

**Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) for the former Brunswick Naval Air Station
Report of the December 9, 2025 BNAS RAB Meeting.
Memo from David S. Page, Town of Brunswick RAB Representative
to the Brunswick Town Council, January 20, 2026**

The Town Council's representative to the RAB provides a report on each RAB meeting to update the Town of Brunswick on information pertaining to the restoration and reuse of the former BNAS as presented at each RAB meeting so that there is a summary report of each RAB Meeting on file. Background information on the RAB and the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process is described in the January 20, 2026 updated Background Report to the Brunswick Town Council. Members of the Council with individual concerns, comments or questions may contact me at dpage@bowdoin.edu. This Report is organized according to the agenda items. In reading this report, it is very useful to download the meeting slides via the link given below.

RELEVANT MATERIALS:

12/9/2025 Meeting Links:

- **Meeting Agenda:** Click this link https://media.defense.gov/2025/Nov/25/2003832075/-1/-1/0/NASB_RAB_AGENDA_12-09-25_FINAL.PDF
- **Meeting Slides:** Click this link https://media.defense.gov/2025/Dec/02/2003833853/-1/-1/0/NASB_09DEC2025_RAB_SLIDES_FINAL.PDF
- **May 28, 2025 RAB Meeting Minutes:** Click this link https://media.defense.gov/2025/Jul/01/2003746556/-1/-1/0/NASB_28MAY2025_RAB_MTGMIN_FINALREV.PDF

**NEXT RAB MEETING
February 26, 2026; 6:00-8:00 PM. Hybrid Meeting.**

KEY POINTS FROM 12/9/2025 RAB MEETING

GENERAL COMMENTS: This RAB meeting was delayed because of the government shutdown and was remote only. As with other RAB Meetings since the August, 2024 Hangar 4 Spill, this RAB meeting was well-attended (~57 total). The new Navy Environmental Coordinator, Chris Harding, chaired the meeting. There were a large number of written questions and comments, which will be included in the meeting minutes. Many of the comments/questions continued to express ongoing concerns about the spreading of historic and recent PFAS releases to private drinking water wells surrounding the former base. In response to many questions concerning off-site well testing, the Navy Environmental Coordinator, Chris Harding responded that the Navy had to follow the Statutory and Regulatory procedures that guide the scope and execution of their monitoring studies under CERCLA and Navy regulations. In a change from prior meetings, the Navy did not allow RAB members from other organizations, such as MRRA, to answer citizen questions. For off-base issues, questioners were referred to the Maine DEP. Many other questions were not answered during the live meeting, with the Navy promising to respond later via post-meeting additions to the minutes.

The placement of PFOS and PFOA on the CERCLA list in April of 2024, means that the Remedial Investigation (RI), one of the early steps in the CERCLA process, is in its beginning stages for PFOS and PFOA contamination on the former base and will be continuing for some time to come. This could have future implications for existing Land Use Controls (LUCs) on properties already transferred to the public sector.

SUMMARY OF SOME OF THE MOST COMMON QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

1. A question was asked about the impact of AFFF on terrestrial wildlife. The Navy stated that a risk assessment for wildlife is part of the current RI and that the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife have sampled deer and wild turkeys in conjunction with Maine CDC for PFAS. Test results are not yet publicly available.
2. Many continued to express concern and frustration with the responses to contaminated wells in the Coombs Rd and Princes Point Rd areas. In particular, there were health concerns expressed by those Princes Point residents with elevated levels of PFAS in their well water. For off-base properties, the Navy referred questioners to MEDEP. This was a recurring theme throughout the RAB.
3. There were questions about Land Use Controls (LUCs). There remains great frustration with the ongoing poor communication of existing LUCs to owners and tenants. For the first time, the Navy clearly stated that residential properties on the former base generally do not have any soil LUCs. However, because PFOS and PFOA were not listed as priority pollutants under CERCLA until April 24, 2024, existing LUCs do not specifically include these pollutants. The Navy will host an LUC open house for owners and tenants in February, 2026.
4. There were questions and an agenda item about the management of construction projects at Brunswick Landing. A focal point of concern was the large uncovered soil piles sitting near Admiral Fitch Drive from prior construction excavations elsewhere and the possibility of PFAS in the soil. This follows up a "*Letter of Concern Regarding the Permitting of Construction at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station*" sent on November 19, 2025 by the Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment (BACSE) to area Legislators, the Brunswick Town Council, Town Officers and other recipients.

