

February 26, 2025

Testimony LD 407

Senator Denise Tepler
Representative Victoria Dourdera
Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

RE: LD 222, LD 400, LD 407

I want to thank the Committee for the opportunity to testify on LD 222, LD 400 and LD 407. And I especially want to thank Representative Ankeles and the co-sponsors for creating and sponsoring this important legislation.

As a long-time citizen of Brunswick, and the Brunswick Town Councilor whose District includes the Brunswick Landing Airport where the August 19th, 2024, AFFF PFAS Spill occurred, I very strongly support passage of all three pieces of legislation.

The focus of my testimony is on LD407, “An Act to Prohibit the Use of Aqueous Film-Forming Foam at the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station (BNAS)”, as it is a stark and compelling example of the immense economic impacts from a Spill that actually occurred, and underscores why this material must be addressed.

The former BNAS airport, now known as Brunswick Landing, it is storing 5,700 gallons of PFAS AFFF concentrate, probably by far the largest amount at any one site in the entire state.

Last week, MRRA held its first Board meeting of 2025. MRRA reported that the direct cost of clean-up – direct costs only for the immediate response efforts, removal, cleaning of what foam concentrate that could be collected (a fraction of the total spilled) – was currently at **~\$900,000**.

MRRA reported that insurance will only reimburse \$250,000 of that amount. MRRA was fortunate to even get that, as most of the insurers now have a PFAS exclusion. MRRA also reported that the expenses from the Spill are not over, as it will still incur legal costs and other costs related to the Spill.

So, call it **~\$1,000,000** as the current direct costs to “clean-up” from the August 19th Spill.

But this \$1 M figure for the “direct clean-up costs” does not include the short, medium and long-term remediation costs and impacts from that Spill. These costs are real and will need to be incurred by someone over the next 20-30+ years.

Here is a very brief list of what some of those cost impacts are:

- The cost to dredge the stormwater systems where the Spill travelled – again - to remove PFAS laden sediment. I state “again”, because the Navy literally just completed dredging in the year prior to the August 19th Spill at a cost reported by the Navy of an **estimated \$7M**.

- The cost for expansion and long-term operation of “pump & treat” systems to treat PFAS spilled over decades, now add in that which entered the groundwater systems on August 19th Spill, **roughly estimated in the \$15-20+ M over next 30 years**¹.
- The cost to homeowners on wells nearby to install PFAS treatment systems or to connect to the Town water supply, call that roughly **\$1.5 – 2.5 M**, not including operating costs.
- The lost value of commercial shellfish harvesting in Harpswell Cove – which was just about to be reopened and cleared due to previous contamination – ~ **\$160k annually**². We have no idea the full extent of the impact nor how long this DMR closure will last.
- The lost value to properties impacted by the spill – too hard to calculate, but there are documented cases of residents unable to sell their homes on Coombs Rd, the one closest to the August 19th Spill. **The cost is unknown.**
- The lost value associated with wildlife, hunting and fishing, in areas impacted downstream of the Spill, areas cited by the Maine CDC as “Do Not Eat”. **The cost is unknown.**
- The cost of federal, state and local staff and other resources to monitor, test, inspect and manage the impacts related to the Spill. **The cost is unknown.**
- And the potential cost, if there is another spill, of our Town’s water supply, which the Navy is now spending **\$21M** to put in contaminant removal equipment for cleanup from past spills. What more would we have to pay if there is yet another spill like the August 19th Spill?

I might go on, but I imagine you understand the point.

At the February 22, 2024, MRRA Board meeting, MRRA officials stated it would cost **~\$750,000 - \$1,000,000 to remove and safely dispose** of the remaining PFAS AFFF on the property. This is roughly in line with DEPs per gallon estimated costs to remove and dispose of PFAS AFFF.

So, should we spend ~\$1M now to remove the source of the problem today, before another Spill occurs, or wait to incur roughly another \$25M++ later once it gets in the soil, surface water, groundwater and marine environment? And that rough estimate is in today’s dollars.

