land use scenarios. Selected remedy components included: soil excavation and treatment, wetland protection and groundwater and surface water long term monitoring. Soil excavation and treatment was completed in 2002-2003. Wetland protection and annual LTM sampling continues. Contaminants of concern included: PCBs, EPH (C11-C22 aromatics), PCE and TCE and arsenic. PBCs are no longer considered COCs as contaminated soil was removed.

The remedies in place at AOC 57 are protective of human health and the environment and exposure pathways that could lead to unacceptable risk are being controlled. .

**FIVE-YEAR REVIEW SUMMARY FORM**

<b>SITE IDENTIFICATION</b>		
<b>Site Name:</b> Former Fort Devens Army Installation		
<b>EPA ID:</b> MA7210025154		
<b>Region:</b> 1	<b>State:</b> MA	<b>City/County:</b> Devens/Middlesex & Worcester
<b>SITE STATUS</b>		
<b>NPL Status:</b> Final		
<b>Multiple OUs?</b> Yes	<b>Has the site achieved construction completion?</b> No	
<b>REVIEW STATUS</b>		
<b>Lead agency:</b> Other Federal Agency <b>If “Other Federal Agency” was selected above, enter Agency name:</b> U.S. Army Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Environmental Office, Devens, MAU.S.		
<b>Author name (Federal or State Project Manager):</b> Not Applicable		
<b>Author affiliation:</b> Not applicable		
<b>Review period:</b> - January 2015 – June 2015		
<b>Date of site inspection:</b> May 31, 2015		
<b>Type of review:</b> Statutory		
<b>Review number:</b> 4		
<b>Triggering action date (Installation and AEC to confirm DoD’s approval date):</b> September 26, 2010		
<b>Due date (five years after triggering action date): (Installation and AEC to determine DoD’s preferred date)</b> September 26, 2015		

<b>Protectiveness Statement(s)</b>		
<i>Shepley's Hill Landfill AOC 4,5, and 18</i>	<i>Protectiveness Determination: Protective</i>	<i>Addendum Due Date (if applicable):</i>
<p><b>Protectiveness Statement:</b></p> <p>The remedy is considered to be protective of human health and the environment in the short-term. Short-term protectiveness is achieved because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no current exposure of Site related waste to humans or the environment at levels that would represent a health concern.</li> <li>• The landfill cover system prevents exposure to the waste material and contaminants within the landfill.</li> <li>• The public water line has eliminated ground water use within the area impacted by the landfill.</li> <li>• The remedy protects potential residential receptors from exposure to contaminated groundwater migrating from the landfill through land use controls that prohibit access to groundwater.</li> </ul> <p>Long term protectiveness will be accomplished through continued performance of operation, maintenance and monitoring activities and the eventual restoration of the groundwater. A reduction in the cleanup level for arsenic will be necessary prior to the certification that long-term protectiveness has been achieved.</p>		
<i>Devens Consolidated Landfill AOC 9, 40 and SA13</i>	<i>Protectiveness Determination: Protective</i>	<i>Addendum Due Date (if applicable):</i>
<p><b>Protectiveness Statements:</b></p> <p>The remedy at the Devens Consolidation Landfill (DCL) and its contributor sites AOC 9, 40 and SA13 are protective of human health and the environment, and exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risk are being controlled. Long-term protectiveness of the remedial action will be verified by groundwater monitoring at the DCL. Current monitoring data indicate that the remedy is functioning as required.</p>		
<i>South Post Impact Area AOC 25, 26, 27 and 41</i>	<i>Protectiveness Determination: Protective</i>	<i>Addendum Due Date (if applicable):</i>
<p><b>Protectiveness Statements:</b></p> <p>The No Action remedy at <i>AOCs 25, 26, 27, and 41</i> is currently protective of human health and the environment, and exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks are being controlled. The Army continues to complete LTM at this active range.</p>		

<b>Protectiveness Statement(s)</b>		
<i>Barnum Road Maintenance Yards AOC 44 and 52</i>	<i>Protectiveness Determination: Protective</i>	<i>Addendum Due Date (if applicable):</i>
<p><b>Protectiveness Statements:</b>            The remedy at Area 44 and 52 is protective of human health and the environment because institutional controls are enforced, and no exposures are currently occurring or imminent.</p>		

<i>DRMO Yards AOC 32 and 43A</i>	<i>Protectiveness Determination: Protective</i>	<i>Addendum Due Date (if applicable):</i>
<p><b>Protectiveness Statements:</b>            The remedy at AOCs 32 and AOC 43A is protective of human health and the environment. Exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks are being controlled. Post construction groundwater flow patterns have been defined and no new potential receptors have been identified. ICs that prohibit access to the site's groundwater for residential or commercial use are in place.</p>		
<i>Former Gas Station AOC 43G and 43J</i>	<i>Protectiveness Determination: Protective</i>	<i>Addendum Due Date (if applicable):</i>
<p><b>Protectiveness Statements:</b>            The remedy at Area 44 and 52 is protective of human health and the environment because institutional controls are enforced, groundwater is not used as a drinking water source and no exposures are currently occurring or imminent.</p>		
<i>Former Elementary School AOC 69W</i>	<i>Protectiveness Determination: Protective</i>	<i>Addendum Due Date (if applicable):</i>
<p><b>Protectiveness Statements:</b>            The remedy at AOC 69W is protective of human health and the environment and exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risk are being controlled. All soil and groundwater contamination remains within the confines of this AOC and ICs are in place that limits exposure to the soil and groundwater at the site.</p>		

<i>Former Moore Army Airfield AOC 50</i>	<i>Protectiveness Determination: Protective</i>	<i>Addendum Due Date (if applicable):</i>
<b>Protectiveness Statements:</b> The remedy at AOC 50 is protective of human health and the environment. Exposure pathways that could result in unacceptable risks are being controlled. The remedial actions at AOC 50 are expected to allow unrestricted use and unlimited exposure following achievement of groundwater remedial goals.		
<i>Former Building 3713 Fuel Spill AOC 57</i>	<i>Protectiveness Determination: Protective</i>	<i>Addendum Due Date (if applicable):</i>
<b>Protectiveness Statements:</b> The remedy at Area 57 is protective of human health and the environment because institutional controls are enforced, and no exposures are currently occurring or imminent.		



**Appendix B**  
**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

NAME

ADDRESS 1

ADDRESS 2

TOWN, MA ZIP

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

Dear NAME:

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



**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

[Federal/State Elected Official]

Address 1

Address 2

City, ST Zip

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

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

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 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 community 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 Community Involvement Plan, we need to hear from local community members. We achieve that by offering a written questionnaire or an opportunity for community members to participate in a personal interview (both cover the same questions.) We are sending letters to many of your constituents in Shirley, Ayer, Devens, Harvard, and Lancaster asking them to fill out the written questionnaire or participate in an interview.

If you or a designated staff person would like to provide input for the Community Involvement Plan, please complete the written questionnaire posted at <https://www.ftdevens.org> and email it to [amy.brand@jacobs.com](mailto:amy.brand@jacobs.com). If you prefer, you may contact Mrs. Brand to schedule an interview the week of August 5<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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

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

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

Sincerely,



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





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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Contact Information (Optional)**

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

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

## Profile

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

<p>1. How long have you lived in Shirley, Devens, Ayer, Harvard, or Lancaster?</p> <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>

## Awareness of and Interest in the BRAC Environmental Cleanup Program

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

<p>6. Before we contacted you, were you aware of the Army's PREVIOUS environmental investigations and cleanup at the former Fort Devens?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> Yes, aware                              <input type="radio"/> Vaguely aware                              <input type="radio"/> No, not aware                              <input type="radio"/> Not sure       </p> <p><i>(If yes)</i> How satisfied were you with the Army's previous environmental investigations and cleanup?</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>not at all satisfied</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>moderately satisfied</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>extremely satisfied</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>Comments:</p>	<b>not at all satisfied</b>	<b>moderately satisfied</b>	<b>extremely satisfied</b>
<b>not at all satisfied</b>	<b>moderately satisfied</b>	<b>extremely satisfied</b>	
<p>7. Before we contacted you, were you aware of the Army's recent environmental investigations of PFAS in groundwater?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> Yes, aware                              <input type="radio"/> Vaguely aware                              <input type="radio"/> No, not aware                              <input type="radio"/> Not sure       </p>			
<p>8. How interested or concerned are you about the PFAS investigation?</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>not at all interested or concerned</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>moderately interested or concerned</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>extremely interested or concerned</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>If applicable, what issues interest or concern you the most?</p>	<b>not at all interested or concerned</b>	<b>moderately interested or concerned</b>	<b>extremely interested or concerned</b>
<b>not at all interested or concerned</b>	<b>moderately interested or concerned</b>	<b>extremely interested or concerned</b>	
<p>9. Do you feel you have been directly or indirectly affected by PFAS contamination?</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <input type="radio"/> No                                              <input type="radio"/> Not sure                                              Yes (if so, how?)       </p>			
<p>10. How interested or concerned do you think community members are about the PFAS investigation?</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>not at all interested or concerned</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>moderately interested or concerned</b></td> <td style="width: 33%;"><b>extremely interested or concerned</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>Comments:</p>	<b>not at all interested or concerned</b>	<b>moderately interested or concerned</b>	<b>extremely interested or concerned</b>
<b>not at all interested or concerned</b>	<b>moderately interested or concerned</b>	<b>extremely interested or concerned</b>	

## 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)



# **Appendix C**

## **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.**

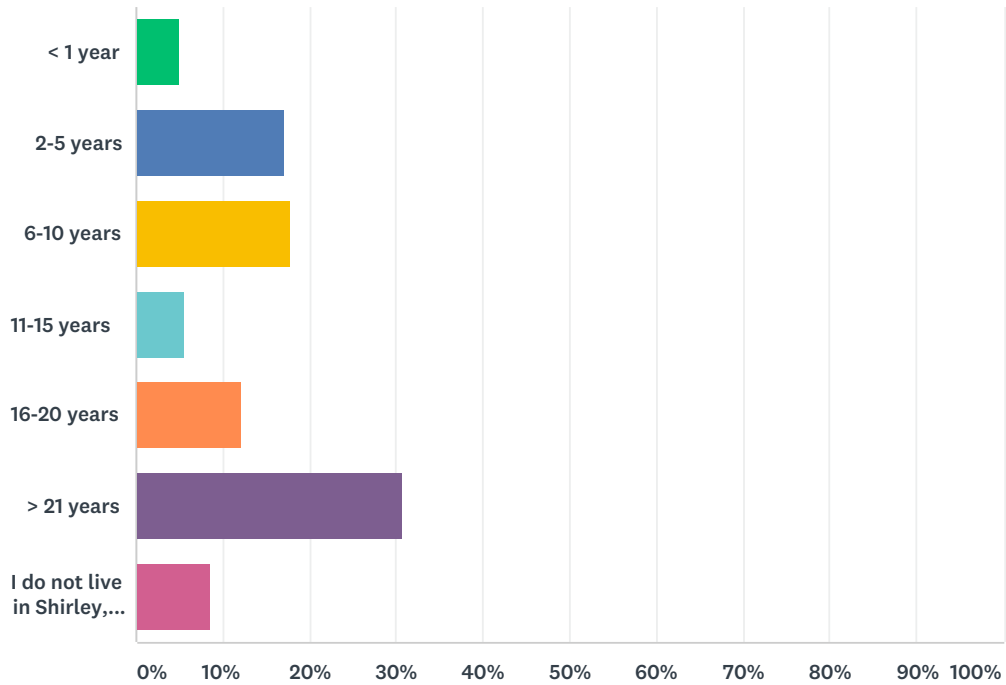
Answered: 85 Skipped: 57

<b>ANSWER CHOICES</b>	<b>RESPONSES</b>	
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

Please note personally identifiable information has been removed.

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

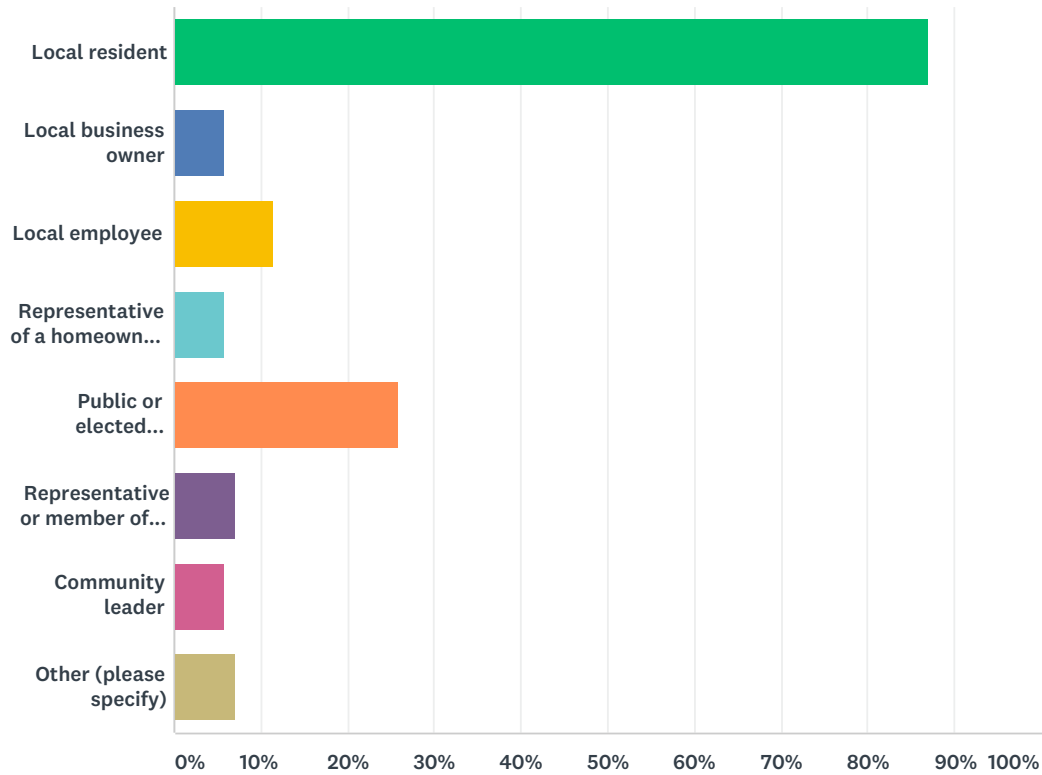
Answered: 140 Skipped: 2



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)