12/9/2025 BNAS RAB MEETING REPORT IN ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meeting Agenda, Tuesday, 9 December, 2025: 6:00 to 8:00 PM

6:00 - 6:15 Introductions and Community Outreach

Co-Chair Suzanne Johnson, in her opening remarks, described the role of the RAB as a key vehicle for public information and participation during the CERCLA process at the former BNAS, pursuant to the Charter for the RAB. She described sources of information for the public, including Brunswick Area Citizens for a Safe Environment (BACSE), the citizen's group set up as part for the re-use and restoration process.

1. **Slide 9** summarizes ways to stay connected to information as provided by the Navy.
2. **Slide 10, site tour:** A tour of sites of interest was conducted for RAB members and others in September, 2025. This is expected to be done annually.
3. **Slide 11, upcoming meetings:** The next RAB meeting will be in February 26, 2026. It will be done in person and virtually. An important agenda item will be a summary of the Sixth 5-Year Review of the Navy program. A Land Use Control Open house will also be held in February 2026 at Brunswick Landing. Finally, the second RAB meeting of 2026 will be held in May, 2026.

6:15 - 6:30 LUC Overview/Construction Forms/Soil Piles

1. **Slides 12 and 13 describe the elements of the Navy Land Use Control process.** After the remediation process is completed for a given parcel, the Navy issues a document called a Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST), which states that a parcel is safe for public use as long as the LUCs are followed. **It does not mean the parcel is “clean,” it means that the parcel is safe for public use if LUCs are followed.** These LUCs are included in the property deed and exist in perpetuity or until cancelled by the Navy. In general, all properties on the former base have groundwater use restrictions. Residential properties on the former base generally do not have any soil LUCs. All construction activity at Brunswick Landing requires a Construction Permission Form from the Navy as part of the Town of Brunswick permitting process. This is to ensure LUCs are followed. The Navy shares these Construction Permission Forms with the USEPA and MEDEP.
2. **Slide 14 comments on construction soil piles.** A question was raised about the uncovered soil piles near Admiral Fitch and Line Drive that were excavated during the MRRA Katahdin utility project and the STARC warehouse project and that PFAS was found in water samples taken during construction dewatering. The Navy responded to concerns about PFAS contamination from the soil piles by stating that construction activities are generally managed by the property owners according to MEDEP regulations. The Navy did note that they can look at what piles are on site and where they come from and that soils should not be moved between parcels. The Navy asserted that sharing information on the permitting and execution process for a given project is not their responsibility and should be available from the Town of Brunswick, although it is not clear there is a mechanism for providing that information to the Town. The Navy stated that the chain of information on construction permitting is from the Navy to USEPA and MEDEP. The Navy also claimed that the soil piles were taken from areas where a 2015 Preliminary Study did not find PFAS. Because the 2015 study focused on the southern part of the former base, there were relatively few samples from few northern locations and not in the areas where the soil piles originated. After the discovery of PFAS from the former base in some Jordan Avenue wells of the Brunswick Topsham Water District, there were later Navy studies that did show the potential presence of PFAS in the construction area, such as the data summarized on [slide 14 of the May 22, 2024 RAB Meeting](#).

