

Answers to Comments Received in Response to Notice of Public Involvement Plan

Comment No. 1: [POET installation]

With remediation systems being installed at the properties of affected residents, there have been situations of incorrect installations, not meeting building codes. How will these systems be inspected and by whom?

Answer to Comment No. 1:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

Please reach out to Lessard Environmental (“Lessard”) if you have any concerns regarding the POET system, including any potential installation issues.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

Comment No. 2: [POET installation]

Is the work with remediation systems being performed by professionals licensed to perform the work? It has come to my attention per Paul Blanchard, Westminster Building Inspector, that Gap Mountain drilling are not licensed plumbers.

Answer to Comment No. 2:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

Yes, any work with remediation systems is performed by professionals licensed to perform that type of work.

Comment No. 3: [POET maintenance]

What is the maintenance schedule for the POET (remediation) systems? Is this information published for the residents affected? What is the method for residents to report issues or concerns? I had to wait over 1 week with a second request when sending an e-mail to westminster@lessard-environmental.com. There is no acknowledgement of issues being received.

Answer to Comment No. 3:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

Residents are not responsible for any of the system maintenance. Over time, the filters will eventually need to be replaced. The sediment filter will likely be replaced much more frequently than the carbon vessels. Our sampling and field observations will determine when filters should be changed. The ultraviolet unit also requires occasional cleaning and bulb replacement.

You should notify Lessard Environmental (by email or by phone) of any of the following:

- Subcontractor not arriving during the scheduled arrival window,
- any drips or leaks,
- a substantial drop in water pressure (this may indicate need to change the sediment filter or one of the other filters),
- discoloration of the water other than the black/grey carbon dust that may be present immediately after installation,
- any concerns you have regarding the POET system.

Due to the volume of inquiries, responses can take 2-3 business days or more depending on the nature of the inquiry. Weekends and holidays are not business days.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

Comment No. 4: [POET maintenance]

How will ongoing servicing and testing of POET systems be handled and for how long?
How will this information be shared with the affected residents? In the event of an emergency with the system, who do the affected residents contact and how?

Answer to Comment No. 4:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

Please see answer to **Comment No. 3**.

Notify Lessard Environmental if you have any issues with POET system.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

Information will be shared through the website that has been launched with data and resources regarding potential PFAS contamination in Westminster.

Please visit WestminsterPFAS.com to view the latest news and reports from our Licensed Site Professional and to read answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

If you want to know more about PFAS, you can also use the MassDEP PFAS website as a source of good information. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas> for additional PFAS information.

Comment No. 5: [POET Maintenance] [Resident communication]

Inevitably, newer technology will be released for the treatment of PFAS contamination. Do the affected residents receive these per the terms in this immediate response action?

Answer to Comment No. 5:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

It is too early to answer specific questions concerning access to hypothetical future remediation technologies.

You will be provided with more information when (and if) such technologies become available.

Comment No. 6: [POET maintenance] [Real Estate Sale/Property Value]

How long will they be maintaining and quarterly testing the POET system - Forever? Will the service transfer to new owners should I sell my home? Can we get that in writing?

Answer to Comment No. 6:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

POET system maintenance and sampling will continue until such time as a POET system is no longer required to provide treated water.

New owners should sign their own Access Agreement in order to let Lessard Environmental perform environmental assessment work, including sampling of private well water at the property and, to provide maintenance to POET water treatment system.

Comment No. 7: [POET maintenance] [Town Water]

When town water is installed will they discontinue maintaining the POET? Will they remove the POET? If they don't remove it, will smaller more affordable carbon filters be installed to replace the large one (looking online the cost was way above my of my budget).

Answer to Comment No. 7:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

It is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution.

You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Public_Water_Supply

Comment No. 8: [Town Water] [Resident costs]

When will town water be installed, will residents be responsible for any of the cost to connect and turn on access?

Answer to Comment No. 8:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

It is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution.

You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Public_Water_Supply

Comment No. 9 [POET diagram]

Could we have a diagram of the POET with a list of all the parts in the POET and the cost of each.

Answer to Comment No. 9:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

A diagram of the POET system has been placed on the website WestminsterPFAS.com/

Comment No. 10 [Town Water] [Real Estate Sale/Property Value] [POET Maintenance] [Water Taste]

When will town water be installed. These systems will have an impact on the value of our home. Also cleaning the filter is painful and affects the irrigation system flow. Water taste has been affected.

Answer to Comment: No. 10:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

For a short period after installation, carbon dust may discolor the water. Passing water through the system abates this. You are not responsible for any of the system maintenance.

Please also see answer to **Comment No. 3.**

Notify Lessard Environmental if you have any issues with the POET system.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

With respect to town water, it is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution.

You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Public_Water_Supply

Comment No. 11: [Water Taste]

When brushing my teeth, I noticed our water has a metallic taste, even with the POET system installed I can't see our family ever being able to trust our well water. How frequently will routine testing be performed to make sure the system continues to do what it is supposed to do.

Answer to Comment No. 11:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

For a short period after installation, carbon dust may discolor the water. Passing water through the system abates this.

The system will be sampled for the first time two to three weeks after installation, then monthly for three months and quarterly thereafter. Sampling will be scheduled with you.

A small number of installations have had persistent odors or staining. Testing has pointed to dissolved Iron in the groundwater. As these instances occur, we direct the project plumbing contractor to add additional filtration/treatment. If you are experiencing this issue, please email westminster@lessard-environmental.com so investigation can commence.

Comment No. 12: [Medical Monitoring]

Will there be any medical monitoring be made available? What is normally available in a situation like this and what could be made available and how do we access if so?

Answer to Comment No. 12:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

You should consult with Massachusetts Department of Public Health (“MassDPH”), information about MassDPH can be found on their website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health>. You may also wish to consider consulting your personal health care professional regarding this question.

Comment No. 13: [Resident communication] [Real Estate Sale/Property Value]

- a.) Will old owners be notified given they would have been impacted as well. B.) will new owners need to sign an Access Agreement if a home is sold?

Answer to Comment No. 13:

Comment related to access agreements are related to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

As of today, there is no mechanism developed for notification of prior owners. If such mechanism will be developed in the future, the prior owners will be notified accordingly.

New owners should sign their own Access Agreement in order to let Lessard perform environmental assessment work, including sampling of private well water at the property and, to provide maintenance to POET water treatment system (if any).

Comment No. 14: [Soil]

There has been concern over soil and garden impact, is this something we need to do anything about?

Answer to Comment No. 14:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

According to MassDPH, although PFAS do not stick to soil very well, gardens watered with PFAS-contaminated water may have somewhat higher levels of PFAS in the soil. If possible, use an alternative source of water and add clean compost to your garden to lower the amount of PFAS in your garden.

According to MassDPH and statements made by MassDPH at a public hearing on June

8, 2022, while the available data indicates that most plants are not expected to have detectable levels of PFAS in the parts of the plant that people eat, it is possible for plants to take up some PFAS from soil and water. The amount of PFAS in the plant and where the PFAS would be distributed (e.g. stem, leaves, flower, fruit) is hard to predict. In addition to PFAS levels in water and soil, the amount of PFAS in home-grown plants depends on other factors, such as the type of plant and nutrient levels in soil.

However, according to MassDPH, to reduce any potential exposure to PFAS in home-grown produce, you can:

- water seedlings and gardens with an alternative source of water, such as water collected in a rain barrel, if possible;
- add clean compost to the soil (this will reduce levels of PFAS in the soil, and thus reduce the chance of plants absorbing PFAS);
- wash all fruits, vegetables, and herbs in clean water before eating (you may also choose to peel root vegetables before eating); and
- use a raised bed filled with clean soil.

Comment No. 15: [POET system] [Town Water]

What happens if there is a failure on the poet system (ie., the locking clip breaks or other issue) and the homeowner ends up with water in your basement, who is paying for the water remediation in the basement. We need town water to eliminate all the what could go wrong scenarios with these systems.

