



September 7, 2022

Via email Stephenm.Ales@wisconsin.gov

Steve Ales

Remediation and Redevelopment Program

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Dear Mr. Ales,

Dane County Regional Airport (“DCRA”) writes to respond to the DNR’s letter of July 5, 2022. DCRA is working with its partners, the Wisconsin Air National Guard (“Guard”) and the City of Madison to address further the two former firefighting training areas (“FFTAs”). We are coordinating to develop a supplemental plan to continue the field investigation of the FFTAs in a manner that will incorporate other facets of the site response. The work will include further soil and groundwater sampling in those areas by an environmental consultant.

As you know, the remediation process at the Airport includes several facets. One such facet is the remedial investigation process that the Guard is leading. The process is underway and the data from the soil and groundwater sampling will inform understanding of the site conditions. One foundation for that process has been the extensive stormwater sampling DCRA conducted over the course of the last three years.

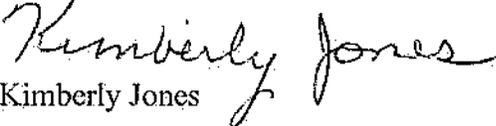
Another facet is the investigation and lining of the Airport storm water system in accordance with work plans approved by DNR. DCRA’s sampling of the stormwater system guided the process to investigate where PFAS contamination is entering the system. The system was televised and plans were developed to repair and line those parts of the system that have been impacted. This was a significant undertaking because as you know, the Airport’s stormwater system is extensive. Recall that the process to get to this stage took time because the bids DCRA received in the first effort came back much too high. DCRA has retained a contractor and is scheduling a pre-construction meeting to plan lining of the impacted areas of the system. The contractor will begin the stormwater system work this December and finish up next February. After that work is completed, DCRA will conduct additional sampling of the stormwater system. There will be additional sampling in order to determine if the repairs helped reduced PFAS entering the stormwater system.

In addition to these facets, the Guard and DCRA are working in cooperation with DNR to facilitate a pilot study to develop an effective remediation technology. The pilot results are promising and the project is on track to have results ready to publically share early next year. We appreciate DNR's participation in these research efforts, including its recommendation to gather additional data. We trust that the additional time it is taking to gather that data is a worthwhile investment to assure all concerned that the remediation technology will succeed. We also trust that the Department recognizes that past efforts once characterized as failed are in fact part of the robust scientific process that have led to these hopeful developments.

We plan to have the consultant factor in the data and other information generated from these noted efforts in order to guide the investigation and response on the FFTAs. Our continuing objective is to use public resources to address PFAS impacts as effectively as possible, including avoiding duplicative efforts.

We will of course continue to keep you apprised as we move forward with the facets of the remediation processes at that Airport, including the FFTAs.

Regards,


Kimberly Jones

Airport Director