



Chippewa Valley Regional Airport PFAS site investigation work plan submitted

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Eau Claire, Wis.) The [Chippewa Valley Regional Airport](#) (CVRA) announced today that its consultant, [AECOM Technical Services, Inc.](#), has submitted a recommended site investigation work plan to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) related to the investigation of suspected Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination at the airport. PFAS compounds are found in a wide variety of products that we use daily, including rain repellent clothing, non-stick cookware, fast food wrappers and firefighting foam that airports are required to use by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

All airports with airline service, including CVRA, are mandated by the FAA to have Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting capability during airline operations. Part of the mandate by the FAA includes the use of firefighting foam that meets a certain specification for rapid extinguishment of aircraft fires. Currently, the only approved firefighting foam meeting FAA requirements contains PFAS.

“In the interest of public safety, the Airport and other organizations providing fire protection at the Airport, have followed the federal mandates required to continue providing airline service to our community,” stated Charity Zich, Chippewa Valley Regional Airport Director. “With that same public safety interest in mind, the airport has already limited its use of firefighting foam to emergency use only and invested in equipment to eliminate the need to use foam during FAA required annual testing.”

The WDNR has 60 days to review and respond to the site investigation work plan with suggested changes or approval. It is anticipated work will begin in early 2022.

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About the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport – The Chippewa Valley Regional Airport is an FAA certified commercial service airport located in Eau Claire, WI. The airport is owned by Eau Claire County and operated by Eau Claire and Chippewa counties.

Businesses at the airport offer commercial service flights, on-demand charter flights, emergency medical transportation, flight instruction, sightseeing tours, aircraft rental, aircraft maintenance, car rentals, and a full-service restaurant. An economic impact study conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation indicates that the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport provided over \$72.1 million in economic output, supported 458 jobs and contributed \$15.3 million in wage income to the local and state economy in 2014.

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