Answer to Comment No. 15:

Comment related to POET system concerns IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

Please notify Lessard of any concerns you have regarding the POET system.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

In case you suffered any damages as a result of a failure and/or malfunction of the POET system installed at your property, you should notify attorney Kristina Engberg, either via email or mail: KEngberg@Lawson-Weitzen.com, Lawson & Weitzen, LLP, 88 Black Falcon Avenue, Boston, MA, 02210.

With respect to potential town water supply, it is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution.

You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Public_Water_Supply

Comment No. 16: [POET maintenance] [Contractor scheduling] [Town water] [Third Parties]

I personally do not want someone entering my house whenever a filter needs to be tested or changed out. And what if the filter system leaks and damages our home? We have already been so inconvenienced and we don't deserve to have more intrusions or disruptions in our life. It's bad enough we all need to be medically tested for current and future disease, cancers and possibly loss of life! The Companies that have polluted us need to be held responsible and they need to act immediately to get the expansion of the town water to our community. We all deserve it and we should not have to suffer anything else that may come out of this disaster in the future. This is not our fault, it was all dumped into our lives because of the "Companies" neglect and their irresponsibility to the Townspeople and the environment!!

Answer to Comment No. 16:

Comment related to POET system concerns IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

According to the provisions of the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) 310 CMR 40.0000 (available for review and download here: <https://www.mass.gov/regulations/310-CMR-4000-massachusetts-contingency-plan>), if your authorization to access the property for installation, maintenance and sampling activities is not forthcoming, Lessard will be obligated to request the assistance of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("MassDEP") in gaining access to your property.

You should also notify Lessard Environmental of any concerns you have regarding the POET system.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

We cannot make any comments or answer any questions on behalf of any third parties, including but not limited to unidentified Companies.

Comment No. 17: [Lab Samples] [Real Estate Sale/Property Value]

“POET influent/mid-point/effluent streams are to be sampled after each carbon change out
Bottled water is to be provided during analysis period at each carbon changeout”
How long from the time the water sample is taken until the results are received? How will we be notified?
Does this mean that we will always have the water cooler and water delivery? Property value concern - Does this transfer ownership if we sell the house?

Answer to Comment No. 17:

This comment concerns IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

Laboratory turnaround time is typically 10 to 15 business days after the laboratory receives the samples (usually the day after sampling). Weekends and holidays are not business days. When we receive the results, we will contact you by telephone and/or email; you will also receive a mailed copy of the laboratory results.

After the POET system installation, you should continue use of bottled water until we have sampling data that shows the POET is working as intended. Continue use of bottled water until we indicate you can use the treated water.

Comment No. 18: [Town Water]

“Need for POET or municipal water at locations where PFAS detectable but ≤ 20 ng/L is to be evaluated prior to IRA completion.”
Who decides if we get municipal water at locations where PFAS are detectable?

Answer to Comment No. 18:

Comment related to POET system concerns IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

It is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution.

You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.
http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Public_Water_Supply

Comment No. 19: [Testing] [Resident Communications]

What kind of response time should we expect from Lessard when we call or Email with a question? Responses are inconsistent and delayed. No information is provided on when & how we will receive test results from samples taken from our home.

Answer to Comment No. 19:

Comment related to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

Due to the volume of inquiries, responses can take 2-3 business days or more depending on the nature of the inquiry.

Please see answer to **Comment No. 17** regarding receiving water test results and communication.

Comment No. 20: [POET Diagram]

I asked 3 times for the flow diagram of the POET as there does not seem to be a consistent set up. Also i feel the only chance we have to reclaim property value is to get town water. I spend a lot of time cleaning filters and had to buy my own as they had none left!!

This is much more than an inconvenience. Its a part time job.. Municipal water is the only solution.

Answer to Comment No. 20:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

A diagram of the POET system has been placed on the website WestminsterPFAS.com

Please see the Answer to Comment No. 9

It is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution.

You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.
http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Public_Water_Supply

Comment No. 21: [POET System]

Our PFAS came in at 281/ppt. We now have a POET system and are thankful that it may make our well water useable again. Here is the impact:

We have a large water system in our basement that sweats like crazy. The water leaches out to a rug and we are having to figure out how to contain it. No way can we put a pan under the system.

We have an extension cord running from the system to our furnace that is 20 feet away.

Plumbers told us an electrician would take care of this but we have heard nothing yet.

Our water is at times discolored. It smelled very metallic initially but that seems to come and go now as well. This was never an issue before. We had a small sediment filter on our system for 27 years. That was all we needed and we never had a water issue.

We are still using bottled water as instructed and are awaiting results of a test taken 7/14 and another taken 7/20. No explanation why the 2 tests.

We were lucky enough to hear about this problem before we planted our vegetable garden. I now only have a few plants in pots and what could go in to the garden that would not get water. We are lucky we never used MNF product on our vegetable garden.

We don't feel lucky to have any of this going on. We raised our children here. They are 27 and 30 now. They grew up on our well water. One of our children was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease, in 2012. Did PFAS play a role?

We didn't ask for a system that we have to constantly monitor. Who will take care of and pay for it's upkeep.

Answer to Comment No. 21:

Comment concerning POET system related to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

You should notify Lessard Environmental of any of the following:

- Subcontractor not arriving during the scheduled arrival window.
- Any drips or leaks.
- A substantial drop in water pressure. This may indicate need to change the sediment filter or one of the other filters.
- Discoloration of the water other than the black/grey carbon dust that may be present immediately after installation.

Any concerns you have regarding the POET system.

For a short period after installation, carbon dust may discolor the water. Passing water through the system abates this.

Several samplings are required in order to obtain sampling data that shows the POET is working as intended. You should continue use of bottled water until we indicate you can use the treated water.

If you have any health-related questions, you should consult with MassDPH and/or your personal health care professional regarding such questions.

You are not responsible for any of the system maintenance. Lessard Environmental will manage system maintenance.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

Comment No. 22: [POET Installation]

How can we assure ourselves the POET systems being installed are adequate for our needs if Lessard refuses to give us any information about them prior to install? I was told “there are no specs” for the systems. I am not accustomed to allowing changes to my home without being told what they will be.

Answer to Comment No. 22:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

A diagram of the POET system has been placed on the website WestminsterPFAS.com

MassDEP has approved the POET systems as part of response actions.

Comment No. 23: [Town Water]

When town water is installed, every homeowner will have increased monthly expenses (water bills). Will MNF be paying these bills?

Answer to Comment No. 23:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

It is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution.

You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Public_Water_Supply

Comment No. 24: [Town Water]

How can we be sure our water bills will not be including the hook up costs from the town line?
This should not be embedded into monthly water bill if or when we get town water.

Answer to Comment No. 24:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

It is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution.

You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Public_Water_Supply

Comment No. 25: [POET Installation] [POET Maintenance]

Why are we not getting any paperwork on the installation of POET system nor any paperwork as to who is installing or maintaining it? Whenever anything is done in my home I get a receipt or some paperwork relating to installation and care of item, as well as number to call if there's a problem or emergency with it.

Answer to Comment No. 25:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

A diagram of the POET system has been placed on the website WestminsterPFAS.com

Notify Lessard Environmental if you have any issues with POET system.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

Comment No. 26: [Town Water]

We need to access town water hookups immediately we cannot continue to rely on POET system, our private wells are useless. It only hurts our ability to sell our homes later. Will we ever be guaranteed a full remediation?

Answer to Comment No. 26:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

It is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution.

You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Public_Water_Supply

Comment No. 27:

It is a lot to ask of people to put their trust for the health of their families in the hands of the people who caused the PFAS problem or the lawyer and other businesses they hired to fix the PFAS problem. Why is it they are the ones who get to make the decisions about our lives, the lives of our family members, our homes, and the future of all of these? There needs to be better communication and transparency. The lack of both of these things breeds distrust. I should not have to rely on my hard working neighbors to find out information and pass it along.

