



For Immediate Release: October 31, 2024

Cape Cod Gateway Airport and Barnstable County to Hold Joint Community Meeting to Provide PFAS Mitigation Update

Hyannis, Mass., October 31, 2024 – Cape Cod Gateway Airport and Barnstable County will host a joint meeting to provide the community with PFAS mitigation updates on Tuesday, November 12 at 5 p.m. at Barnstable Town Hall.

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as a group of synthetic chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s. They are found in a wide array of consumer and industrial products, including stain- and water-resistant coatings for fabrics and carpets, oil-resistant coating for paper products approved for food contact, mining and oil well surfactants, floor polishes, insecticide formulations and in Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), a firefighting foam commonly used to extinguish flammable liquid fires such as those caused by oil, gasoline, or jet fuel.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed an Action Plan with an approach to identifying and understanding PFAS, approaches to addressing current PFAS contamination, and preventing future contamination.

In the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup is tasked with ensuring the cleanup of oil and hazardous material releases pursuant to the Massachusetts Oil and Hazardous Material Release Prevention and Response Act (M.G.L. Chapter 21E). This law was implemented through regulations known as the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (310 CMR 40.0000 et seq. – the MCP). Both M.G.L. c 21E and the MCP require response actions to provide for the protection of harm to health, safety, public welfare, and the environment which may result from releases and/or threats of releases of oil and/or hazardous material (OHM) at disposal sites.

Both the Cape Cod Gateway Airport and the Barnstable County Former Municipal Fire Training Facility (MFTF) have disposal sites that require separate reporting and response to MassDEP per the MCP. Since varying types of firefighting foams were used at each site, and at varying frequencies, the environmental consultants for both the Airport and the County are tracing the source of contamination through a scientific “fingerprinting” process.

During the meeting, the airport and the County will each provide the community with an update regarding significant progress made toward investigating and mitigating PFAS resulting from releases at their respective sites.

Cape Cod Gateway Airport Meeting Statement

“The Airport committed to providing annual community updates each November on the Airport’s progress and status of mitigating PFAS at the Airport site,” said Airport Manager Katie Servis. “Because the Airport is located directly downgradient of the Barnstable County Site, the Airport is working collaboratively with the County to distinguish each entity’s nature and extent of PFAS so that both entities can provide concurrent updates to the community. This meeting is one of the first to be held jointly so that the public can be kept up to date on the efforts of both entities at one venue,”

Barnstable County Meeting Statement

The Former Municipal Fire Training Facility (MFTF) located at 155 South Flintrock Road Hyannis, served as a vital fire training location for the 15 towns of Cape Cod and associated fire districts from 1956 to 2013, where upon closure the use of PFAS foam was ceased in entirety. The site served as a training location for local fire chiefs and organizations to train staff to provide critical lifesaving services to all of Cape Cod.

The County is taking aggressive action to prevent further PFAS plume travel offsite. In addition to the groundwater treatment system onsite which is currently removing PFAS from the aquifer, the County is currently preparing to install a permeable reactive carbon barrier, which will serve to contain the plume and protect vital water supplies downgradient of the site.

“The County recognizes the need for aggressive action to control and remediate the PFAS plume emanating from the Former Municipal Fire Training Site. The County is actively coordinating with all stakeholders including the Town of Barnstable, Town of Yarmouth, Gateway Airport, Barnstable Water District, Hyannis Water Division, MassDEP, USGS and Tom Cambareri serving as a technical representative for the Cape Cod Sierra Club and Hyannis Civic Association. The large-scale coordination effort serves for a massive data and information sharing campaign and unified approach. The County is committed to delineating the extent and nature for the PFAS plume, and remediating the site through the best resources and technology available.”

The meeting:

WHEN:

Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 5 p.m.

WHERE:

Barnstable Town Hall
James H. Crocker, Jr. Hearing Room
367 Main Street
Hyannis, Mass., 02601

About Cape Cod Gateway Airport

Cape Cod Gateway Airport, located on 639 acres in Hyannis, Massachusetts, provides commercial and general aviation services to New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, the islands of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket and beyond. It is one of 3,300 public use airports across the nation and one of 39 in the state of Massachusetts that is deemed vital to the National Airspace System (NAS) by the U.S. Department of Transportation. Additionally, the Airport is recognized in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS) as 1 of 383 primary commercial service airports providing essential service within the NAS. It is a department of the Town of Barnstable and managed by the Cape Cod Gateway Airport Commission and airport staff. The airport is home to Cape Air along with other charter, corporate and general aviation aircraft operators. JetBlue operates daily service to JFK-New York in season. Beginning in June 2024, American Airlines provided seasonal daily service to LGA-New York and DCA-Washington. With a successful first season, they are adding service in 2025 with daily service to PHL-Philadelphia and Saturday service to ORD-Chicago.

Additional information can be found at www.flyhya.com

About Barnstable County

Barnstable County, with administration office located at 3195 Main Street, Barnstable, Massachusetts, transcends municipal boundaries to address the vital needs of its residents across the 15 towns on Cape Cod, offering solutions to regional challenges, delivering exceptional government services, and ensuring the health, safety, economic strength, and environmental protection of its residents. The mission of Barnstable County Regional Government is to promote and sustain a proactive open government that enhances the quality of life for the citizens of Barnstable County. Given the unique dynamic associated with Cape Cod as both a premier tourism destination and year-round home to 228,996 people, the county provides extensive resources to all that reside here. Visit www.capecod.gov to explore more about the County's role on Cape Cod and the services and programs provided.