Clearly, it is much less expensive to inventory, remove and safely dispose of these PFAS materials now before another tragic Spill occurs. I urge you to vote “ought to pass” for this legislation.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

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¹ See attached spreadsheet from the Department of Defense. Estimated total “clean-up” expenses for former BNAS will be approximately \$200M, including “pump and treat” systems installed for existing PFAS groundwater removal.

²Town of Brunswick Marine Resources Department, September 13th, 2024, estimate.

Table 6: Status of Installations with a Cost Estimate from FY23 to Completion Greater Than \$10,000,000

Defense Environmental Restoration Program

Maine											
Phase Category	Current Status (Number of Sites)		Costs Through FY22 (\$000)		FY22 Funds Obligated (\$000)		FY23 Planned Execution (\$000)		FY24 Planning Estimate (\$000)		Cost Estimate from FY23 to Completion (\$000)
	IRP	MMRP	IRP	MMRP	IRP	MMRP	IRP	MMRP	IRP	MMRP	
◆ NAVY - BRUNSWICK NAS (ME117002201800)											
NPL Status: Listed			BRAC Round(s): N/A						IRP Final RC: FY 2053		
RAB Status: Yes									MRS Final RC: FY 2031		
Investigation	0	0	\$13,640	\$19,293	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	IRP \$46,312
Cleanup	7	1	\$95,793	\$6,350	\$5,367	\$0	\$7,637	\$0	\$1,387	\$0	MMRP \$7,087
Post-Cleanup/RC	13	2	\$1,683	\$309	\$0	\$77	\$0	\$100	\$73	\$121	Total \$53,399
Total	20	3	\$111,116	\$25,952	\$5,367	\$77	\$7,637	\$100	\$1,460	\$121	
◆ NAVY - CUTLER NCTS (ME117002435500)											
NPL Status: Not Listed			BRAC Round(s): N/A						IRP Final RC: FY 2053		
RAB Status: No									MRS Final RC: FY 2017		
Investigation	2	0	\$13,148	\$60	\$294	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	IRP \$13,041
Cleanup	3	0	\$22,831	\$0	\$3,411	\$0	\$1,342	\$0	\$349	\$0	MMRP \$0
Post-Cleanup/RC	6	1	\$83	\$0	\$2	\$0	\$28	\$0	\$56	\$0	Total \$13,041
Total	11	1	\$36,062	\$60	\$3,707	\$0	\$1,370	\$0	\$405	\$0	
◆ AIR FORCE - BANGOR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (ME157282453400)											
NPL Status: Not Listed			BRAC Round(s): BRAC 2005 Realignment						IRP Final RC: FY 2052		
RAB Status: No									MRS Final RC: FY		
Investigation	3	0	\$1,218	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,752	\$0	\$0	\$0	IRP \$15,252
Cleanup	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	MMRP \$0
Post-Cleanup/RC	5	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	Total \$15,252
Total	8	0	\$1,218	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,752	\$0	\$0	\$0	
◆ AIR FORCE - LORING (ME157002452200)											
NPL Status: Listed			BRAC Round(s): BRAC 1991						IRP Final RC: FY 2059		
RAB Status: Yes									MRS Final RC: FY 1999		
Investigation	3	0	\$28,072	\$0	\$2,031	\$0	\$4,024	\$0	\$68	\$0	IRP \$84,730
Cleanup	5	0	\$130,341	\$0	\$1,179	\$0	\$1,381	\$0	\$947	\$0	MMRP \$0
Post-Cleanup/RC	69	8	\$11,751	\$11	\$261	\$0	\$1,014	\$0	\$799	\$0	Total \$84,730
Total	77	8	\$170,164	\$11	\$3,471	\$0	\$6,419	\$0	\$1,814	\$0	

Total BNAS (completed + estimated) = \$205 Million

Note: Totals reflect installation project funding allocated to individual sites and do not include program management and other support costs. The information presented in this table for installations impacted by BRAC may apply to both active and BRAC sites.