I am thankful for them because this situation makes me feel very ignorant and uninformed. I don't think I will ever trust my well water even with the POET. My mind is constantly reeling with thoughts or worries like: "does my filter need changing, is it working, has it stopped working and I don't even know, what if it fails right after the quarterly testing?" I hate the feeling that living here is damaging my kids' health, my health, and my husband's health.

Town water is never ideal but I think it would be a better long term solution and less disruptive to the victims and better for our property values unless MNF plans on paying off all of our mortgages.

Answer to Comment No. 27:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

Please visit WestminsterPFAS.com to view the latest news and reports from our Licensed Site Professional and to read answers to Frequently Asked Questions. There you will find helpful resources and data regarding potential PFAS contamination in Westminster.

Additionally, The MassDEP PFAS website has additional information. (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>)

You should notify Lessard Environmental of any concerns you have regarding the POET system.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

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It is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution.

You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.
http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Public_Water_Supply

Comment No. 28:

Can we please have a manual/paperwork for the system that was installed? We received nothing.

Answer to Comment No. 28:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

A diagram of the POET system has been placed on the website WestminsterPFAS.com . Please note that there is no manual, in that the POET system is not a single device. Rather, it consists of an assembly of components, which has been described in IRA reports.

Comment No. 29:

Nothing can replace the sense of well being that was shaken from this toxic trespass, this mass community contamination. I will now forever have added worry about my husband and my children, the added risk now that will loom over all of us until death. How would you feel about your water being monitored from now until death ☠ by the polluters hired lab? No, really think about it. There is no trust here. This reckless and mass community contamination has exposed our neighbors to toxic exposure in our drinking water, the water mothers use to prepare their babies formula, water we use to bathe in, brush our teeth, top off our pools, prepare and cook our food in, the pools we swim in, etc. We need more than a POET system installed, with an emergency variance granted by the town to aid in the urgent nature to provide drinkable water that passes through different filters etc. The installation I certainly hope is intended to be temporary, the copper pipes were cut at many points and multiple crimps were added to piece the pipes together.

I am aware that Seamans multiple locations are not the only contributors of toxic dumping. Mr. George Jones, now is your time to do the right thing don't leave it to the State.

Let me add the now looming potential health concerns looming over all of us. Will my children develop these horrific diseases and or illnesses? CANCER, ALS, endocrine disrupter associated illnesses, auto immune illnesses? As multiple corporations have shipped their waste and have contaminated our water, air, and land we are left wondering what the final remediation will be. It has stigmatized our town, with **the highest recorded PFAs level in the State**, will properties continue to diminish in value? When Corporations decide to dump these toxic chemicals that entered into the ground and drinking water and the toxins continue to trespass and will continue to do so into other water, property and additional properties will likely continue to be contaminated in the future. The PRP's must be held responsible for **permanent remediation: expansion of town water at the minimum.**

It is not realistic to expect us to return to our day to day lives with 2 canisters to filter water, not only have our properties been contaminated now we will be restricted by the amount of active carbon in the poet system titrated for a year?? Have homes with pools been factored in? What if we run our hose and forget to turn it off? What if we need to top off our pools due to drought and evaporation? Power washing our homes, lawn irrigation, normal day to day tasks? How is each home system titrated? What variables are used? What type brand activated carbon is used in the canisters we we provided? How are we protected from PFAs break through? Do we call Lessard for an unscheduled test at his expense or do we load up on bottled water until someone gets back to us??? How much water can we use to top off or fill a pool, how will we know what renders the systems that are titrated for a year when the PFAs purges back into our drinking water? We should not have our water restricted. What variables allow us to get intermediate testing? Town water expansion isn't ideal, our private well water **uncontaminated** would be, but that cannot be undone.

We should expect our PFAs levels to increase, town water expansion is critical to remediation. **A POET system is not a way to return to the normal basic way of living, it continues to limit**

us. Who will be responsible if the POET systems leak?

I want specific details of the final remediation, what it will be, who will install it when will it begin? Specifics on Larry's final remediation recommendation. The site SAA, 48 hours notice not followed, Larry's team just showing up at random homes taking water from tap, I have heard of mislabeled tests, POET systems that were installed by unlicensed contractors. Again which we presume was indicative of a temporary emergency installation. There is no trust here. We have been treated poorly. Zoom calls with the chat disabled, all residents muted for the duration.

POET systems are not practical for a permanent way to live. Year after year of the polluters sending a lab to test reminds us of the stress, the continued worry of new risk of multiple cancers, illnesses that may likely hurt the ones we love, because of the utter disregard to the people that live here.start. It is an unnecessary reminder.

MNF used MDEP to falsely boast in the advertising of their relationship "MNF as a model business", clearly confusing to customer and neighbors who lived under a false sense of living near a NATURAL FARM ! This will be the legacy of the JONES family if they don't do the right thing for this affected community. Dumping toxins in the ground where we live for decades? Now chemicals have contaminated the wells and the bodies of an eighth of the population of this town and counting.

After the chicken farm closed and Seamans purchased the land did Westminster grant a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals? MNF is located in residential II, this is not allowed in Westminster (Recycling, Composting or conversion operation) There is no grandfather clause in zoning once use changes. Zoning is in place to protect the different uses and residents. How did this happen? Who approved this? The town will has not come up with a plan on moving forward and how to limit further contamination. I want answers why the town won't plan for this.

Where is the website promised for months that has not gone live that would have aided in public awareness? It has still not been activated. I imagine it should go live just in time for the community response time to expire. Clever work on the Attorneys at Lawson and Weitzen serving Mr. Jones for decades, carefully carving apart Otter Hill, Inc, and the Long Term lease to MNF until 2097, while the Otter Hill Seamans continues to spill waste into the river, and into the atmosphere. What if any attempts will be made to save the utter devastation to Crocker Pond for safe swimming in the future? Will Mr. Jones wait until legislation is put in place? PFAs has been contaminating our world for 50 plus years, now 6 of the thousands are regulated, when it is known that PFAs never occurs naturally in nature. The Boston Globe article quoted Seamans as not manufacturing paper products with PFAs at the Gardner, MA location, but did not account for Templeton, Baldwinville, or the Orange, MA locations and the disposal sites of those and if PFAs is in or was in the products produced. I would like the answers to where the waste of the facilities was dumped and the answer to where and when any PFAs/ PFOS was present in the manufacturing of all products at all Seamans locations. I understand Seamans, Otter Hill, MNF, did not create PFAS/PFOS, but they were the architects here. I hope all involved in this mess will

do the right thing. I hope the town will step up and be more careful with giving variances moving forward, this could all have been avoided.

Answer to Comment No. 29:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

We cannot make any comments or answer any questions on behalf of any third parties, including but not limited to Seamans Paper Co., The Boston Globe or the Town of Westminster.

If you have any health-related questions, you should consult with MassDPH (<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departement-of-public-health>). You may also wish to consider consulting your personal health care professional for further information.

It is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution. You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.

You should notify Lessard Environmental of any concerns you have regarding the POET system. Please note that, due to the volume of inquiries to Lessard Environmental, responses can take 2-3 business days or more depending on the nature of the inquiry.

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Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

After the POET system installation, you should continue use of bottled water until we have sampling data that shows the POET is working as intended. Continue use of bottled water until we indicate you can use the treated water.

As to swimming, according to MassDPH, although typical contact with the water while occasionally swimming should not be a health concern, it is important to avoid, as much as possible, accidentally swallowing water. If you have young children, you should monitor them while they're in the water to limit the amount of water they swallow. If your skin has cuts, abrasions, or open wounds, you should limit time in the water and wear

rubber gloves when washing dishes.

