November 9, 2017

Dear Property Owner:

Fairbanks International Airport (FAI) was recently alerted to concentrations of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the groundwater at the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting (ARFF) Training Areas.

Firefighters from the FAI Fire Department and other agencies used Aqueous Film Forming Foam, a standard firefighting agent that contains PFAS, during training exercises and emergency events to extinguish hydrocarbon fires. The PFAS discovered in the groundwater at the ARFF Training Areas are in concentrations higher than the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s preliminary health advisory levels.

FAI is working with the environmental consulting firm, Shannon & Wilson, Inc., and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to identify and sample private water wells near the airport to determine if these substances are present and above health advisory levels. PFAS are considered emerging contaminants and the health effects are not well known.

Enclosed is a Fact Sheet about PFAS, agency contact information to help address questions, and a Private Well Inventory Survey Form. Please review this information and return the survey by Dec. 1 using the preaddressed envelope. Your participation in the survey helps ensure the study is thorough, but also identifies those in the area at potential risk of drinking PFAS-contaminated water.

Results of the water samples will be shared with property residents. If any wells are found to have PFAS levels at concentrations higher than advised, FAI may assist those property owners with access to clean drinking water.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or see the list of attached contacts to help direct you to the most appropriate person/agency for your inquiry. We appreciate your patience as we work through this process and we look forward to receiving your completed survey.

Fairbanks International Airport

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Angie Spear
Division Operations Manager, C.M.