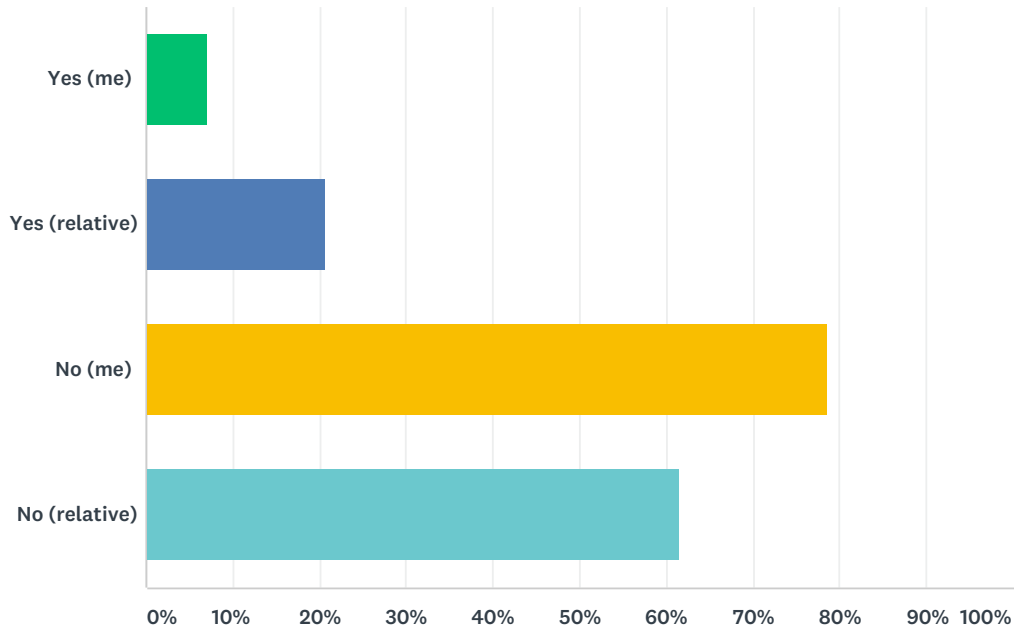
Answered: 139 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
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

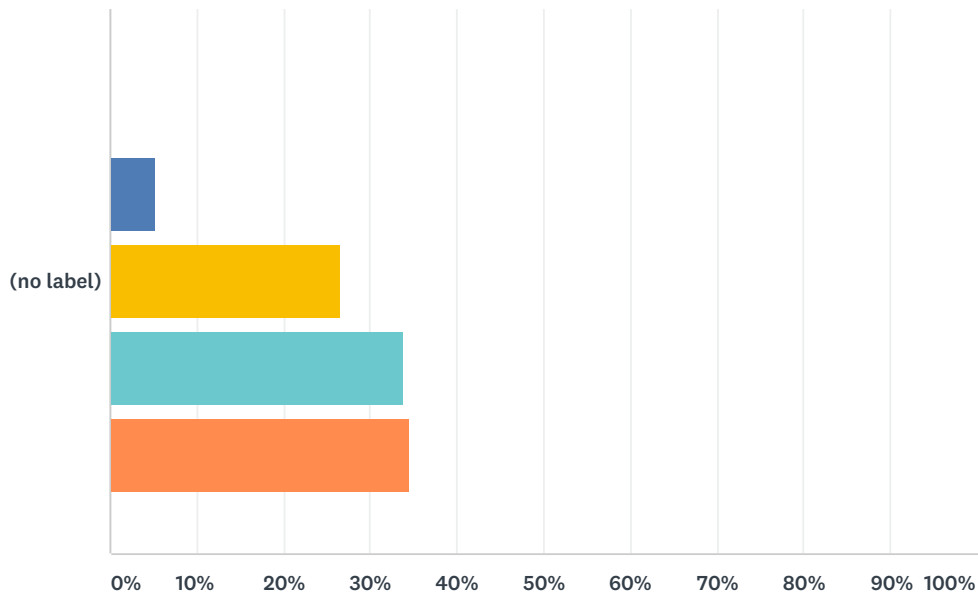


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes (me)	7.14%	10
Yes (relative)	20.71%	29
No (me)	78.57%	110
No (relative)	61.43%	86
Total Respondents: 140		



## 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		

#	COMMENTS:
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

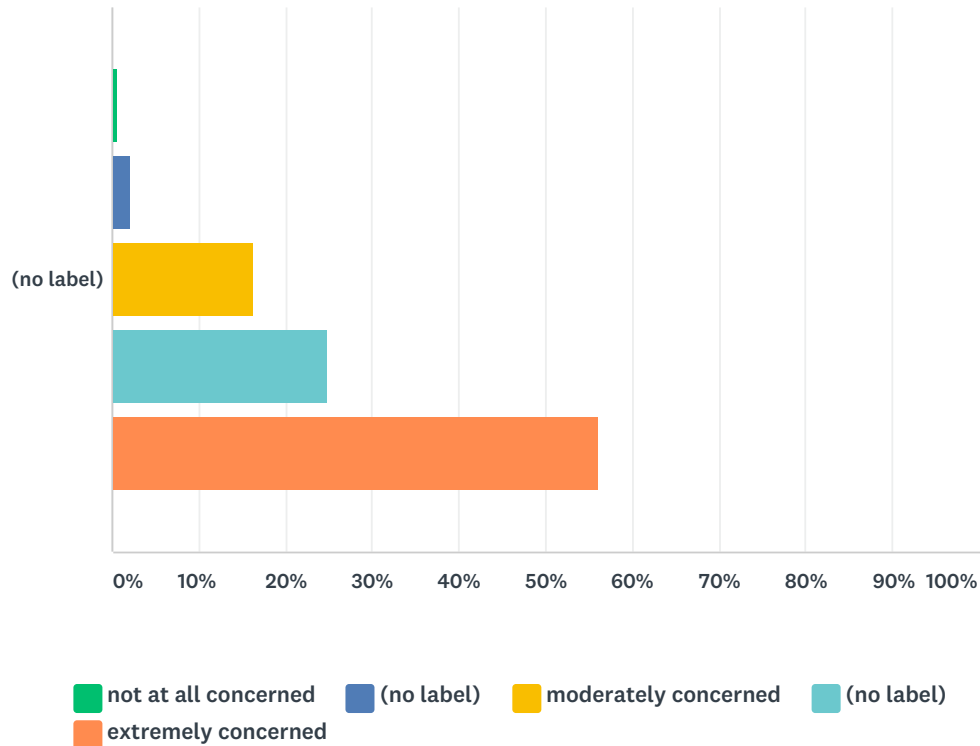
---

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

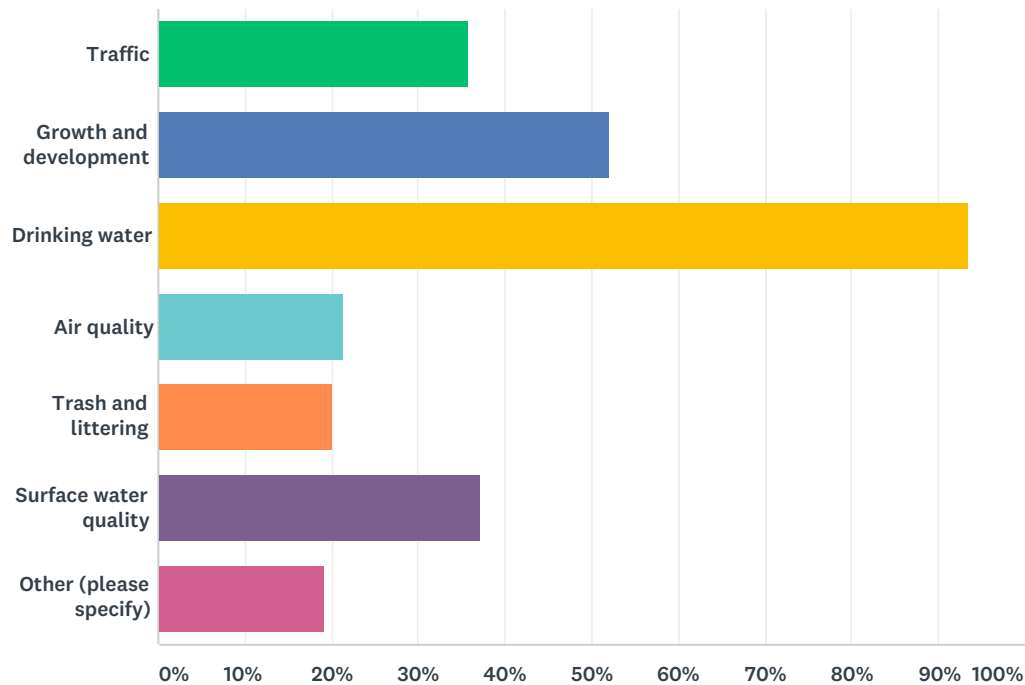
---

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



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
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.

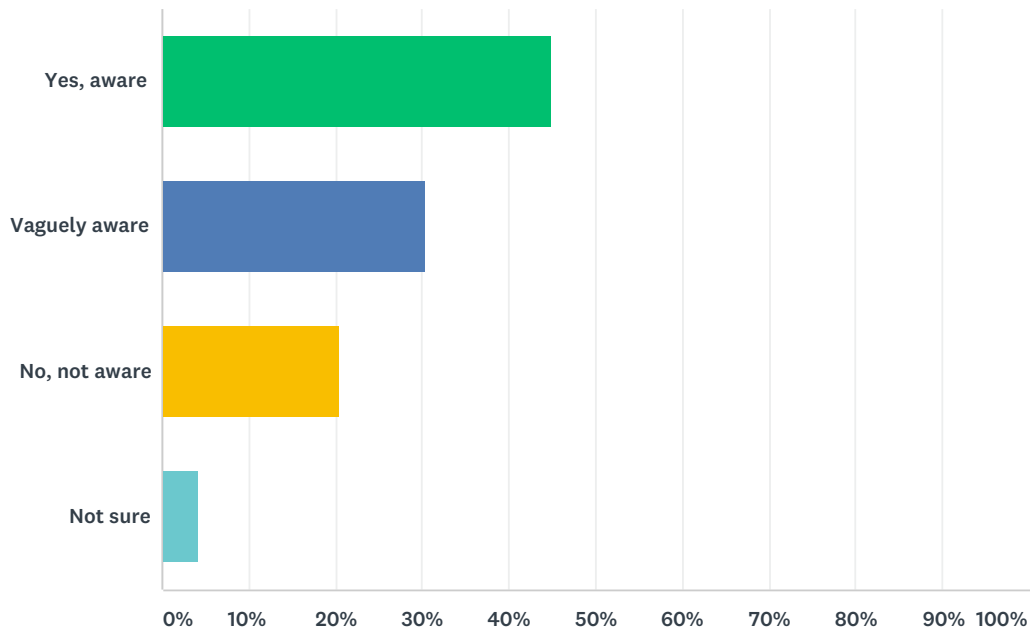


Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

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?

