



# Update on PFAS in Gustavus

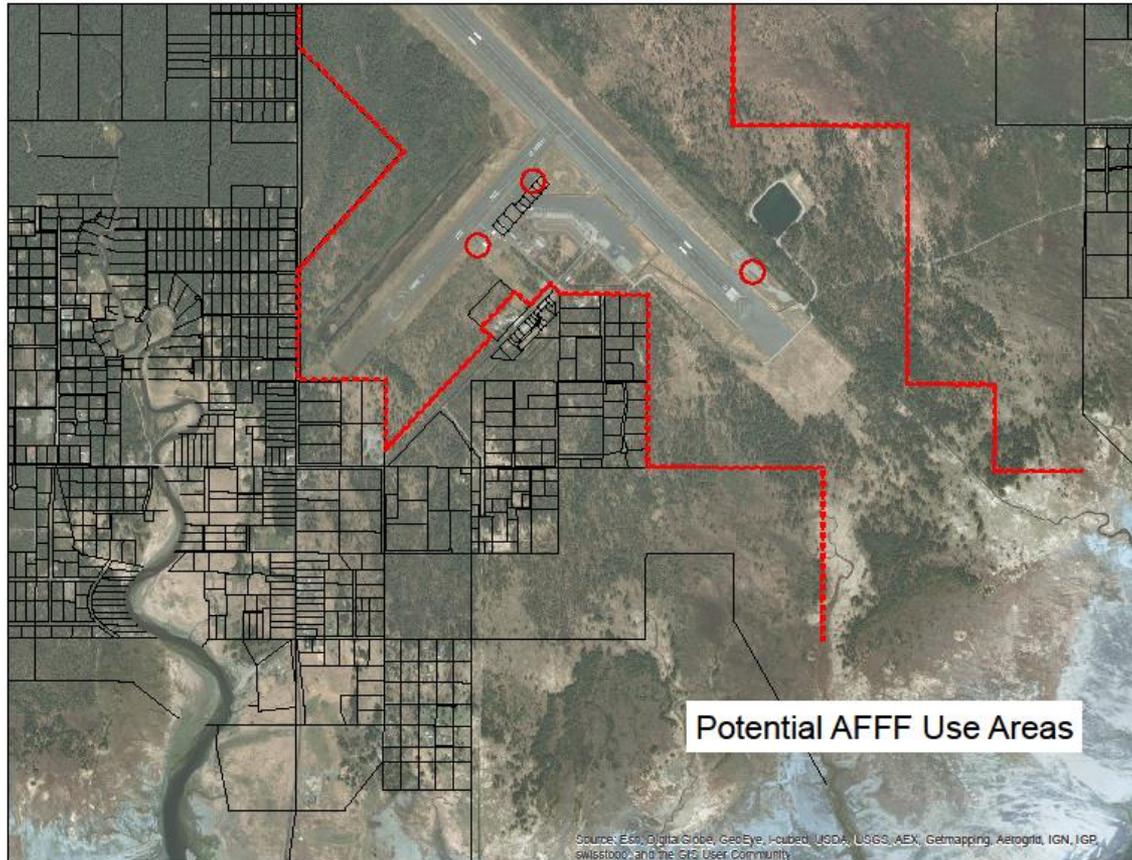
Aurah Landau  
Public Information Officer  
DOT&PF Southcoast Region

October 30, 2018

*To Keep Alaska Flying and Thriving*



# GST Airport & AFFF Use Areas



# Why have PFAS been used at airports?

PFAS have been used at Gustavus Airport in AFFF for required FAA training exercises, equipment testing, and any needed emergency fire response.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) mandates<sup>1</sup>:

- “testing of firefighting foam equipment on aircraft rescue and firefighting vehicles is done in accordance to NFPA 412: Standard for Evaluating Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Foam Equipment”