The website that has been launched with data and resources regarding PFAS in Westminster. Please visit WestminsterPFAS.com to view the latest news and reports from our Licensed Site Professional and to read answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

If you want to know more about PFAS, you can also use the MassDEP PFAS website as a source of good information. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas> for additional PFAS information.

Comment No. 30:

Is there any way to determine how long we have been drinking contaminated water? My family and I moved here almost 25 years ago, and my children have grown up drinking this water. This is extremely concerning considering the potential health risks involved.

Answer to Comment No. 30:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

This information is not currently available.

Comment No. 31:

Is there any requirement for MNF to inform previous customers who purchased contaminated products of the risk these products present? Forgive me if this is a repeat question – did not have the chance to read all the important inquiries above this. I am really frightened to imagine how many families are eating tomatoes from contaminated vegetable gardens like my own.

Answer to Comment No. 31:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

As of today, there is no mechanism developed for notification of prior owners and/or customers, nor is there a requirement to do so. If such mechanism or requirement is developed in the future, the prior owners and/or customers will be notified accordingly.

Please see the Answer to Comment No. 13.

Comment No. 32:

Is there any plan to remediate or clean up the known toxic compost that MNF sold to (presumably) thousands of people in our communities? Is there a plan to compensate those who may be dealing with wells contaminated by hundreds of yards of soil contaminated with PFAS effecting their well water outside the study area? When a company sells a dangerous product in many realms, they are required to recall that product. I struggle to see any difference here between a baby-gate that may not be safe and compost products which contain known carcinogens. I have inquired about this with MNF and received no answers. This is unacceptable.

Answer to Comment No. 32:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

We cannot reimburse or compensate residents for expenditures at this time.

If reimbursements change and become available, the information will be posted on our website – WestminsterPFAS.com.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Cost_Reimbursement

Comment No. 33:

For those with confirmed PFAS contaminated soil purchased from MNF, will there be a route by which we can pursue financial compensation for testing? If in the future our wells become contaminated (many of us have contaminated soils right above our wells), will we be able to access the financial and logistical resources to have POET systems installed or financially supported to connect to town water?

Answer to Comment No. 33:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

Please see answer to **Comment No. 32**.

We cannot reimburse or compensate residents for expenditures at this time.

If reimbursements change and become available, the information will be posted on our

website – WestminsterPFAS.com.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Cost_Reimbursement

Comment No. 34:

We live directly on Crocker Pond. Our neighbor across the street notified us, who heard from another neighbor despite living ONE mile down the hill from Bean Porridge Road from the site. There was no formal notification for individuals who may be affected despite living one mile from the MNF site.

We were only recently formally included in the scope of the contamination a few weeks ago and there was no formal notification other than being emailed an access agreement. NOTHING else was provided. No email. No information. Nothing! Despite contacting Lessard Environment months ago upon immediately hearing of this massive contamination.

We have so many questions regarding the planning of securing clean water for our property. In addition, we have many concerns and fears regarding how this contamination of our water, soil, and pond will be remediated. There has been so much confusion regarding the specific plans of Mass Natural Fertilizer (MNF) to address this critical public health issue.

Since moving here two years ago, my husband was diagnosed with a demyelinating autoimmune disease. His presentation was very atypical, and it took months for the diagnosis. When we moved, we walked 5 miles a day in Leominster State Forest. Now he walks with a cane, struggles to walk even short distances, barely can walk up the stairs, and is on full-time disability. His medical condition has required thousands of dollars in treatment costs which is nothing compared to the devastating effect on his life. This whole situation has been terrifying knowing now that MNF contaminated our environment. The soil, the pond, and our drinking water could very well have been a trigger for his debilitating disease. We got his PFAS serum test done, and his levels are high! Efforts to get information on how to address his condition in the context of this mass contamination were met with a lack of information, general referrals of physicians

who were no longer at the facilities referred, and a vacuum of information or support—rather dismissive statements regarding the seriousness of the situation and its impact on the community.

As a separate matter, I was horrified when I learned that the PFAS levels of streams directly entering the pond directly near the public beach where many children and families swim for hours were 910ppt. This shock only worsened when I learned there were no plans to test the pond prior to opening the town beach on Memorial Day Weekend. As a physician, I am concerned about the health of our community and how this was not being addressed. I called two state senators (learning our senator had changed due to redistricting) on the Thursday and Friday before Memorial Day and emailed the town regarding my grave concerns about the public's

safety. I wanted full transparency and accountability regarding the appalling manner in which this environmental contamination has been handled. Only then did the signs go up regarding the PFAS contamination from MNF for the town residents, and the town beach was closed until testing was done. The results came back, and the surface water of Crocker Pond is high. I imagine the sediment on the bottom of the pond is much worse. I have noticed a significant decline in wildlife. This while massive development is being done on the other side of the pond with complete stripping of the land and further erosion into the pond, to say nothing of the noise pollution. Given the environmental impact of the pond on all sides with the lack of planning regarding the environmental impacts on the town's water supply, I think this is important to consider.

We only recently moved to the area 2 years ago. We built a zero-energy home after 15 years of planning and investment. We developed this property with permaculture planting and invested thousands of dollars in the home and all the plantings, careful to consider the habitat and do all we could to provide a pollinator pathway and regenerative permaculture. We discussed with local people who stated that MNF was an excellent compost provider and were unaware of the extent of what Mass Natural Fertilizer (MNF) company was doing. I purchased 3 yards of compost from MNF in 2020. Since then, I later learned from Brook Bound Nursery that MNF is not a reputable supplier and have only purchased compost after careful review, including testing the materials. This has been problematic as none of the compost facilities test for PFAS.

After learning about this terrifying situation from my neighbor, my neighbors provided me with an outside testing source, Chemsolve. We paid approximately \$1500.00 to test our well, soil and the surface water of the pond. Our soil results came out high as did the surface water of the pond. My efforts to contact MNF regarding my concerns were dismissed as "I was not in the site." Only months later did I learn I was in the site. I was given an access agreement only after calling them and emailing them for this. After I signed the access agreement, it took weeks for MNF to respond regarding when my well

would be again tested. It was only after I called on multiple occasions did someone come. There has been NO formal notification, information, or process in which I was directly notified other than an access agreement that required me to pay for legal services to approve. It was ONLY because of my neighbors and their herculean efforts to keep one another informed has information been able to be accessed. MNF has said they will put all their information on a website. This has still NOT happened after MONTHS! The few zoom meetings provided were generic, dismissive, and did not address the community's concerns well enough.

Will we be getting a remediation system for our well? Who is responsible for communicating the plans to us? Even getting Lessard to respond that they received our signed access agreement was difficult and took weeks. We have still not gotten our well results back from Lessard. We arrived home one day from an errand to find a cardboard box with a water dispenser and five large gallons of water at the end of our driveway.

Who delivered this? Why? Did something happen? NO communication!! We lugged these to our

home, not knowing what was happening and why now? Did something change? These bottles are extremely heavy to lift and require great strength. I did this alone as my husband is now disabled. There has been no notification of when we will receive our results and the specific plans after this. Given that we are within one mile of the site and are now considered in the area, it is atrocious how poor Lessard Environmental, charged with cleaning up the site, communicates. The void of information causes further anxiety and trauma the community has already experienced.

Who will dispose of our septic system knowing that the water is contaminated with PFAS? This is already a concern as community members have stated plumbers are unwilling to clean their septic system due to the known contamination. What is the reason non-licensed professionals are installing POET systems? Who is responsible for this oversight. Who are the contractors working for Lessard? What is their experience? How many are licensed? Who is inspecting the systems?

A subdivision is being proposed directly on the contaminated site with plans to drill multiple wells. The planning and oversight from the town, knowing full well what is happening, is abhorrent. How can we as a community trust that our safety and needs are being protected, given the flagrant disregard for our safety and the safety of our environment?

No communication and information have been provided to our family from Lessard directly regarding the planning and remediation of this disaster. Lessard has still not published a website with all its information curated, and it has only been the efforts of community members to disseminate information and support one another.

There are so many questions and concerns with anxiety only escalating with the vacuum of information provided. It is known that the water quality in distribution systems can be adversely affected if the system is not designed, constructed, and maintained according to accepted engineering practice. I would like to know what the specifics are for the planning of town water. Who is contracted for this work, and who is providing oversight for them? Who is making the designs, and what are they? Who is providing permits for the work? What will be the source of the water supply, and is the source ground or surface water? Given a large number of wells in the community, what is being done to monitor the groundwater? Who is monitoring the groundwater? Given the importance of a reliable distribution system, what will be the continuous cross-connection control program? Why is a subdivision being permitted on the contamination site as this is happening? Why has MNF been permitted to continue their dumping and composting knowing full well the extent of contamination to the water supply?

What are the physical aspects of the town water's design, construction, and operation? How will the water be monitored? How will the treated water be transported? What types of pipes will be used? Who will be overseeing the process, and how will decisions be made? What will be the water distribution system, including fire hydrants and pumping facilities, to ensure fire protection? What will the pipes be made of? How will the water be treated to protect the users, including controlling PFAS chemicals and microbial contamination? What kind of pipes will be

used, given the corrosive nature of the water in this community?

Groundwater contamination is of increasing concern in the United States because about 50 percent of our drinking water comes from well water. The damage has been done.

The water supply in Westminister, MA IS contaminated! The cause is also known, yet from my understanding, MNF continues to operate, further polluting and contaminating our water, aquifers, soil, ponds, children and families, and all manner of plants and animals. Water contaminated by PFAS has known deleterious effects on human health, which our family has likely already been experiencing. In addition to MNF, we have recently become aware of a proposed development for Dellogono Way, formerly Porter Page Road Subdivision. They are requesting a stormwater management permit. JP Dell LLC is the applicant. The project will divide 67 acres into 10

cluster-housing lots, and they will be drilling on the contaminated site! This is egregious! Is this legal? Who is responsible for these grievous decisions permitting these developments to occur on a known contaminated site? The actions of a select few private firms have already put the health and safety of residents of Westminister into question.

For this reason, the expansion of industrial activity and development in the town must be properly regulated to prevent the spillage of toxic materials into our community yet again.

We tried to do the right things - thinking of the environment, not using any fossil fuels and, in fact, providing energy back to the grid, planting for pollinators with no “lawn deserts,” and providing our family with homegrown food from our regenerative permaculture garden, walking in the forests and swimming in the lake. Our dreams have been devastated because of the egregious acts of MNF, chemical companies, and lack of oversight regarding these massive polluters, which we were told were “natural” and “good.” We can no longer enjoy peace of mind knowing that our water, soil and the pond have all been contaminated. Words cannot even begin to express how devastating this has all been for all of us!

Answer to Comment No. 34:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

Please visit WestministerPFAS.com to view the latest news, reports, and most recent information and data regarding potential PFAS contamination in Westminister.

If you want to know more about PFAS, you can also use the MassDEP PFAS website as a source of good information. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas> for additional PFAS information.

If you have any health-related questions, you should consult with MassDPH, information about MassDPH can be found on their website: <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/departement-of-public-health>. You may also wish to consider consulting your personal health care professional with any health-related concerns.

According to MassDPH, although typical contact with the water while occasionally swimming should not be a health concern, it is important, to avoid, as much as possible, accidentally swallowing water. If you have young children, you should monitor them while they're in the water to limit the amount of water they swallow. If your skin has cuts, abrasions, or open wounds, you should limit time in the water.

We cannot make any comments or answer any questions with regard to the environmental impact to open water bodies, including but not limited to Crocker Pond as a result of massive development and/or noise pollution.

Lessard Environmental implements regular sampling schedule for Crocker Pond Swimming Area. The tributaries with flow into Crocker Pond and the pond discharge have been added to the sampling schedule. Other surface water locations have also been sampled.

You should notify Lessard Environmental of any concerns you have regarding the POET system.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

Due to very high volume of inquiries, some responses to questions took more than 2-3 business days or more depending on the nature of the inquiry.

Laboratory turnaround time is typically 10 to 15 business days after the laboratory receives the samples (usually the day after sampling). Weekends and holidays are not business days. When we receive the results, we will contact you by telephone and/or email; you will also receive a mailed copy of the laboratory results. Depending on the results, we may recommend next steps.

In order to get results to you in a timely fashion, please confirm your telephone number by emailing westminster@lessard-environmental.com with a copy to KEngberg@lawson-weitzen.com. This is very important for us to be able to contact you with the results.

If the water testing shows PFAS6 (the sum of the six regulated PFAS compounds) levels higher than 20 parts per trillion ("ppt"), the standard set by the Department of Environmental Protection in Massachusetts for six specific PFAS chemicals, a water treatment system will be installed at your house with no cost to you.

It is too early to answer specific questions concerning connecting to public water supplies, in that this is one preliminary option being examined with respect to a long-term solution. You will be provided with more information as soon as it becomes available.

We cannot make any comments or answer any questions on behalf of any third parties, including but not limited to JP Dell, LLC and/or the Town of Westminster.

Comment No. 35: [Real Estate Sales/Property Value]

What happens when we need to sell our homes? What recourse is there when our homes do not sell for fair market value because of the water issue?

Answer to Comment No. 35:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

We cannot provide you with a specific answer with respect to such hypothetical scenario. To get answer to your questions, you might want to consult your real estate agent and/or attorney.

Comment No. 36: [Area]

The IRA Transmittal Form lists the area as “Bean Porridge [sic] Hill Area” in Westminster. I am over the Westminster line in Fitchburg, yet about a mile downhill through the woods from the MNF site. My well has tested positive for PFAS above the allowed limit of 20 ppt. Does the noted “Area” include my affected well, though it is not in Westminster? Will I be able to access all the remedies and follow-up procedures of the Westminster residents? How far out from MNF will testing be considered? If Crocker Pond tested high, will bodies of water that it feeds be tested, as well?

Answer to Comment No. 36:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

The extent of the Study Area is established by Lawrence Lessard, a Licensed Site Professional with Lessard Environmental, Inc. and by Massachusetts Department of

Environmental Protection (“MassDEP”), collectively, with MassDEP having final authority at this time. Lessard Environmental implements regular sampling schedule for Crocker Pond Swimming Area. The tributaries with flow into Crocker Pond and the pond discharge have been added to the sampling schedule. Other surface water locations have also been sampled.

Comment No. 37: [Additional Testing]

I feel our indoor faucets (kitchen and bathrooms) should be tested in addition to the POET because our plumbing pipes/flex could be contaminated with PFAS that settled there.

Answer to Comment No. 37:

This comment is related to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

Lessard Environmental has tested a number of taps throughout the Study Area to evaluate the potential of residual PFAS. None of the tap samples showed impact by PFAS6. After discussion with MassDEP, sampling of taps has been terminated as no evidence supported its continuance.

Comment No. 38: [Remediation]

Will this contamination truly be remedied? Lessard/DEP talked about this multi-year plan, but that isn’t dealing with “forever chemicals” The truth of the matter is no-one knows, and it could take decades or never be resolved. If you go in the woods enough, you’ll see very old monitoring wells all over the place and the majority of residents either have no clue they are there or why they are there. Same thing could happen if the state AND residents do not hold the responsible parties accountable to remedy the problem and look out for our communities’ best interests.

Answer to Comment No. 38:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

The assessment and remediation process, in accordance with MassDEP regulations, is a multi-year, iterative effort. There is currently insufficient information to response further.

Comment No. 39 [Damages]

We are already paying the price with time, stress and possible health in the future. Will the PRP's pay for damages? What damages you ask? Anything that will negatively impact residents and their family's life now and into the future. Straight up out of principle.

Answer to Comment No. 39:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

To answer your questions on damages, you should consult your real estate agent and/or attorney.

