



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20591

March 27, 2023

Ms. Liesl Eichler Clark  
Director, Michigan Department  
of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
Constitution Hall  
525 West Allegan Street  
P.O. Box 30473  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Clark:

Thank you for your November 22, 2022, letter expressing your concerns about Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) at airports in your state. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes the importance and urgency of issues related to PFAS and appreciates your input.

The FAA is committed to addressing this emerging issue. We are working in collaboration with the Department of Defense (DoD), which recently issued the new Navy MILSPEC Performance Specification (MIL-PRF-32725) for fluorine-free firefighting foam (F3). Pursuant to the Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Act, the FAA is developing a firefighting foam transition plan for Part 139-certificated airports. The plan will address, among other things, the next steps for obtaining products and information needed to use the new foam at airports. Ahead of the plan's release, the FAA released guidance entitled *Certification Alert #23-01, New Military Specification for Performance-Based Standards for Fluorine-Free Aircraft Fire Fighting Foam*, dated January 12, 2023. This document explains to airport operators that a new firefighting agent specification has been approved and that the FAA will accept its use at Part 139 airports once such products satisfy the military performance standard, pass qualification testing, and are added to the Navy's Qualified Products List. The FAA will be releasing an additional CertAlert, which will notify airports that the transition plan has been released. The plan will identify steps for transitioning to the new F3 foam and any necessary changes for tactics and training for using F3. The transition plan, developed in coordination with industry, DoD, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will further provide details for the release of future policy or guidance regarding F3.

The FAA has also communicated with the EPA about the proposed designation of two types of PFAS as hazardous substances and the proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for six PFAS. The FAA will continue a dialogue with the EPA about these important developments.

As you may be aware, starting in 2019, the FAA determined that aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) testing equipment is considered part of “firefighting and rescue equipment” as defined by 49 United States Code §47102(3). This determination allowed sponsors to get Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding for the stand-alone acquisition of input-based testing equipment and truck modification. This testing equipment allows an airport operator to test the proportioning equipment of the fire truck without dispensing any AFFF into the environment. In 2021, the FAA extended the funding eligibility for another two years. On December 20, 2022, the President signed S. 3662, the “Preventing PFAS Runoff at Airports Act.” This act allows the FAA to continue to temporarily cover 100 percent of the costs for input-based testing equipment that is eligible for AIP funding. The FAA is finalizing a program guidance letter to inform airport sponsors of this higher cost share authority.

In addition to these measures and developments, the FAA has provided over \$600,000 to the Michigan Department of Transportation and the Gerald R. Ford International Airport Authority under the FAA Airport Environmental Mitigation Pilot Program to fund a study implementing a cost-effective remediation method for PFAS contamination in soils. Additionally, the FAA has provided \$1.2 million under this program to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Fairbanks International Airport to fund a study implementing thermal remediation and other technologies to treat PFAS contaminated soil and water.

We have sent a similar response to each of the cosigners of the letter.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me or Lauren R. Dudley, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs, at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,

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Billy Nolen  
Acting Administrator



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800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20591

March 27, 2023

Ms. Katrina Kessler  
Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution  
Control Agency  
520 Lafayette Road North  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Ms. Kessler:

Thank you for your November 22, 2022, letter expressing your concerns about Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) at airports in your state. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes the importance and urgency of issues related to PFAS and appreciates your input.

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Billy Nolen  
Acting Administrator



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March 27, 2023

Mr. John J. Kim  
Director, Illinois Environmental  
Protection Agency  
1021 North Grand Avenue, East  
P.O. Box 19276  
Springfield, IL 62794

Dear Mr. Kim:

Thank you for your November 22, 2022, letter expressing your concerns about Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) at airports in your state. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes the importance and urgency of issues related to PFAS and appreciates your input.

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Acting Administrator



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March 27, 2023

Mr. Jim Macy  
Director, Nebraska Department  
of Environment and Energy  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Macy:

Thank you for your November 22, 2022, letter expressing your concerns about Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) at airports in your state. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes the importance and urgency of issues related to PFAS and appreciates your input.

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March 27, 2023

Mr. Preston Cole  
Secretary, Wisconsin Department  
of Natural Resources  
101 South Webster Street  
P.O. Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Mr. Cole:

Thank you for your November 22, 2022, letter expressing your concerns about Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) at airports in your state. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes the importance and urgency of issues related to PFAS and appreciates your input.

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March 27, 2023

Mr. Jason Brune  
Commissioner, Alaska Department  
of Environmental Conservation  
P.O. Box 111800  
Juneau, AL 99811

Dear Mr. Brune:

Thank you for your November 22, 2022, letter expressing your concerns about Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) at airports in your state. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recognizes the importance and urgency of issues related to PFAS and appreciates your input.

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