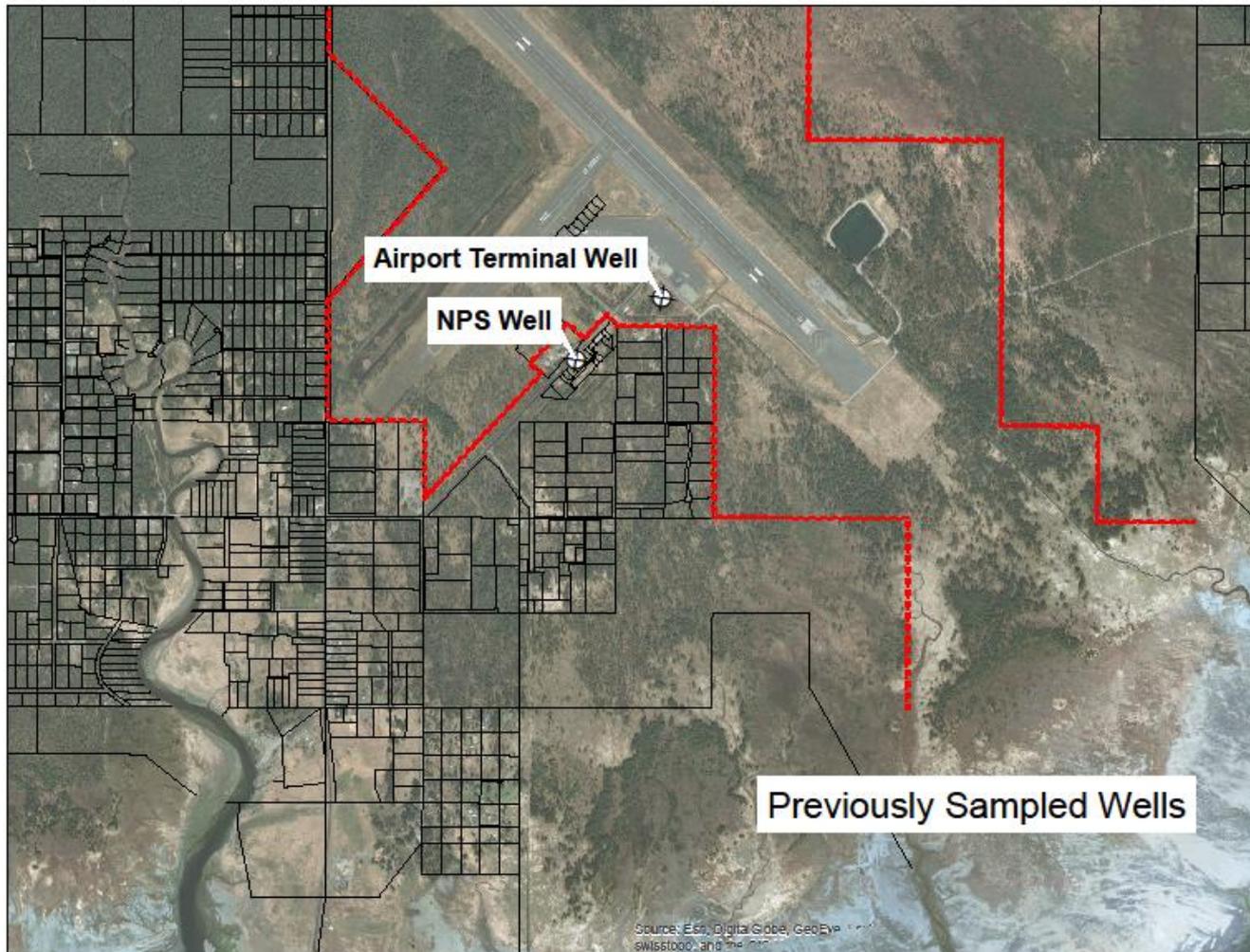
Simplified summary of NFPA 412<sup>2</sup>:

- Foams shall be flowed annually to insure expansion ratio and drainage criteria are met.

The use of AFFF at the Gustavus Airport prompted testing of monitoring and testing wells for PFAS presence (sampled summer 2018)

*Sources: <sup>1</sup>Use and Potential Impacts of AFFF Containing PFASs at Airports,  
<sup>2</sup>National Fire Protection Association Standard 412*

# Preliminary PFAS Sampling Results



# Timeline

- Burn pit last used 2014
- AFFF used at Gustavus Airport for certification testing only ( $\approx$ 10 seconds per year)  $\approx$ 2015 – Current
- Gustavus preliminary water sampling June 27, 2018
- DOT&PF received preliminary sampling test results July 30, 2018



# Response Actions

## Short-term - Done

- Using water for training
- Directed Alaska Airlines & Alaska Seaplanes to continue to use alternate water (coincidentally begun in May 2018 due to surface water intrusion)
- Assign multi-agency group to assist
- Contract independent environmental consultant to sample

## Short-Term – Ongoing

- Community outreach & collaboration with city, school, Park Service
- Determine plume