6:30 – 7:45 PFAS Activity Updates: Ongoing Navy PFAS Efforts:

1. **Remedial Investigation (RI) (Slides 16-18):** Slide 17 summarizes the timeline of various components of the RI which are currently funded through 2026. The Navy assured those at the RAB Meeting (Slide 18) that data from past monitoring studies would be forthcoming. It is important to note that the full set of data from the 2022-2023 RI sampling has still not been released. Also, the Navy did not say whether this 2022-2023 (pre-spill) sampling will be repeated to determine impacts of the 2024 Hangar 4 spill. There were many questions from the attendees centered on PFAS in groundwater beyond the base boundaries.

2. **Stormwater Evaluation (Slides 19-20):** As part of the RI, the Navy undertook an extensive evaluation of the stormwater system on the base, with field work and sampling completed in 2025. The Navy found stormwater piping around Hangar 4, built in 1956, not previously mapped. When the data gathering and analysis are complete, the Navy will issue a report with recommendations for rehabilitating the stormwater system piping. This is a very important issue for the Town of Brunswick, which will eventually inherit this stormwater system, which currently is in poor condition, allowing the infiltration of PFAS-contaminated groundwater and its flow to Mere Creek and Harpswell Cove.
3. **Drinking Water Sampling (Slides 22-24):** These slides summarize the results of MEDEP, US Navy and Town private well water sampling program for PFAS after the August 2024 AFFF spill in Hangar 4. The Navy indicated that this is an ongoing program and that remediation actions would be taken to address private drinking water wells impacted by PFAS from DoD activities where concentrations are known to be at or above three times the USEPA Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs). The Navy addressed the issue of PFOS contamination of the Mere Creek Golf Club drinking water well in excess of three times the 4 ug/L USEPA PFOS drinking standard. The Navy collected samples in the vicinity of the golf course and in response to questions concerning the source of the contamination, continued to insist that no AFFF dumping had occurred near the Red Label area in the south west corner of the runway, even though a 2015 Navy report¹ on historical PFAS hotspots clearly states that periodic cleaning out of fire vehicle AFFF tanks had been carried out there.
4. **Jordan Avenue Wellfield (Slides 26-28):** In early 2022, the Brunswick Topsham Water District (BTWD) announced that PFAS associated with AFFF was present at select wells in the Jordan Avenue Wellfield. In response, the Navy rapidly undertook a work plan to investigate and field work was performed in Spring 2022. As a result of this study, The Navy and BTWD entered into an Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) valued at over \$21M in 2023 to design & construct a PFAS treatment system. Construction is expected to be completed in the spring of 2026. As a follow-up, the Navy is planning an evaluation to identify potential source(s) of PFAS to the Jordan Avenue Wellfield, focusing on evaluating areas upgradient from the wellfield on former base property.
5. **Groundwater Extraction Treatment System (GWETS) (Slides 29-32):** The GWETS system has been the selected remedy for the Eastern Plume of CERCLA-listed hydrocarbon contaminants in groundwater. This involved the installation of a treatment plant to prevent contaminated groundwater flow off-base and to reduce the concentrations of contaminants. The filtration material in the GWETS was modified in 2015 to treat both Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compounds (CVOCs) and PFAS. For future use in groundwater PFAS removal, well EW-11 near Hangar 4 has been connected to the GWETS system for future use.
6. **Ongoing PFAS Investigations for 2025 (Slide 33):** The Navy listed the ongoing PFAS investigations for 2025: 1. Stormwater Evaluation – Fall 2025: 2. Groundwater Monitoring – Fall 2025: 3. Continued GWETS Monitoring – Monthly: 4. Private Well Sampling – Winter 2025
- 7.

7:45 – 8:00 Questions/Wrap-up: Meeting ended at 8:00 PM

¹ This can be downloaded at: https://administrative-records.navfac.navy.mil/Public_Documents/MID_ATLANTIC/BRUNSWICK_NAS/N60087_004070.pdf . Table 1 summarizes known PFAS sites as of 2014 starting on p. 29 of the PDF. The Red Label PFAS dumping is described at the end of the Table.