Comment No. 40: [Wetland]

Has MNF been following Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act? Based on public ariel photography many stockpiles are within 100ft some even 50ft to wetlands. I have literally seen MNF product running off into the stream. Imagine seeing a cloudy gray mess flowing downstream into Crocker!

Answer to Comment No. 40:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

According to our information, MNF has been in full compliance with respect to the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and local Conservation Commission regulations.

Comment No. 41:[Water]

Over the years, this stream has had an abundance of Brook trout in it. For fun, with a flashlight we would count them as far up stream as we could see them. Would count over hundred just on our property. Now there are no Brook trout. Not sure if this happened naturally or not.

Answer to Comment No. 41:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

Lessard Environmental implements regular sampling schedule for Crocker Pond Swimming Area. The tributaries with flow into Crocker Pond and the pond discharge have been added to the sampling schedule. Other surface water locations have also been sampled.

Comment No. 42: [Soil]

Many house owners have well contamination, but some have contaminated soil and/or surface water. How is this handled? Drinking water is very important, but there is solution by providing poet/town water, but if you have highly contaminated surface water passing through your property, Is there a solution for that? It could potentially reduce property value even more.

Answer to Comment 42:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

We have begun preliminary soil sampling at key locations which include 65 and 44 Bean Porridge Hill Road. If sampling locations and media are expanded, residents will be notified as necessary and access arranged. Further, please review WestminsterPFAS.com for up to date information.

Comment No. 43: [Soil]

Will investigative soil borings (drilling core samples) be performed on MNF/Otter Farm Inc property to help determine the contamination origin, time frame, and its path?

Answer to Comment No. 43:

This comment is related to IRA activities.

As detailed in publicly available submittals to MassDEP, we have begun preliminary soil sampling at key locations which include 65 and 44 Bean Porridge Hill Road.

Comment No. 44: [Third Party]

Why does Otter Farm Inc own the parcel around MNF? No abutter notices?

Answer to Comment No. 44:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

Otter Farms, Inc. is the owner of record of the Property on which MNF operates. This is further set forth on WestminsterPFAS.com

Comment No. 45: [Well]

Why did MNF deepen their well to 700ft?

Answer to Comment No. 45:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

According to our information, MNF does not operate such a well. The depth of the well which MNF had drilled in December, 2020 is 210 - 220 feet.

Comment No. 46: [Third Party]

In 2021, Seamans Paper Co. upgraded their NPDES (Permit No. MA0000469) to filter out Pfas. But they also state on their website the send all residuals to MNF. Is the residuals pfas free? Pfas free both before or after NPDES upgrade?

Answer to Comment No. 46:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

We cannot make any comments or answer any questions on behalf of any third parties, including but not limited to Seamans Paper Co.

Comment No. 47: [Vendor Communication]

Is it MNF's responsibility to reach out to vendors (ie. Greif and Seamans Paper) to determine origin of Pfas?

Answer to Comment No. 47:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

MNF is following all appropriate laws and regulations, as well as MassDEP directives, concerning vendor contact.

Comment No. 48: [Customer Communication]

Is it MNF's responsibility to contact all customers (like a recall notice) informing them of possible contamination?

Answer to Comment No. 48:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

MNF is following all appropriate laws and regulations, as well as MassDEP directives, concerning customer communication. There is no MassDEP requirement at this time for a recall notice.

Comment No. 49: [POET System] [Filtration]

MNF/Lessard installs a poet system after well and before existing filtration systems. Pfas is being filtered by the poet but I'm worried because it then passing thru the old "contaminated" filtration tanks. Should the old tanks be replaced and who will pay for it?

Answer to Comment No. 49:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated in response actions.

Lessard Environmental has tested a number of taps throughout the Study Area to evaluate the potential of residual PFAS coming from existing filtration systems. None of the tap samples showed impact by PFAS6. After discussion with MassDEP, sampling of taps has been terminated as no evidence supported its continuance.

Comment No. 50: [Pool] [Reimbursement]

Who will pay to pump out and dispose of contaminated pool water and refill?

Answer to Comment No. 50:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

We cannot reimburse or compensate residents for such expenditures at this time. If reimbursements change and become available, the information will be posted on our website – WestminsterPFAS.com.
http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Cost_Reimbursement

Comment No. 51: [Septic] [Reimbursement]

Who will pay to pump out and dispose of contaminated septic tank water?

Answer to Comment No. 51:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

We are aware of no data that supports a need to pump out and dispose of septic tank water.

We cannot reimburse or compensate residents for such expenditures at this time. If reimbursements change and become available, the information will be posted on our website – WestminsterPFAS.com.
http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Cost_Reimbursement

Comment No. 52: [Septic]

Are septic leeching fields compromised? Do they need to be remedied or replaced?

Answer to Comment No. 52:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

At this time, we are not testing leeching fields. Should that change, you will be notified.

Comment No. 53: [Filtration System] [POET?]

Filtration systems have been backwashing contaminated well water for years. Is that a problem for our property?

Answer to Comment No.53:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

To date, this issue has not been investigated. MassDEP directs the focus of our studies and investigation, and MassDEP has not directed an investigation of this issue.

Comment No. 54: []

What is going to be done with all MNF product that has been sold? Contamination everywhere to some degree.

Answer to Comment No. 54:

This comment does not relate to IRA activities.

Regarding soil sampling, we expect to begin preliminary soil sampling at key locations which include 65 and 44 Bean Porridge Hill Road. There is no schedule for sampling on any residential properties at this time. You will be notified if that protocol changes. At this time, there is no mechanism for reclaiming MNF product, nor has MassDEP directed any recall notice requirement. Should that change, you will be notified.

Comment No. 55: [Third Party]

“Statements of facts and law” by DEP #5 October 6 2020 Mass DEP issued a Final Approval Recycling, composting or conversion operation to Mass Natural.

Question: Did DEP know this is not allowed in Residential II in Westminster. I believe they never got a variance from Zoning Board of Appeals

Answer to Comment No. 55:

This comment does not related to IRA activities.

We cannot make any comments or answer any questions on behalf of any third parties, including but not limited to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and/or Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Westminster.

Comment No. 56: [Map] [Resident Communication]

In the IRA summary update letter there errors. On the “PFAS Concentration Summary” map address 99 and 91 S. Ashburnham Rd are swapped in wrong locations. Please correct. Also why don’t you show Otter Farm Inc property around MNF highlighted on map? It was in earlier maps but not now? The monitoring wells with extremely high Pfas levels are clearly on Otter Farm property.

Answer to Comment No. 56:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated in response actions.

The address issue has been corrected, and all relevant data that we have is included on site figures.

Comment No. 57:

To the owners and operators of Mass Natural Fertilizer: I remember when I first moved onto Bean Porridge Hill Rd 2 decades ago and was regularly buying your “Top Shelf” product for my lawn and vegetable garden. I remember how you went out of your way to deliver, free of charge. I recall you saying to me, “We try to be a good neighbor.” I appreciated that. The incredible coincidence is that I found out you were storing carcinogens on your property and they had contaminated our wells from somebody building a home on Bean Porridge Hill Rd. Ironically, I told him the week earlier that it’d be a no-brainer to buy loam from Mass Natural Fertilizer as your product was very good. Little did I know, I’ve been drinking contaminated water for the better part of 20 years due to the tainted product you were taking in and mixing with your “Top Shelf” product.

Rather than reaching out to the neighbors, informing us that you were the source of this contamination, you hired lawyers to provide purposefully vague and anemic responses to the questions submitted by the residents whose property is now tainted as a result of the materials you were bringing to this otherwise pristine area. Nearly everybody affected by this found out by word of mouth. No official notice was provided by you, your legal counsel, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, or the Town of Westminster for that matter. Knowing this, do you feel this behavior being a good neighbor?