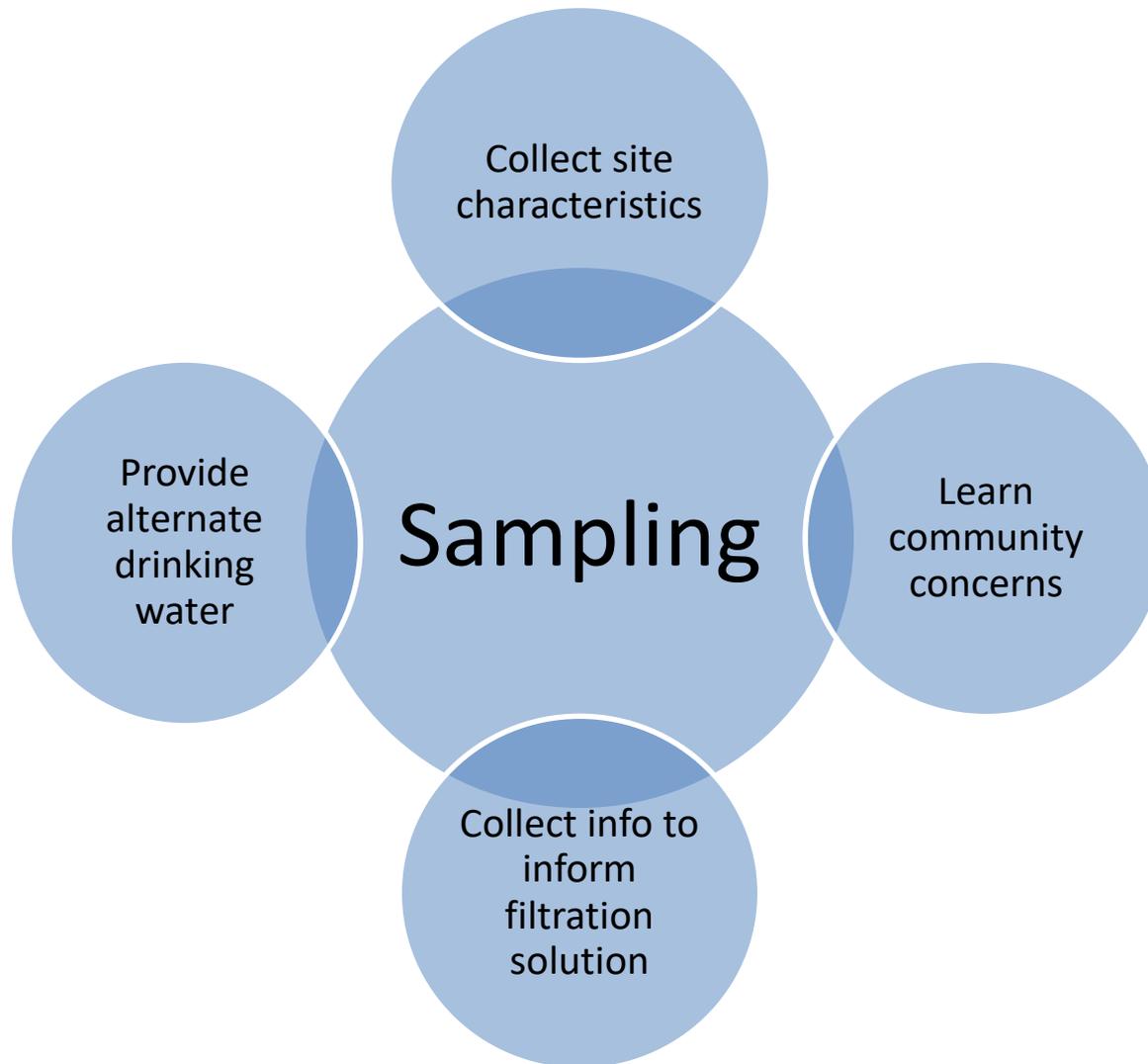
## Long-Term – Beginning

- Determine appropriate water filtration options & scale
- Find alternative foams or containment systems for FAA-required foam tests

