

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 19, 2017

Acting Administrator Deborah Szaro
EPA New England Headquarters
5 Post Office Square - Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

Dear Acting Administrator Szaro,

We write today regarding the addendum to the fourth Five-Year Review report for the Coakley Landfill Superfund Site issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We have heard from our constituents who are concerned about the timing and manner in which this addendum was presented to the public. As we continue our efforts to ensure that Granite Staters have access to safe, clean drinking water and to address public health concerns caused by emerging contaminants such as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), we urge you to appropriately engage with our offices and the people of New Hampshire.

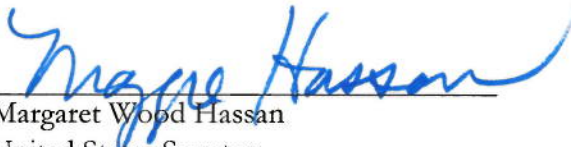
The New Hampshire Governor's Task Force on The Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation was established more than a year ago to investigate and respond to public health and environmental concerns regarding the cancer cluster and contamination in the region. As a member of this task force, EPA has been an important partner and provided significant information that has shaped the policy recommendations from this organization.

During the final meeting of the task force on October 4, 2017, the EPA presented the addendum to the fourth Five-Year Review report for the Coakley Landfill Superfund Site. We are concerned that presenting critical information in such a manner has led to confusion among the task force and the general public. While the addendum was issued on September 28, 2017, we understand that EPA's determination that "there is not a current unacceptable human health risk at the Site" was not conveyed to members of the task force prior to the final meeting. By doing so, EPA did not allow members sufficient opportunity to evaluate the information included in the addendum before the task force concluded its work.

The people of the Seacoast remain understandably disturbed about potential health and environmental risks associated with these emerging contaminants, and there is still much work for stakeholders at all levels of government to do together to address those concerns. We appreciate EPA's ongoing efforts to make progress on this serious issue, including the agency's request that the Coakley Landfill Group (CLG) post signs to alert the public in areas around Coakley Landfill that contaminants have been detected in the surface waters and directing CLG to conduct fish-tissue sampling. As the New Hampshire Legislature's Commission on the Seacoast Cancer Cluster Investigation begins its work to build on the task force's efforts, we hope the EPA will continue to engage in this important process and to present information in a timely and transparent manner.

We thank you for your ongoing efforts to combat water contamination in New Hampshire and look forward to continuing to work together to address the public health and environmental concerns of our constituents.

Sincerely,



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator