

Julia McHugh

I reside in the Palisades Neighborhood, due north of the Spokane Int'l Airport (SIA) (former Dept of Defense site from 1920s through 1946; site was turned over to Spokane County in 1960, and has been the regional public airport since that time). Airport public records obtained in Dec 2022, from two 2017 sampling events from 3 of 10 SIA monitoring wells, indicate PFAS at levels considerably higher than safety levels issued by WA Dept of Health.

Our area is outside (east) of the Fairchild Air Force Base study boundary, which I believe was erroneously drawn, excludes the entire area east of Hayford Road, all the way to the Spokane River breaks in the north and east directions.

PFAS levels exist in some of our Palisades domestic wells, the Great Northern School well (very high); the Fire District 10 Station 5 well (very high). Detection of the chemical in the groundwater are hit-and-miss in this area, given the variation in geology, and the prohibitively high cost of sampling and lab analysis.

We 'geologically downgradient' property owners and taxpayers are extremely concerned about these chemicals and are working on completion of a TCP grant to study PFAS in this eastern portion of the West Plains outside Spokane. However, there is an obvious need for the state and/or federal authorities to undertake a government-lead (in addition to our volunteer-lead) effort once we accomplish the proposed wellhead groundwater sampling, analysis and fate & transport model intended with the grant.

We are working closely with Ecology ERO to secure the grant, but are challenged by the inability of local governments to take on the role of 'Grantee' administration & accounting, as they "have no capacity" with limited or staff not versed in hydrogeology.

This is public health fiasco in the making.

Please acknowledge receiving this comment.

Thank you. J McHugh, Feb 24, 2023