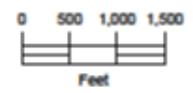
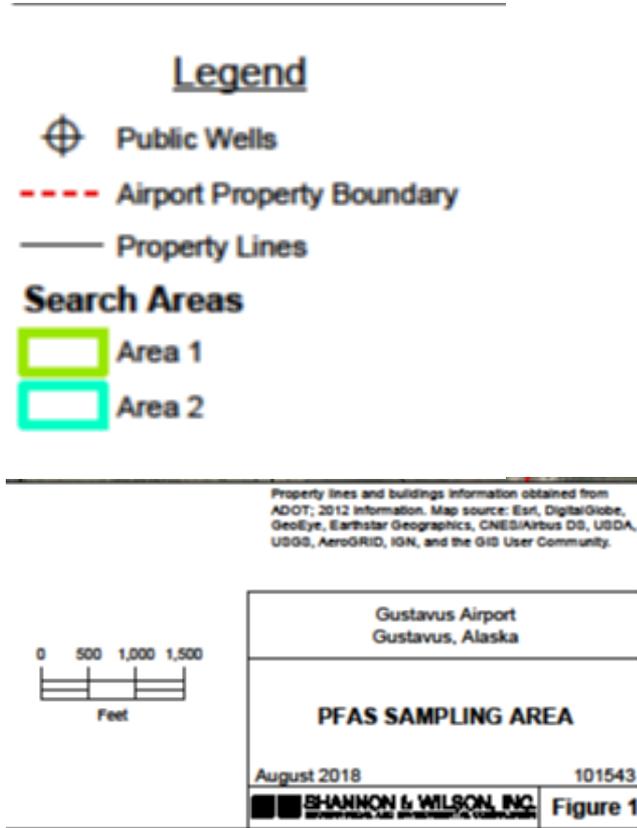
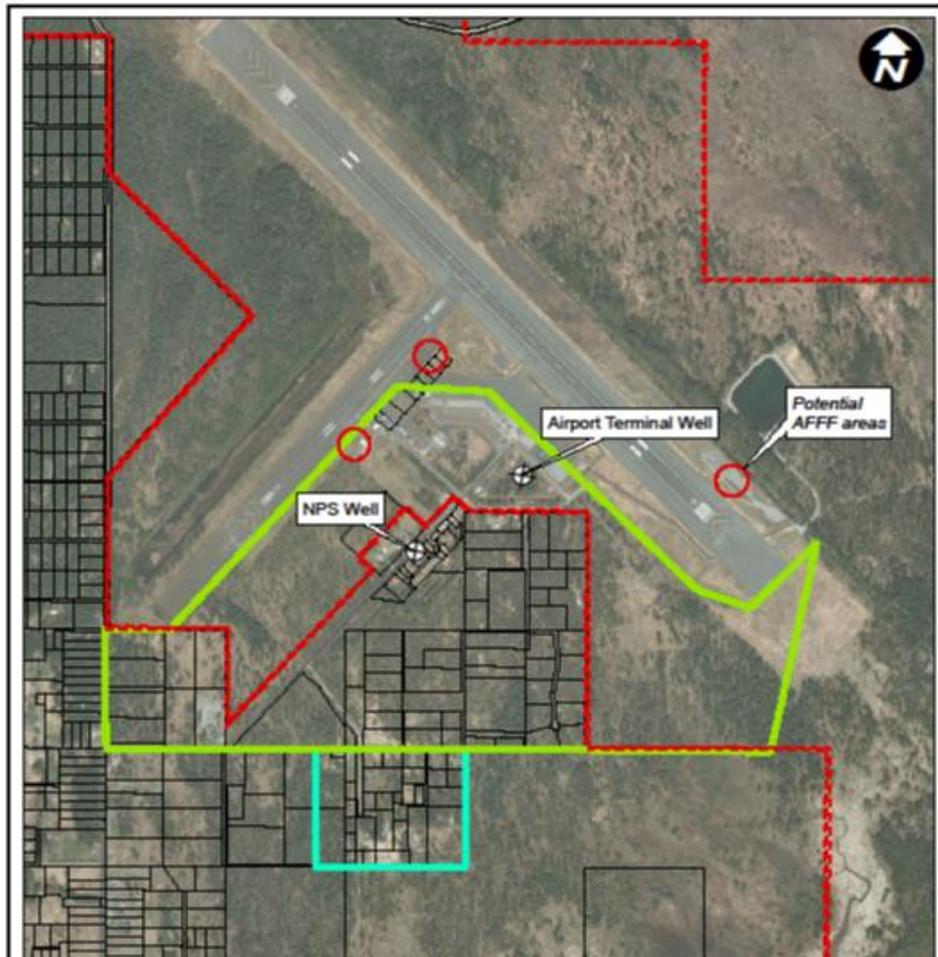
# Timeline

- Burn pit last used 2014
- AFFF used at Gustavus Airport for certification testing only (≈10 seconds per year) ≈2015 – Current
- Gustavus preliminary water sampling June 27, 2018
- DOT&PF received preliminary sampling test results July 30, 2018
- Inter-agency coordination begun Early August, 2018
- State of Alaska contracted Shannon & Wilson, Inc. August 16, 2018
- Well sampling begins August 27, 2018
- Inter-agency teams begins investigating long-term water source options September 2018

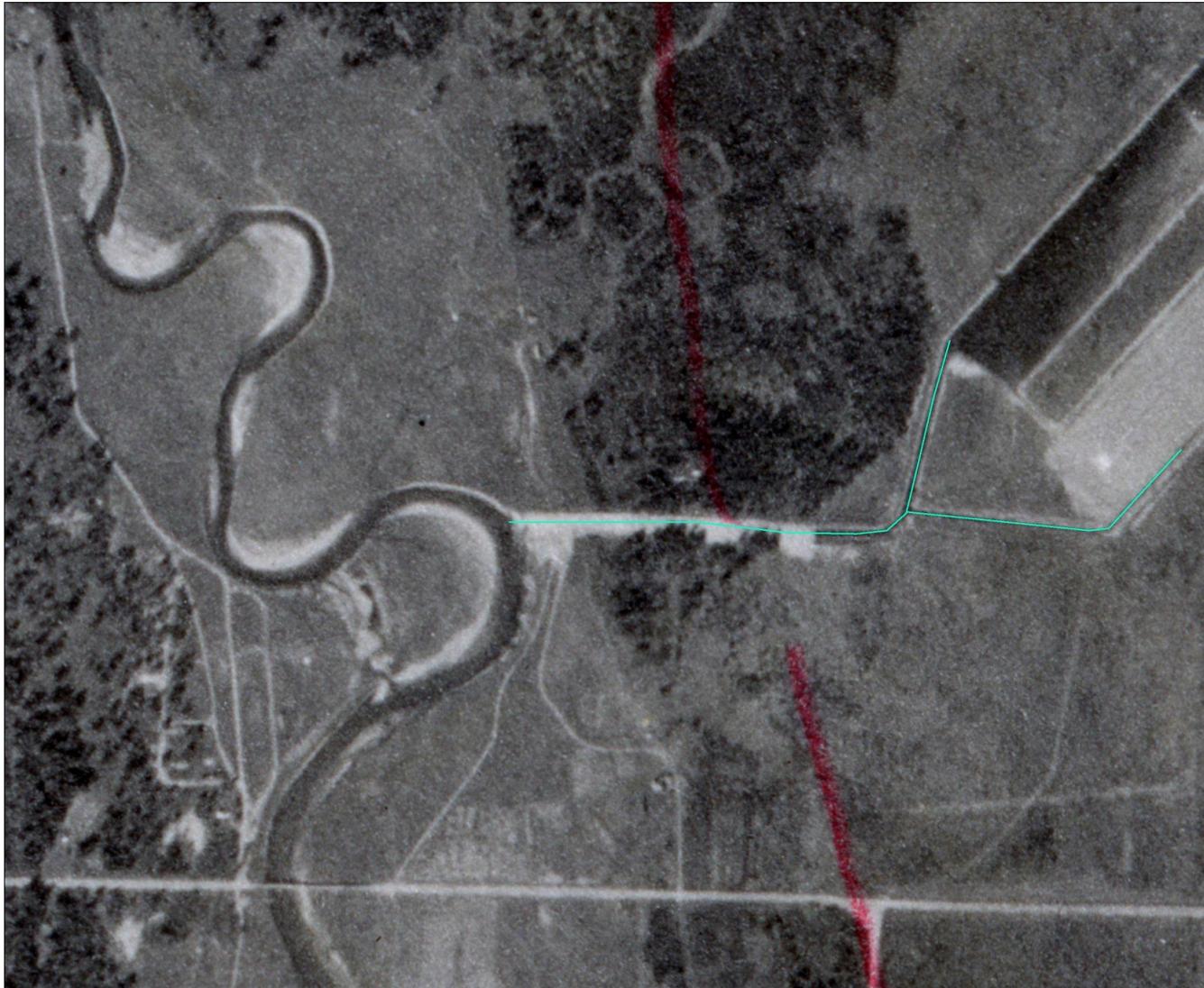
# Water Sampling



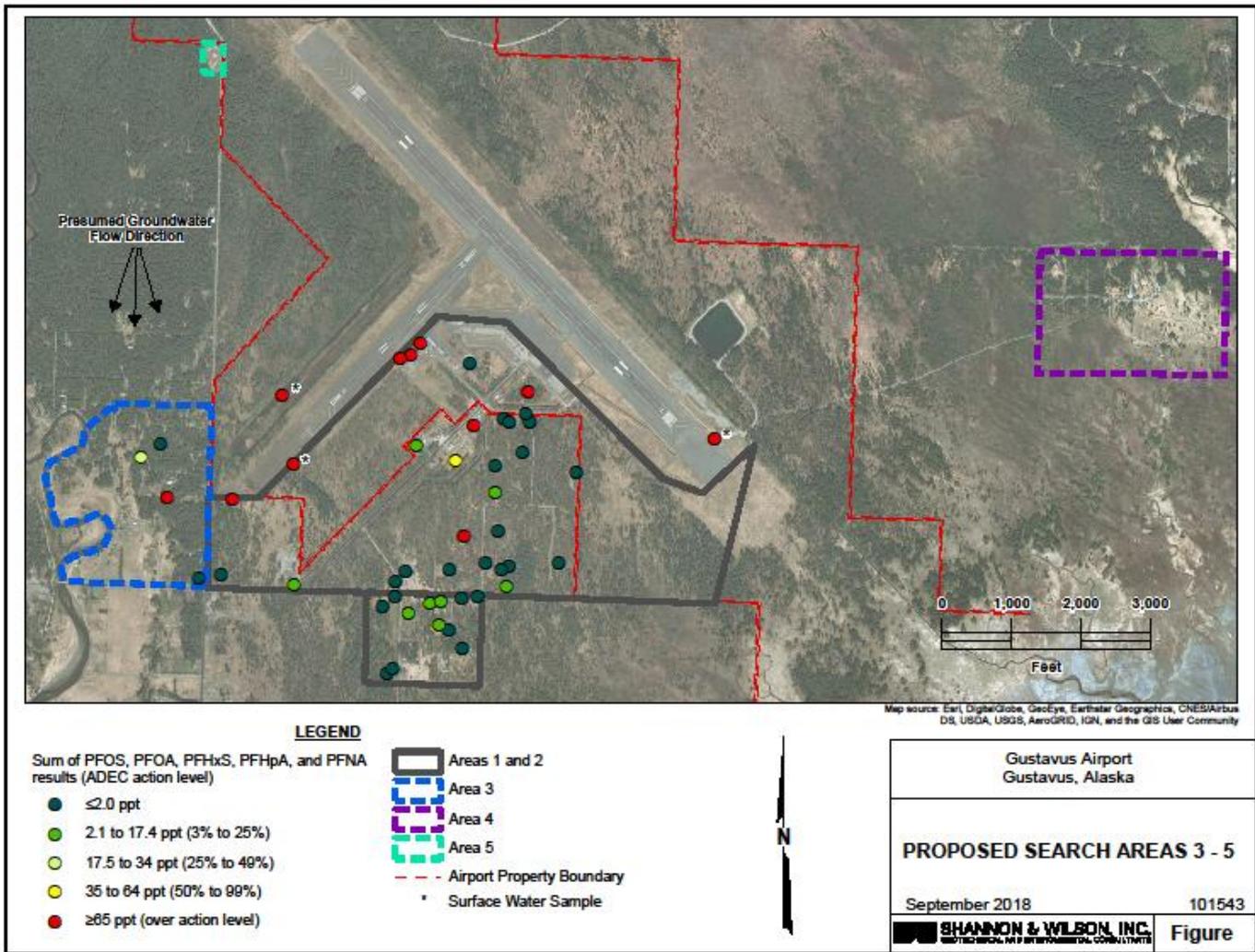
# 1<sup>st</sup> Sampling Area: Previously Sampled Wells, Airport Wells & Residences