Do you realize now that many of us have had to pay out of pocket for blood tests and other screenings recommended by the National Institute for Health for people exposed to PFAS? We have also had to pay out of pocket to prove to your hired licensed site professional that the study area was woefully incorrect and much larger than your licensed site professional and legal

representation is willing to admit. My requests for compensation for those costs have fallen on deaf ears. I ask you again, do you feel that this is being a good neighbor? Who do you feel is truly at fault here with this situation? Would you feel comfortable having your family consume water through this filtration system? A filtration system I might add is now in my house with absolutely no documentation explaining to me how it works or what sort of schedule I should expect for routine maintenance. In fact, I was chided by the Town of Westminster's Building Inspector for asking him why unlicensed plumbers were performing plumbing work at my place of residence. I'm still awaiting an inspection of the system by the town. Apparently your legal counsel sought an exemption for this work, yet this, along with every other piece of critical information related to this issue was never told to any of the residents affected by this. The communication regarding this cleanup is deplorable. I am not comfortable at all with any of this.

Answer to Comment No. 57:

We cannot make any comments or answer any questions on behalf of any third parties, including but not limited to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and/or the Town of Westminster.

The extent of the Study Area is established by the LSP and by Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection ("MassDEP"), collectively, with MassDEP having final authority at this time.

At this time, there will be no reimbursement for private well testing. There are legal issues related to chain of custody of samples, and most importantly, methodology (how the samples were taken) for the sampling.

Please notify Lessard Environmental of any concerns you have regarding the POET system.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

Please visit WestminsterPFAS.com to view the latest news and reports from our Licensed Site Professional and to read answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

If you want to know more about PFAS, you can also use the MassDEP PFAS website as a

source of good information. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas> for additional PFAS information.

Comment No. 58: [Soil]

What is the plan for folks that have purchased this tainted dirt but are not direct geographic neighbors to the farm, both large amounts for landscaping and small amounts for gardens alike? Through no fault of our own we will undoubtedly be affected in the future and there needs to be provisions to help us - by removing this poison dirt now and providing funds and support down the road to deal with what it might do to our own and our neighbors property/health. You cannot simply brush us off because we are not adjacent or downstream neighbors from MNF, how would you feel if yourself or one of your children and grandchildren were in this situation?

Answer to Comment No. 58:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

Regarding soil sampling, we expect to begin preliminary soil sampling at key locations which include 65 and 44 Bean Porridge Hill Road. There is no schedule for sampling on any residential properties at this time. You will be notified if that protocol changes.

Comment No. 59: [Third Party]

We, like all homeowners in the test area, are very concerned with the pfas situation. All Potentially Responsible Parties deny responsibility and more research has to go in to who could have illegally dumped decades ago. Yes, DuPont Chemical used to have a plant in Leominster as did Borden Chemical and many others other chemical companies. The BPH site needs to be included in Class actions against these big chemical firms.

Answer to Comment No. 59:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

We cannot make any comments or answer any questions on behalf of any third parties, including but not limited to DuPont de Nemours, Inc., Borden Chemical or other chemical companies.

Comment No. 60: [POET System]

Wanted to get one more public comment in. With having an iron bacteria remover and a water softener existing in our setup, I want to ensure that these devices weren't also contaminated by the PFAS in our well. Last week we had our POET system installed, and while it might remove the PFAS from the well, it won't do any good if the existing iron bacteria remover and water softener still have PFAS in them (I don't know if they do or can). To ensure we are drinking PFAS-free water and that the water softener/iron bacteria remover aren't adding existing PFAS into the system, I want to ensure that our water tests also cover a faucet that is beyond the water softener in our setup.

Also, if the water softener is determined to have PFAS in it from the well contamination, how can we get remediation/replacement for it?

Thanks,

Answer to Comment No. 60:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated in response actions.

Lessard Environmental has tested a number of taps throughout the Study Area to evaluate the potential of residual PFAS. None of the tap samples showed impact by PFAS6. After discussion with MassDEP, sampling of taps has been terminated as no evidence supported its continuance

Comment No. 61:

At a minimum:

- 1> Responsible parties must pay for the affected people's health care, for the rest of their lives. EVERYONE. Everyone's health should be monitored as needed, for the rest of their lives, for this poison we have been giving to our families. Also, people should be compensated for missed work when treatment or any other health effects from this makes it so the person cannot earn money.
- 2> All real-estate tax must be suspended immediately, to all affected homes, until the town of Westminster can get this water and soil contamination under control. We shouldn't have to pay taxes to this town until its fixed. It's the least the town could do for us.

Still to this day, the lack of leadership, communication, and residential support from the Town Hall is an embarrassment. Some people still have no idea they are drinking from poisoned wells. I'll say it again because I know it works. Print up some paper fliers and hand deliver, by town officials (Police or Fire), to all homes surrounding this area, letting people know of this problem going on. Fresh drinking water must be installed to affected residents. Not a filter system that supposedly get out all the PFAS.

- 3> After POETS installed and tested to be safe, MNF to pay for septic tanks to be sucked out at

their expense.

4> Why won't they test the faucets we drink out of after the POET system is installed. The plumbers install a "special" tap for water testing right after the final tier of the filtration system. Does the rest of the contaminated water piping in my house after the filter magically disappear? I think we know why they say the responsible parties are not responsible for anything after the filter. It's because all the pipes are most likely or highly likely contaminated would be my guess. Common sense would say let's test where you get your drinking water from.

5>Any plan on helping the elderly move these 40lb water jugs into their homes in the middle of winter when it gets icy outside. Many long driveways that water company just leaves 7-8 5 gallon jugs by the road for residents to haul back to their homes. (This is not fun and I'm younger and inshape)

6>HELLO HELLO!!! TOWN HALL OFFICIALS!!! YOU NEED TO DO MORE

Ps: My well was tested at 95 ppt. I dumped over 1,000 yards of MNF product in my yard in 2016/2017. I grew vegetable gardens, unknowingly watered it with the poison water and then feed the vegetables to my wife and children. Kids are 5 and 9yrs old now. My wife was pregnant with our youngest child while living here. Consuming 3 times the amount of water than normal to try to have a healthy baby. The youngest child has multiple birth defects. This is not good.

Answer to Comment No. 61:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

We cannot make any comments or answer any questions on behalf of any third parties, including but not limited to the Town of Westminster or any town officials.

We will try to arrange for the delivery assistance for elderly/handicapped residents who will request such assistance

You should consult with MassDPH (<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-public-health>), or you may also wish to consider consulting your personal health care professional regarding this question.

Comment No. 62: [POET system] [Water delivery]

If a water test comes back ND after the POET installation, we were told that our water jugs would be taken away and no longer delivered. No one knows how long these filters are going to last in our homes-days? weeks? months? Wouldn't it make more sense to gather more data from our homes before you take away the jugs of water that we know are clean?

Answer to Comment No. 62:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated in response actions.

After the POET system installation, you should continue use of bottled water until we have sampling data that shows the POET is working as intended. At that time, it is our current policy to continue deliveries of bottled water unless you instruct us otherwise. We will notify you to any changes in this schedule.

Comment No. 63: [Contractor Scheduling]

Contractors/service providers need to give us a definitive time span....many of us work outside of our homes and can't take time off from work. Maybe they need to provide evening and Saturday times?

Answer to Comment No. 63:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated in response actions.

A scheduling window is provided for all installation and sampling activities.

Please contact Lessard Environmental for any questions regarding scheduling of POET system installation and maintenance.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com

Comment No. 64: [POET Diagram]

Detailed diagram of POETs and their parts

Detailed plan on what to look for after the POET is installed (filters and what they look like when needing to be changed), testing schedules, and instructions on maintenance/what to look for.

Answer to Comment No. 64:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated in response actions.

A diagram of the POET system has been placed on the website WestminsterPFAS.com. Sampling initially occurs on a monthly basis for the first quarter after installation, and on a quarterly basis thereafter. POET maintenance schedule is published on WestminsterPFAS.com.

Please see the Answer to Comment No. 9.

