



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Northwest Region

700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600

Portland, OR 97232

(503) 229-5696

FAX (503) 229-6124

TTY 711

March 11, 2026

via electronic delivery (email)

Drexell Barnes, Water Quality Manager
Bend Municipal Airport
63136 Powell Butte Hwy
Bend, OR 97701

Subject: Request for PFAS Investigation

Drexell Barnes:

Last year, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Cleanup Program reached out to Bend Airport with a letter and questionnaire requesting information on historical use of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) at your aviation facility. You completed the questionnaire and indicated that AFFF may have been historically maintained at the facility (as required by the Federal Aviation Administration) and that fire training may have historically been performed. Evidence of a historical AFFF emergency use and subsequent soil cleanup was also provided.

At the time of DEQ's request, PFAS were not regulated as Oregon hazardous substances. Since that time, our Cleanup Program completed rulemaking, and six PFAS chemicals¹ were designated as hazardous substances by Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission (September 2025) in [OAR 340-122-0115](#).

Commercial airports with historical AFFF use fall into a category of high concern to DEQ, as such use typically involved discharge of PFAS-containing foam to ground surface, where PFAS either infiltrated into soils or entered stormwater conveyances. Given the mobility of the contaminants, there is a high likelihood that they have migrated toward groundwater and into stormwater retention areas and wetlands, where present. Because of these concerns, DEQ Cleanup is again reaching out to large airports across Oregon to request additional investigations.

As noted above, you provided information on a 2023 emergency use of AFFF at the airport, which was initiated in response to a fuel fire and ultimately suppressed by responding members of the Redmond Fire & Rescue Department using their AFFF product.² DEQ's State On-Scene Coordinator concluded that the soil removal after the emergency response (OERS #2023-1420) had removed risk to the extent practicable, due partly to groundwater being at around 600 feet.

¹ Designated Oregon hazardous substances now include PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS.

² EVREN Northwest, Inc. 2024. Focused Surface Soil Cleanup Report, Bend Municipal Airport AFFF. Prepared for CURA Emergency Services, July 29, 2024.

We are requesting that you engage with the DEQ Cleanup Program (via a voluntary agreement) to continue investigation of PFAS in environmental media at your facility. Information on the program can be found on the DEQ Cleanup website.³ Additionally, as a follow-up to last year's questionnaire, we are requesting that you gather and provide us with whatever information is available on the storage, use, training, and maintenance of PFAS products (including AFFF) at Bend Airport. If you choose not to complete work, DEQ will consider whether use of enforcement authority is necessary. We would be happy to meet with you to talk about options for working with the Cleanup Program and next steps. We request that you provide a response to this letter/request within 60 days.

Information on DEQ's recent rulemaking effort can be found at the PFAS 2025 webpage.⁴ Further information can be found at our PFAS in Cleanup webpage,⁵ including a link to our PFAS Fact Sheet,⁶ which outlines DEQ's cleanup prioritization framework and approach for addressing PFAS. General inquiries about PFAS and the Cleanup Program can be addressed to the DEQ Cleanup PFAS Workgroup at CleanupPFASWorkGroup@deq.oregon.gov.

Respectfully,



Brian Church

Toxicologist
Northwest Region Cleanup Program

Ec: Ann Farris, DEQ
Sarah Van Glubt, DEQ
Daniel Hafley, DEQ
ECSI# 1701 file

³ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/hazards-and-cleanup/env-cleanup/pages/voluntary-cleanup.aspx>

⁴ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/rulemaking/pages/pfas-2025.aspx>

⁵ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/hazards-and-cleanup/env-cleanup/pages/pfascleanup.aspx>

⁶ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Documents/Cleanup-PFAS-Fs.pdf>