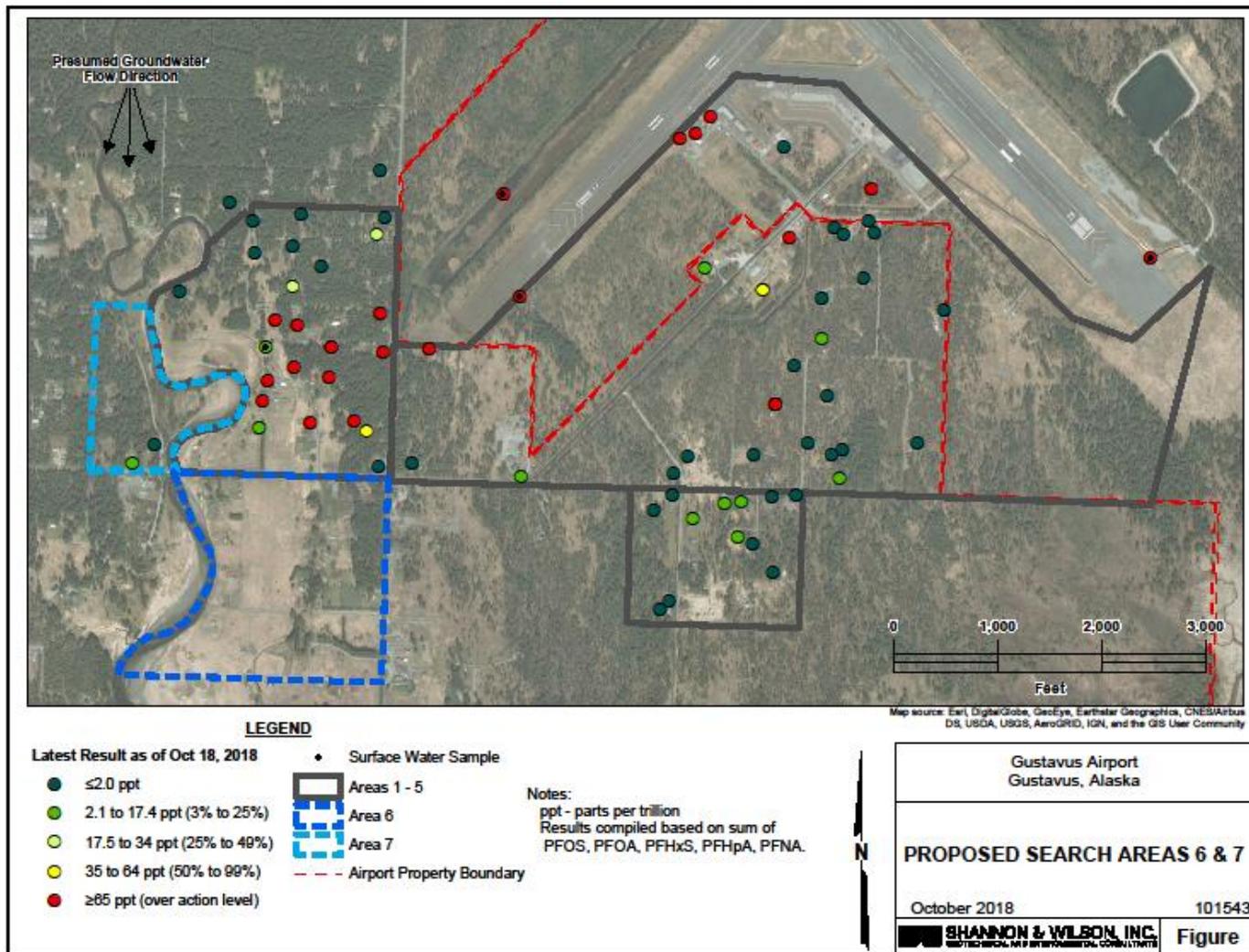
# Info Provided Changed Sampling Plan



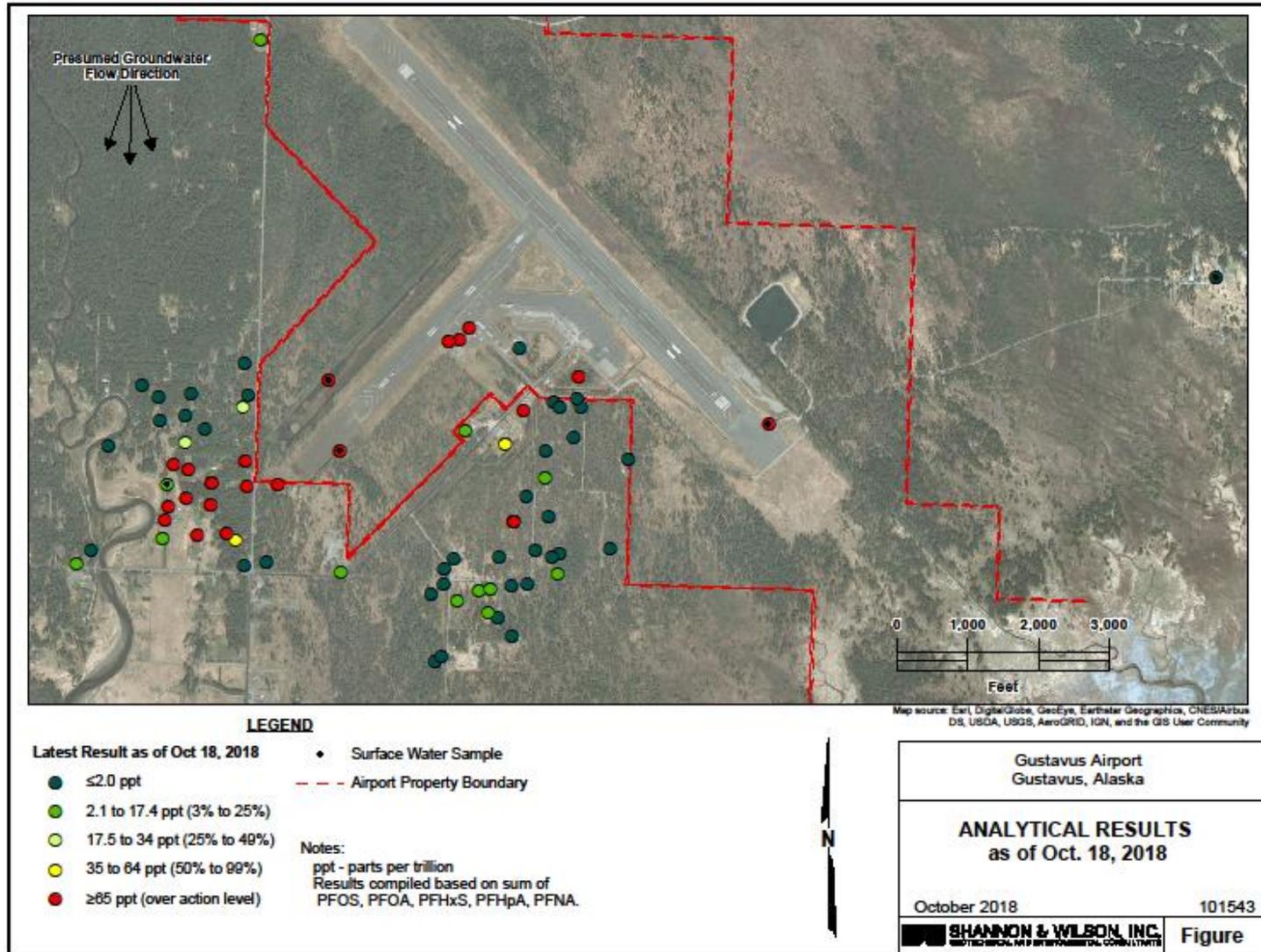
# 2nd Sampling Area: Tracking Old Drainage Ditch



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sampling Area: Determining W & S Plume Edges



# Results to Date



# Work Moving Forward

PFAS sampling results determine scope of action

- For wells testing above 65ppt – provide alternative drinking water source and develop permanent source of drinking water
- For wells testing 35-70ppt – retest quarterly
- For wells testing 17.5-35ppt – retest annually
  
- Sampling may include source area delineation and groundwater monitoring

Future action may involve on-site and off-site projects, including:

- Determine extent of PFAS plume
- Site characterization (e.g., extent of contamination, identifying sources and dates)
- Provide long-term source of alternative drinking water if necessary

# Risk Management

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Alaska Department of Administration  
**Division of Risk Management**

search

Risk Management State of Alaska

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The Division of Risk Management administers the self-insurance program for each State agency, handling all third party claims.

For more information please visit:  
<http://doa.alaska.gov/drm/>

# Risk Management

All residents who believe they are impacted by the contamination may contact Risk Management to receive claim filing instructions.

For claim filing instructions contact:  