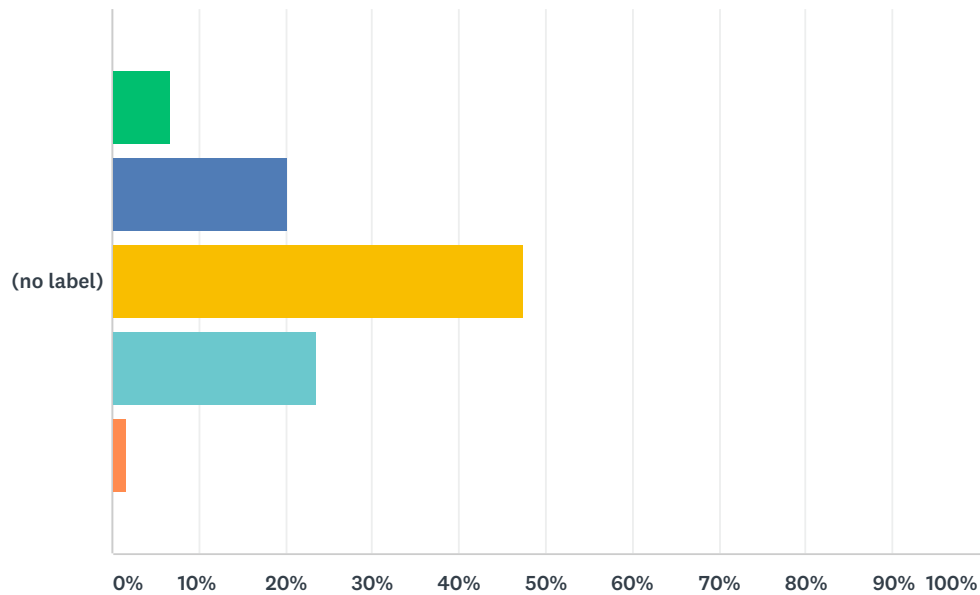
Answered: 142 Skipped: 0



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

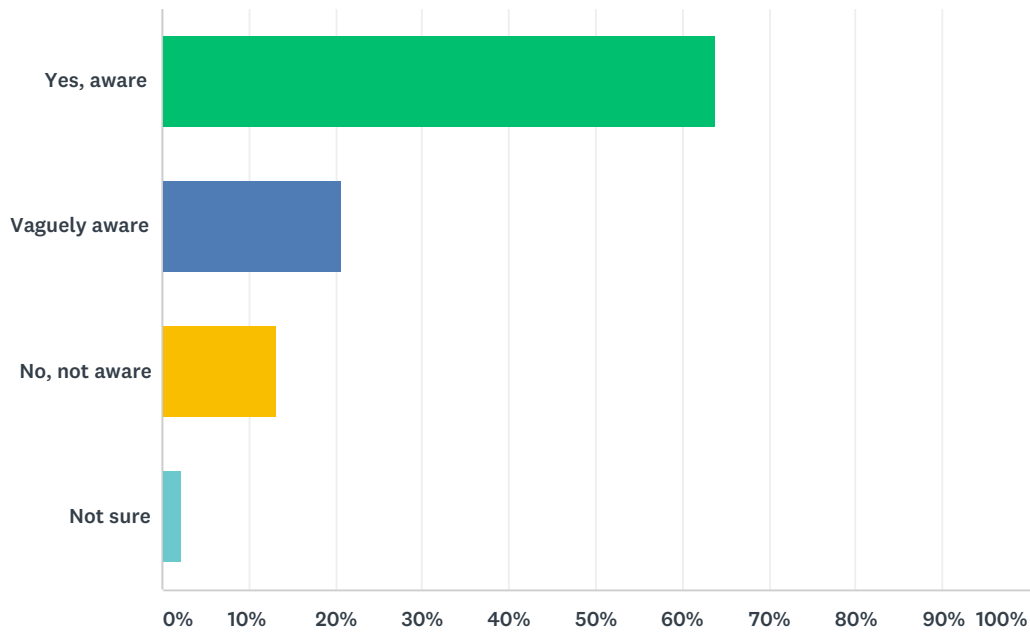
---

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?

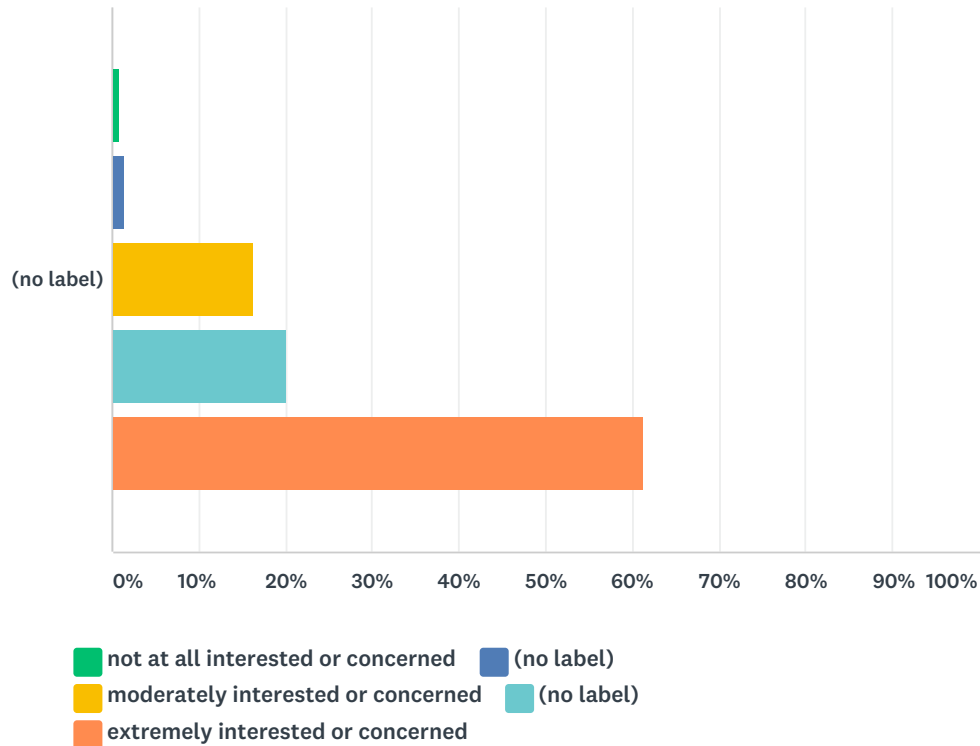
Answered: 130 Skipped: 12



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

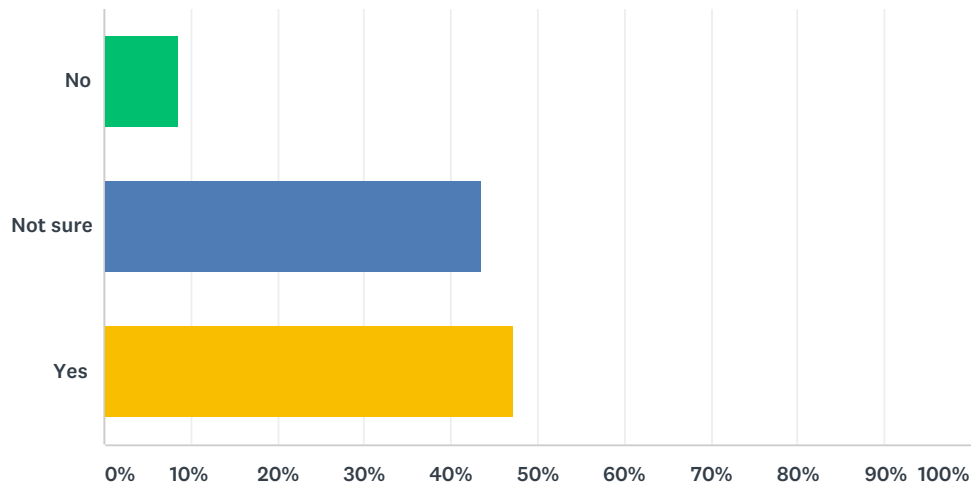
6	Be more concerned if I lived in Ayer- well source is in the opposite direction in Shirley
7	Not a lot of information- doesn't really know what PFAS is, how it effects the citizens etc; Doesn't think the people of Lancaster know much about the PFAS investigation
8	Health effects of PFAS exposure; How 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

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

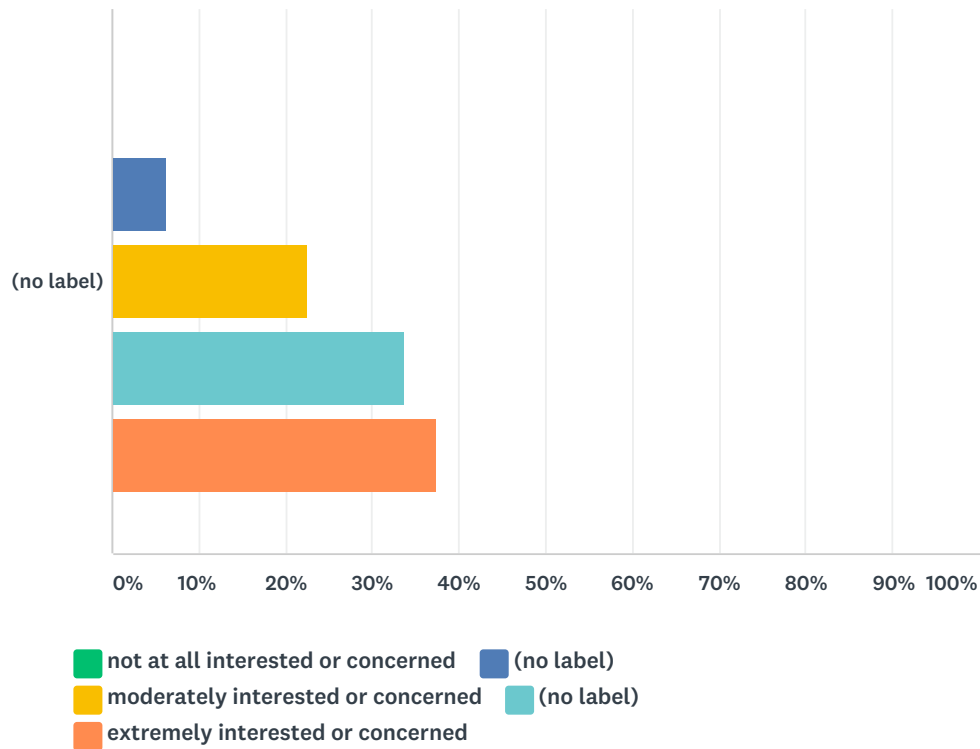
13	
14	The school has been issued water bottles to use as drinking water.
15	Just moved into new house and needed to really establish the lawn.
16	I grew up near Shepley Hill. We played in that area and in the woods where the army held maneuvers.
17	All 3 current members of our household has been diagnosed 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	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

