

Clastel Patrick
Bar Harbor
LD 407

My name is Clastel Patrick and I live in Bar Harbor. I urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD407 An Act to Prohibit the Use of Aqueous Film-forming Foam at the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station and “ought to pass” on LD 222 - An act to establish a take-back and disposal program for firefighting and fire- suppressing foam to which Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl substances have been found.

On August 19, 2024 at the Brunswick Naval Air Station approximately 1,450 gallons of AFFF (aqueous film forming foam) concentrate mixed with approximately 50,000 gallons of water was released at the Brunswick Executive Airport at Hangar 4. The mixture made its way into an oil/water separator and into adjacent storm ponds. Because of this release, PFAS entered the public sewer system of the Brunswick Sewer District wastewater treatment facility that discharges directly into the Androscoggin River.

Four days after the Aug. 19 spill, the wastewater from a riverbank outfall pipe across from Cow Island reached 11,689 parts per trillion for the six PFAS (forever chemicals) Maine uses to evaluate drinking water safety, according to water quality tests conducted by the Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. It is critical that Maine acknowledge the impacts of PFAS exposure such as reproductive harm, developmental delays in children, hormone disruption, increased risk of kidney, prostate, and testicular cancers, and increasing cholesterol level and obesity risk factors

The Department of Defense has been developing an alternative to AFFF (PFAS aqueous film forming foam), called F3 since 2017. Other states, such as Texas, and other countries such as Australia, Germany, Sweden, and the Netherlands have successfully implemented a transition away from PFAS-containing foam materials out of concern for citizens and environmental health and safety. I support this initiative because it will allow Maine to protect and support the health and safety of our firefighters and allow for a healthier future.

I believe that placing this restriction on the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station, and the establishment of a take-back program is a critical step towards the transition away from fluorinated fire-fighting substances with devastating consequences to people and communities exposed to them, and this can prevent future spills. Thank you for your time.

Sources:

<https://www.maine.gov/dep/projects/bnas/index.htm>

<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas>

<https://www.pressherald.com/2024/09/24/foam-spill-flushes-wave-of-toxic-chemicals-into-troubled-androscoggin-river/>

<https://www.afimsc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/3724390/fluorine-free-foam-flows-to-air-force-bases-as-dod-removes-pfas-from-firefighting/>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11391440/>