



SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

FEB 25 2020

The Honorable Gary Peters
Hart Senate Office Building
Suite 724
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Peters:

Thank you for your January 23, 2020 letter encouraging the prioritization of PFOS and PFOA cleanup at two Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) installations in Michigan, the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base and former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base.

The Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94) allocated an additional \$60 million throughout the Department of Defense for PFOS and PFOA cleanup at BRAC military installations, and of that, the Air Force was allotted \$48 million. The Air Force plans to prioritize PFOS and PFOA cleanup activities at BRAC military installations using the same relative risk site evaluation process used by the Air Force for other restoration sites to ensure we address the worst risks first. Our BRAC cleanup program is working to deliver its spend plan as soon as possible with the highest quality and completeness, in compliance with the Appropriations Act.

Of the \$48 million allotment, the Air Force is allocating \$13.5 million to PFOS and PFOA requirements for Fiscal Year 2020 at Wurtsmith. The Air Force has spent \$14.23 million on PFOS and PFOA investigations and mitigations through Fiscal Year 2019. These funds will allow the Air Force to expedite the remedial investigation by one year, which is the next step in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act process. The remedial investigation provides critical information on the nature and extent of contamination to conduct interim remedial actions, if needed, including the construction of additional treatment systems or expansion of current treatment systems.

The Air Force has spent \$3.9 million on PFOS and PFOA investigations and mitigation activities through Fiscal Year 2019 at the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, including former Escanaba Defense Fuel Supply Point. Because there is only one contaminated drinking water well at K.I. Sawyer, compared to multiple exposure pathways at Wurtsmith, the Air Force has budgeted \$40 thousand for mitigation activities in Fiscal Year 2020. These funds will continue operations, maintenance and monitoring of the treatment system, and ensure it remains protective. The remedial investigation for K.I. Sawyer is set to begin in Fiscal Year 2021.

The Air Force will take actions to identify concentrations of PFOS and PFOA in drinking water above the Environmental Protection Agency Lifetime Health Advisory caused by the Air Force. Air Force response actions include the provision of bottled water, point-of-use filtration, whole-house filtration or municipal water supply hookup. The extra \$48 million that Congress has allocated for PFOS and PFOA will also fund operations and maintenance of treatment systems for more than 220 private drinking water wells and public drinking water systems at BRAC installations and for remedial investigations at four other BRAC installations, similar to Wurtsmith.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide information regarding the prioritization of PFOS and PFOA cleanup at the two former Air Force installations in Michigan. Thank you for continued support of our mission, our Airmen, and their families. This letter has also been sent to: Senator Debbie Stabenow, Representative Daniel T. Kildee, Representative Elissa Slotkin, Representative Andy Levin, Representative Haley M. Stevens, Representative Debbie Dingell, Representative Rashida Tlaib, and Representative Brenda L. Lawrence.

Sincerely,



Barbara Barrett
Secretary of the Air Force