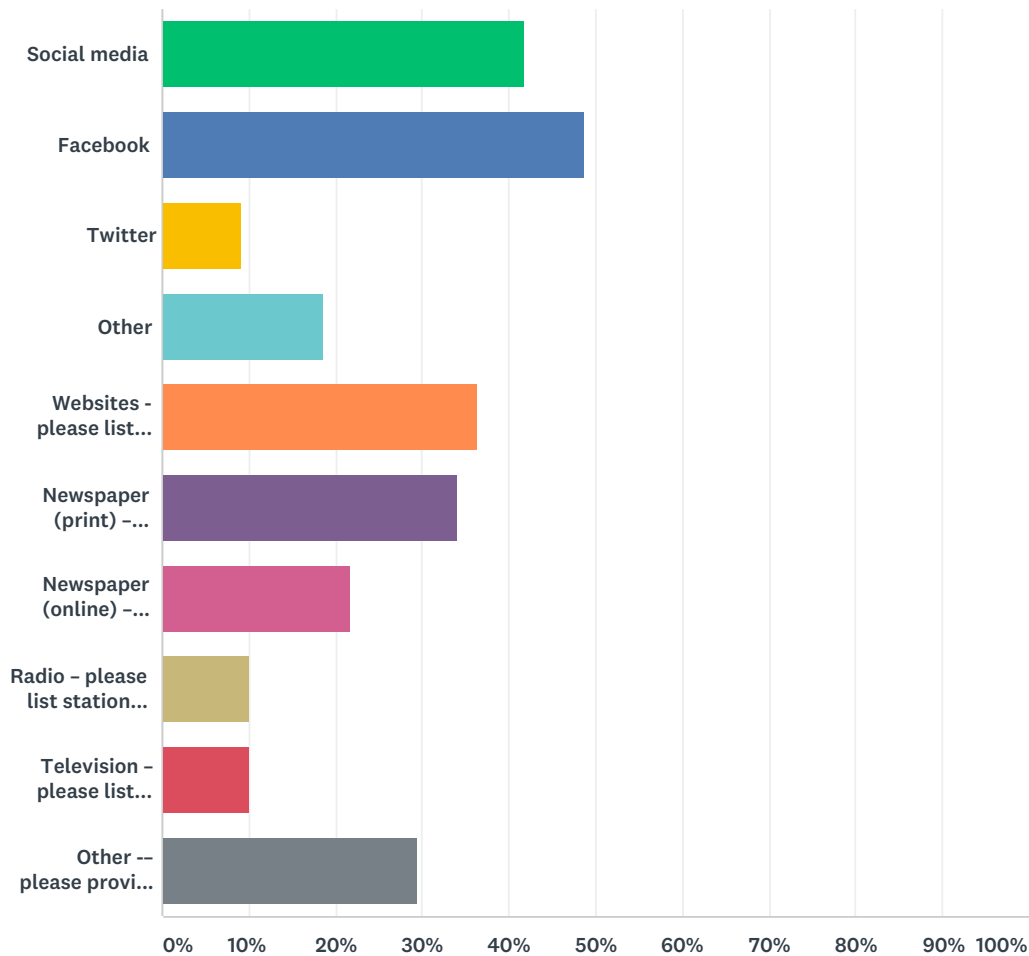


Community Involvement Questionnaire for the BRAC Environmental Restoration Program Former Fort Devens  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

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	Unaminious 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	
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

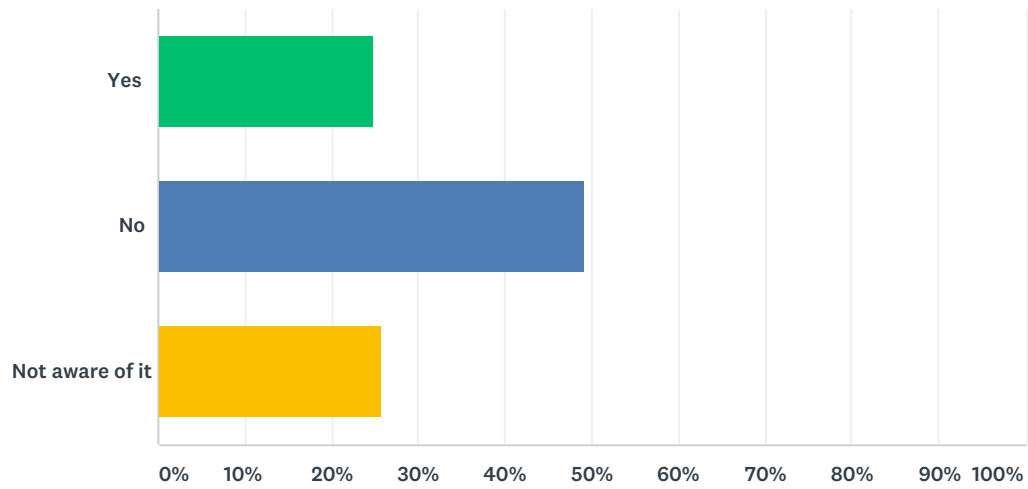
32	Local newsfeeds on internet search engines. Mailings from the town of Ayer. Local person to person. Talki
33	Emails from town of ayer
34	ayer.ma.us
35	Lowell Sun
36	Email notification USPS
37	Ayer town website, Pace Facebook page, Ayer library, Ayer local Tv
38	Town website.
39	NPR
40	Ayer Town hall - 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
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  
Army Installation, Devens, MA