Alaska Department of Administration  
Division of Risk Management  
Sheri Gray, Risk Manager  
PO Box 110218  
Juneau, AK 99811-0218  
Phone: 907-465-5724  
Fax: 907-465-3690  
Email: [sheri.gray@Alaska.gov](mailto:sheri.gray@Alaska.gov)

Additional contacts:

Scott Jordan - Director  
907-465-5723

# Community Outreach

DOT&PF is committed to being open and transparent

## Press Releases:

- Sign up for GovDelivery
- <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/AKDOT/subscriber/new>

## Website:

- [Alaska.gov/go/C732](http://Alaska.gov/go/C732)

## Email:

- [airportwater@alaska.gov](mailto:airportwater@alaska.gov)
- Subject – sign up

## Contact:

Aurah Landau

Public Information Officer

Southcoast Region, DOT&PF

O: 907-465-4503

C: 907-500-2100

The screenshot shows the website for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), Southcoast Region. The page title is "Gustavus Airport Firefighting Testing Area Contamination". Under the "Community Outreach" section, there is a list of four items: a press release from August 24, 2018, a public meeting notice from August 23, 2018, a letter to residents from August 22, 2018, and a well search map from August 22, 2018. The "Background" section states that DOT&PF was alerted in late July 2018 to concentrations of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the groundwater at Gustavus Airport, with the presumed source being fire-fighting foams. An aerial map on the right shows the airport terminal, a well, and a potential firefighting area.



# Questions?