Comment No. 65: [POET System?]

How do we know if UV light is working properly? When do filters get swapped out? Once filters are swapped out, we don't want to be drinking metallic tasting water again.

Answer to Comment No. 65:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated in response actions.

Your water will be tested regularly after POET system installation. That testing will demonstrate whether or not the POET system is operating effectively. Filter replacement will be coordinated through Lessard Environmental. The POET maintenance schedule is published on WestminsterPFAS.com. The UV systems have a detector that confirms the light is on.

Comment No. 66: [Lab Results]

Results-Why aren't we getting phone calls/emails with OUR results? We shouldn't have to sort through a 100 page doc to find our home.

Answer to Comment No. 66:

This comment relates to IRA activities, and has been incorporated into response actions.

Laboratory turnaround time is typically 10 to 15 business days after the laboratory receives the samples (usually the day after sampling). Weekends and holidays are not business days.

When we receive the results, we will contact you by telephone and/or email; you will also receive a mailed copy of the laboratory results. We are required to send you the full report, not just information related to your home so that you have all of the applicable quality assurance and quality control information generated by the laboratory.

Comment No. 67: [Private Testing] [Soil] [Reimbursement]

I'm writing to express several concerns I have over the situation. I would like this added to the public comment.

- Why are so many homeowners from the vicinity forced to pay for their own well testing? These PFAS levels are a serious health hazard. It seems unacceptable that the perimeters that have been defined are so small, and it has taken private testing by homeowners, at their own expense, to find PFAS positive results to get the perimeter enlarged. Considering how serious this health concern is, testing should have been very widespread. Homeowners are faced with paying a large fee to test privately, or potentially continue to ingest high levels of PFAS. This is unfair considering these homeowners had nothing to do with causing the contamination. I'd like to request the study area be expanded largely enough to cover all potential contaminated homes. People have a right to know if Mass Natural has contaminated their well.
- What is being done regarding the contaminated soil which was sold by Mass Natural and then spread to homes all throughout the area? Is Mass Natural paying to have this soil tested? Currently, the only homes getting remediation for PFAS are those in the study area. When will this be expanded to start testing wells and soil for this other group of residents affected with contamination? Similar to the well testing, many homeowners have paid privately to test their soil and high levels of PFAS have been found.
- What is the process for having contaminated soil purchased by Mass Natural removed from a residents property? Many residents would like this removed ASAP before it leeches to their well. Will Mass Natural remove this soil? If not, how do people get this off their property?
- For residents with positive soil results but no detected PFAS in their well, what is the long term plan for testing their well yearly? Will Mass Natural be paying for this testing for years into the future? The PFAS will likely eventually reach these homeowners well and remediation may be required years into the future. What is the plan for this situation? Testing well water for PFAS is very expensive and should not fall on the homeowners. The homeowners also should not be left with this problem to deal with for years to come.

To say that this situation has been frustrating is an understatement. The levels of PFAS being found in the area are toxic and unsafe, yet many residents have been left on their own with questions going unanswered, and getting the runaround from both Lessard Environmental and the MA DEP. In addition, thousands of dollars have been spent on private well testing and soil testing, because the responsible parties are working hard to cover as little of the expense for this cleanup as possible. This is unacceptable.

Answer to Comment No. 67:

This comment is not related to response actions.

At this time, there will be no reimbursement for soil and/or private well testing. There are legal issues related to chain of custody of samples, and most importantly, methodology (how the samples were taken) for the sampling.

If reimbursements change and become available, the information will be posted on our website – WestminsterPFAS.com.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Cost_Reimbursement

Regarding soil sampling, we expect to begin preliminary soil sampling at key locations which include 65 and 44 Bean Porridge Hill Road. There is no schedule for sampling on any residential properties at this time. You will be notified if that protocol changes.

There is no schedule for soil removal on any residential properties at this time. You will be notified if that protocol changes.

Comment No. 68:

I am a resident of Westminster, MA, and am concerned about the ongoing PFAS contamination in town. Although I live outside of the current study area, we have purchased soil from Mass Natural for our property on different occasions over the 17 years we have lived here. I am concerned that homeowners such as ourselves who are on well water and have purchased soil from Mass Natural are being overlooked in the process. We will be paying ourselves for a testing company to sample and test our water for PFAS. This is a direct cost to us and there is no plan for reimbursement. I would like to add the following to the public comment:

- Given the high price of PFAS testing, there are likely many households in Westminster who have also purchased soil from Mass Natural who should have well water tested and haven't done so. Why isn't there a plan to cover the cost of well water testing for those properties?
- If PFAS is not detected in our well, we will still need to pay for annual testing to help ensure the safety of our drinking water. There should be a plan to cover the high cost of annual PFAS testing for properties on well-water who have purchased soil from Mass Natural in the past.
- If PFAS is detected in our well, we do not currently qualify for bottle water distribution or point of entry system installation. Households with PFAS detected in well water who have purchased soil from Mass Natural should be eligible for these.
- I am concerned about our long-term health, medical costs, and potential reduction in property values as a result of PFAS contamination in Westminster and the lack of a plan to compensate homeowners for these direct costs.

In short, it is unacceptable that homeowners on well water who have purchased and used soil from Mass Natural are being excluded from the ongoing actions.

Answer to Comment No. 68:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

At this time, there will be no reimbursement for soil and/or private well testing. There are legal issues related to chain of custody of samples, and most importantly, methodology (how the samples were taken) for the sampling.

If reimbursements change and become available, the information will be posted on our website – WestminsterPFAS.com.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Cost_Reimbursement

If your home is in the identified study area, the well water testing will be provided at no cost to you.

All the properties which are within the study area are provided with bottled water and POET systems (if required) at no cost to owners. The extent of the Study Area is established by Lawrence Lessard, a Licensed Site Professional with Lessard Environmental, Inc. and by MassDEP, collectively, with MassDEP having final authority at this time.

If you have any health-related questions, you should consult with MassDPH and/or your personal health care professional regarding such questions.

Comment No. 69: [Soil] [Private Testing] [Reimbursement]

Will people who paid for private water and/or soil testing get reimbursed? Your group would not be this far along in this process if it wasn't for the citizens who did their private testing and shared the results.

Answer to Comment No. 69:

This comment is not related to IRA activities.

At this time, there will be no reimbursement for soil and/or private well testing. There are legal issues related to chain of custody of samples, and most importantly, methodology (how the samples were taken) for the sampling.

If reimbursements change and become available, the information will be posted on our website – WestminsterPFAS.com.

http://WestminsterPFAS.com/FAQs#Cost_Reimbursement

Comment No. 70: [Zoom] [Resident Communication]

Zoom meetings-Why are the meetings solely on Zoom? We have Oakmont Regional High School that can not only accommodate a crowd, but also has the tech capacity to live stream. We are requesting in person meetings with your team and the LSPs.

Answer to Comment No. 70:

This comment is related to IRA activities, and has been incorporated in response actions.

Zoom was selected because it is the most equitable, open, accessible, and fair way to conduct meetings. In person meetings limit the number of people in a room, limit those who can attend due to other obligations or transportation limitations, and would be costly for space and resources.

There is no maximum capacity for Zoom; Zoom attendance can be from anywhere with internet; and Zoom is a free software available to all.

If, in the future, meetings are moved to an in person location, the relevant parties will be notified and the relevant information will be published.

Comment No. 71: [Contractor Scheduling]

It is difficult for people to keep taking time off from work to be home to let people into our homes. It would be much appreciated if they can have a few evenings each week for testing and maintenance.

Answer to Comment No. 71:

This comment concerns IRA activities, and has been incorporated in response actions.

Please contact Lessard Environmental for any questions regarding scheduling of POET system installation and maintenance.

Lessard Environmental can be reached by:

Phone: 978-338-5541

Email: Westminster@Lessard-Environmental.com

Webpage: www.Lessard-Environmental.com