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

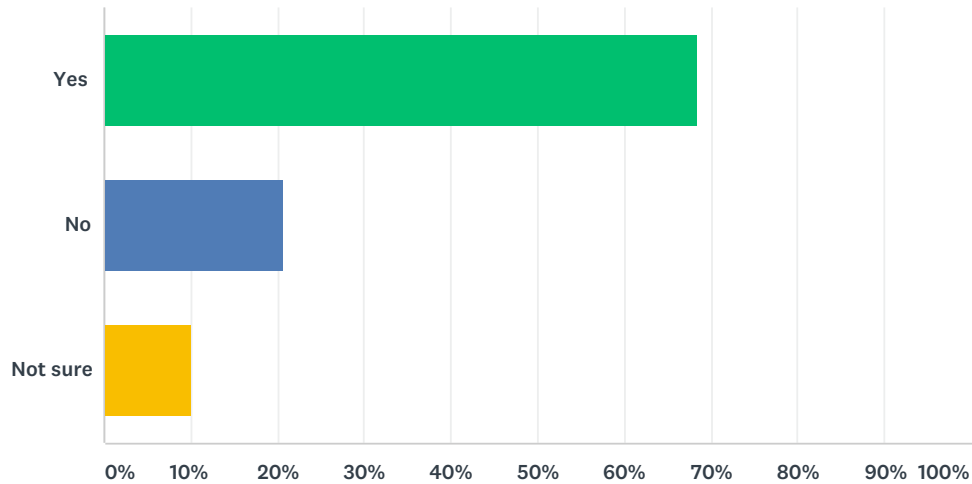


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	25.00% 32
No	49.22% 63
Not aware of it	25.78% 33
TOTAL	128



## 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

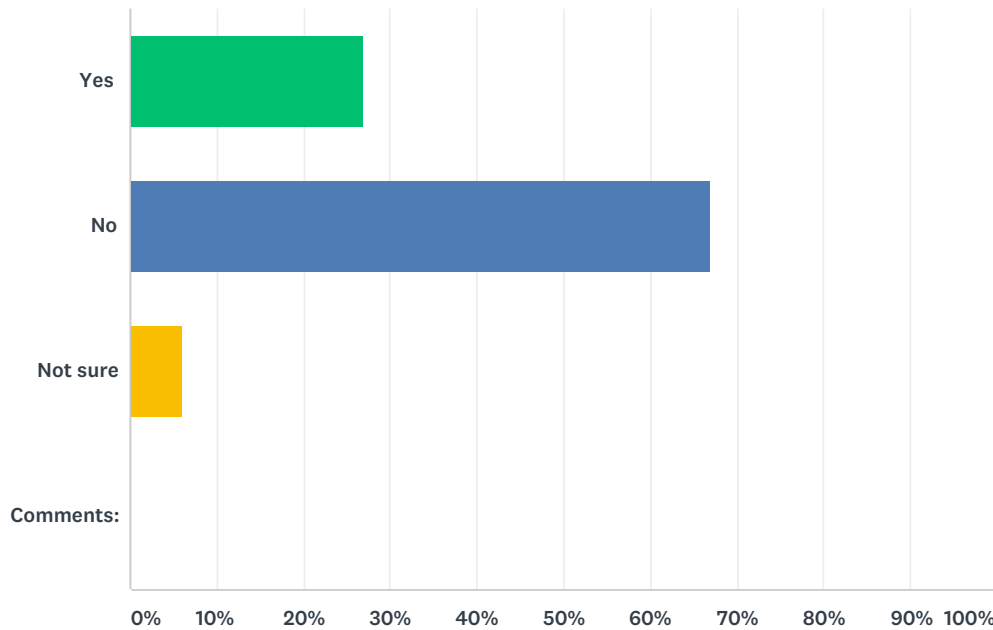
18	Yes helped
19	Ayer town website; yes, but I did not understand it all.
20	Attended an information meeting put on by PACE, a local environmental group to help make residents aware where I was given handouts on PFAS. I prefer "in hand" documents and mail
21	Ayer circulated information. Yes
22	One supplied 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	<a href="https://www.ayer.ma.us/water-department/pages/pfas-drinking-water">https://www.ayer.ma.us/water-department/pages/pfas-drinking-water</a>
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 providrd 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 contamates, 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?**

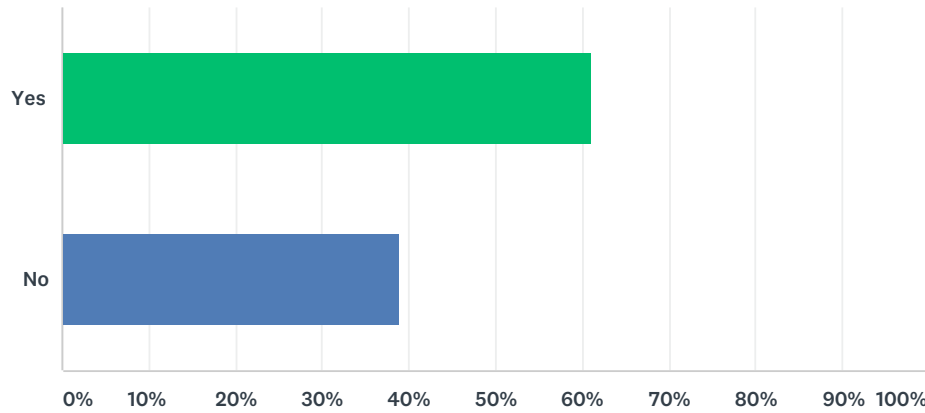
Answered: 130 Skipped: 12



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?

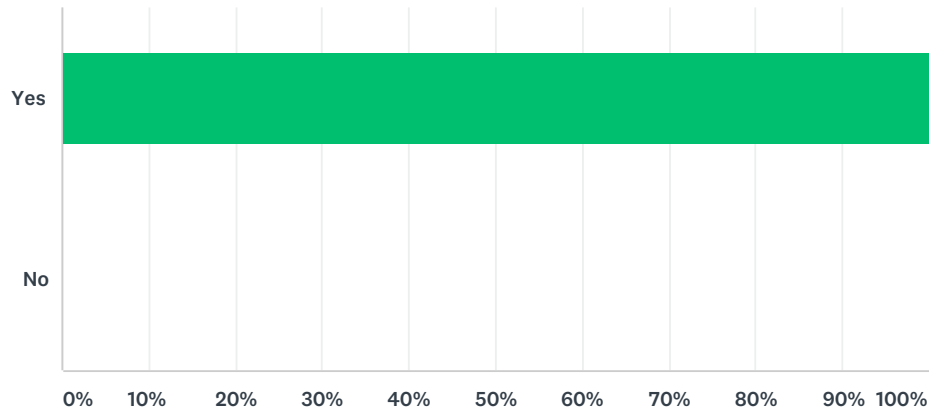
Answered: 36 Skipped: 106



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	61.11%	22
No	38.89%	14
TOTAL		36

