



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Northwest Region

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March 11, 2026

via electronic delivery (email)

Dan Bandel, Manager
Eastern Oregon Regional Airport at Pendleton
2016 Airport Road
Pendleton, Oregon, 97801

Subject: Request for PFAS Investigation

Dan Bandel:

Last year, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Cleanup Program reached out to Eastern Oregon Regional Airport with a letter and questionnaire requesting information on historical use of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) at your aviation facility. You completed the questionnaire and indicated that fire training was historically performed (as required by the Federal Aviation Administration), albeit rare, using products containing per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

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 designed 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 training typically involved discharge of PFAS-containing foam to ground surface. Given the mobility of the contaminants, there is a high likelihood that they have migrated to groundwater. If surface water is present in area(s) of historical training, storage, or where a fire response occurred, it may also be impacted.

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.² 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.

¹ Designated PFAS are: PFOA, PFOS, PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA (or GenX), and PFBS.

² <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/hazards-and-cleanup/env-cleanup/pages/voluntary-cleanup.aspx>

Information on DEQ's recent rulemaking effort can be found at the PFAS 2025 webpage.³ Further information can be found at our PFAS in Cleanup webpage,⁴ including a link to our PFAS Fact Sheet,⁵ 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
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ECSI# 0779 file

³ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/rulemaking/pages/pfas-2025.aspx>

⁴ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/hazards-and-cleanup/env-cleanup/pages/pfascleanup.aspx>

⁵ <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/Hazards-and-Cleanup/Documents/Cleanup-PFAS-Fs.pdf>