December 17, 2018

Commissioner Martin Suuberg
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
One Winter Street, 2nd floor
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Commissioner Suuberg,

Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition (MBCC) is greatly concerned that the ground water contamination at the Barnstable County Fire and Rescue Training Academy is going unchecked and continues to contaminate the public water supply of Hyannis. We are especially concerned with contamination from PFASs that were contained in the firefighting foam used at the site.

With over 4,000 PFASs on the global market and an emerging understanding of their toxic health effects, PFASs pose an enormous public health challenge. PFASs have been linked to a wide range of health effects in studies of people and laboratory studies with animals. These effects include immune system toxicity, elevated cholesterol, delayed mammary gland development, effects on the thyroid and liver, and cancer. Scientists are concerned that exposures to chemicals that alter mammary gland development may increase the risk of breast cancer.

We strongly believe that if PFASs are considered carcinogenic then it is unacceptable for anyone to be exposed to these toxins. MBCC is reaching out to you to urge your department to take action:

- Immediately cease all Barnstable County Fire and Rescue Training Academy activity using water at the site;
- Immediately investigate the extent of down gradient groundwater contamination resulting from use of water at the site; and,
- Immediately reconstruct the existing groundwater treatment system to completely contain the plume coming from the Fire Training Academy.
The health risks are too high to delay these necessary actions any longer. This site has been a source of multiple types of contaminants to the public water supply in Hyannis over the past several decades.

We urge you to take action now to protect the residents of Hyannis, and will look forward to hearing from you on your plan of action.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Osimo, Executive Director

Steve D’Amico, Board Vice President

Justine Dymond, PhD, Board Secretary

Lisa Foley, Board Member

Lauren Mullins, Board Member

Susan Wornick, Board Member

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