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

Answered: 22 Skipped: 120



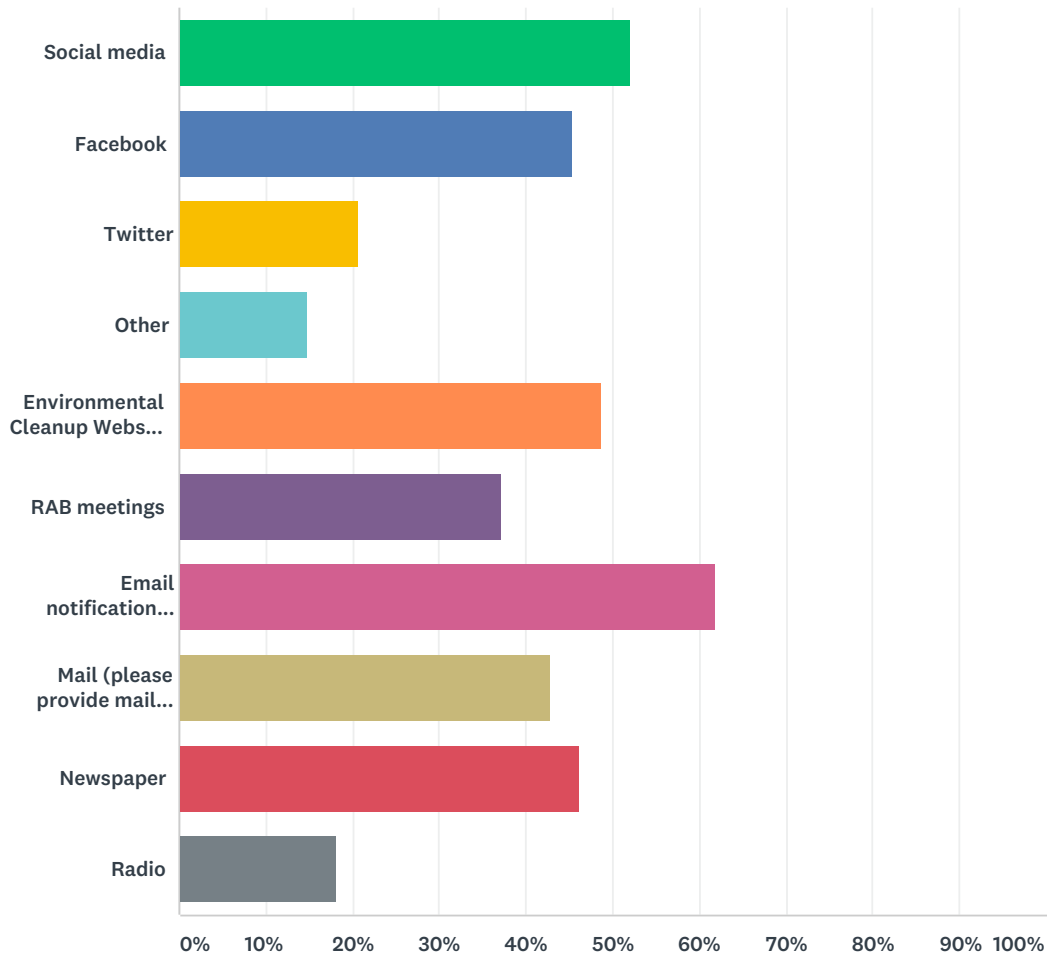
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	100.00%	22
No	0.00%	0
TOTAL		22

#	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	
Social media	52.07%	63
Facebook	45.45%	55
Twitter	20.66%	25
Other	14.88%	18
Environmental Cleanup Website Updates ( <a href="https://ftdevens.org">https://ftdevens.org</a> )	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

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

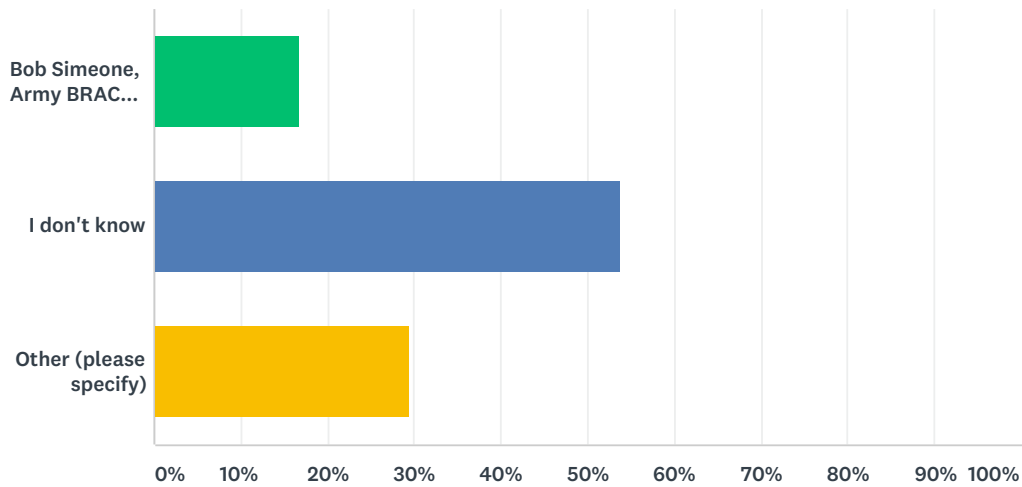
---

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

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

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

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

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.



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

---

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	Is there a plan to provide or reimburse for filters and filter refills?
5	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

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

14	<p>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.</p>
15	
16	<p>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</p>
17	<p>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</p>
18	<p>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.</p>
19	<p>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</p>
20	<p>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.</p>
21	<p>no</p>
22	<p>Yes, when will it be cleaned up and is there any recourse to those who may be negatively impacted</p>
23	<p>What is the long term plan to mitigate the PFAS?</p>
24	<p>Not right now....as new resident need to catch up on local issues</p>
25	<p>Too little, too late. I am deeply demoralized.</p>
26	<p>Not at this time.</p>
27	<p>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?</p>
28	<p>what type of filtration system is required to remove PFAS</p>
29	<p>not at this time</p>

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

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.

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

---

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 D**  
**Newspapers and Public Meeting Locations**

# Local Newspapers

## 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/)

## 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/)



# Public Meeting Locations

Town	Location	Phone	Capacity	Notes
Ayer	Ayer Town Hall	(978) 772-8220	Room for 50+ people	Large room upstairs but has poor acoustics and limited audio/visual resources  Smaller room downstairs  Must book in advance. POC: Carly Antonellis (cantonellis@ayer.ma.us)
	Ayer Public Library	(978) 772-8250	Small room – 10 people max.  Larger room – 45 people max.	There is a large parking lot.  To arrange booking must contact Samantha Benoit in advance: sbenoit@cwmars.org
	Ayer Fire Department	(978) 772-8231	Room for 10 people max.	
	Ayer Police Department	(978) 772-8220	Room for 50 people max.	Limited parking
	Department of Public Works Office	(978) 772-8240	Room for 6-8 people max.	
	Ayer Shirley Regional High School	(978) 772-8600	Auditorium for 600 people  Smaller room for 40-45 people	Requires an online application form which will be available on 11/18/2019; <a href="https://www.asrsd.org/">https://www.asrsd.org/</a>
	Ayer Shirley Regional Middle School	(978) 772-8600	Auditorium for 500 people	Requires an online application form which will be available on 11/18/2019; <a href="https://www.asrsd.org/">https://www.asrsd.org/</a>
Harvard	Harvard Town Hall	(978) 456-4103	Room for 50+ people	Requires online application - <a href="https://harvard.seamlessdocs.com/f/uppertownhall">https://harvard.seamlessdocs.com/f/uppertownhall</a>
	Harvard Public Library	(978) 456-4114	Room for up to 90 people	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)
	Thayer Memorial Library	(978) 368-8928	One room for 68 people  One room for 22 people	Requires a Meeting Room 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	Room for 25 to 30 max.	
	Hazen Memorial Library	(978) 425-2620	Room for 90 people	Requires a request form online: <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	Room for 100+ people	POC: Karen Davis