



**PFAS FORUM  
APRIL 5, 2022**

**BEMIDJI REGIONAL AIRPORT**



- Purchased in the late 1990s along with Oshkosh ARFF truck
- 3M Light Water AFFF (PFOS-based)
- Limited use during training and testing of ARFF vehicle's proportioning system
- Disposed November 2019 (PEGEX incinerated it)



- **September 2017 – Airport Authority assumed ARFF duties**
  - **Bemidji Fire Department did ARFF duties prior to this**



- City's environmental engineer – reviewed/gave input on AFFF
- June 2019 – purchased PHOS-CHEK® 3% AFFF MIL-SPEC Class B foam
  - environmentally-responsible firefighting foam
  - first C6 fluorosurfactant-based foam to pass US military's rigorous Mil-F-24385 fire test standard and be listed on its Qualified Products List (QPL)
- Approved by the FAA (Part 139 requires AFFF)



- June 2020 –
- purchased Rosenbauer Panther 4x4 ARFF truck
- FitMix 2E input base testing system (approved by FAA in May 2021)
- No longer necessary to spray AFFF to test ARFF vehicle's proportioning system





FIGURE 3

PROPERTY Location  
3824 Moberg Dr NW  
Bemidji, MN

LANDMARK ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC

➤ August 2018

➤ AFFF was sprayed to fulfill FAA's annual testing requirement

➤ Release reported to State Duty Officer

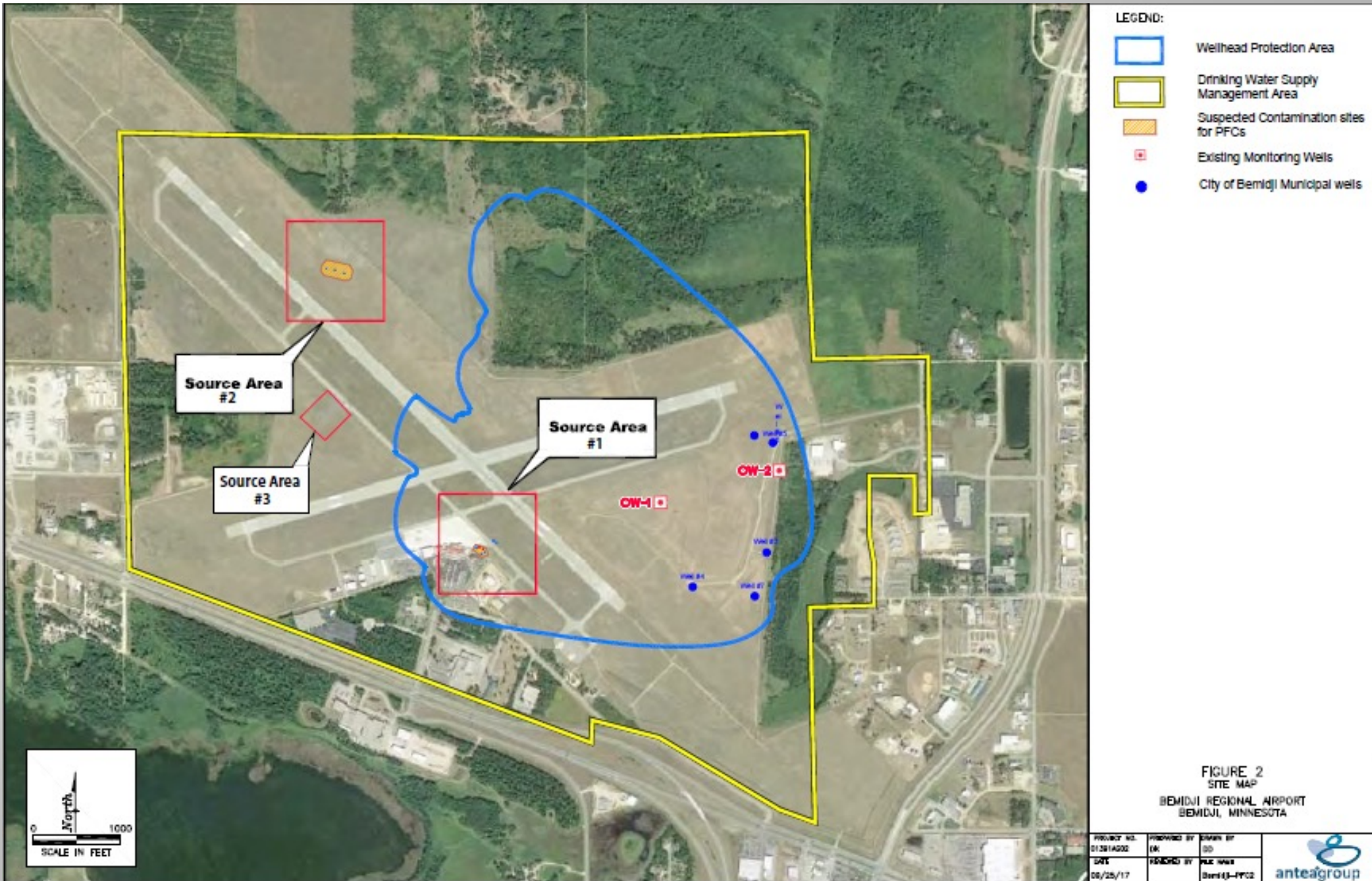
➤ Worked with Environmental Consultant and MPCA on approved testing plan

➤ Soil boring done - PFAS not detected above Commercial/Industrial Soil Reference Values

➤ MPCA requested ground water testing – all samples below MDH Health Risk Limits

➤ Investigation Report submitted to MPCA

➤ Requested MPCA issue "A No Further Action" letter



- MDH and MPCA began monitoring city water wells in 2008
- Various levels of PFAS compounds were detected in all five wells
  - Levels never exceeded the statutory limits set by MDH
  - Wells tested quarterly



➤ **New water treatment plant put into service in 2021**

- **Uses granulated activated carbon (GAC) to remove PFAS compounds**
- **Phase 1 Plant Capacity: 1,500 gallons per minute; 2.1 million gallons per day**
- **Phase 2 Plant Capacity: 2,500 gallons per minute; 3.6 million gallons per day**







➤ **Where do we go from here...**

- **Authority will continue to not discharge AFFF unless actual emergency**
- **Authority will replace AFFF as FAA approves replacement AFFF alternatives**
- **City will continue testing wells and filtering water**
- **City in planning stage for Phase 2 construction**

➤ **Questions:**

- **Airport Authority – Karen Weller [karen.weller@bemidjiairport.org](mailto:karen.weller@bemidjiairport.org)**
- **City of Bemidji – Al Felix, City Attorney [alanfelix@ci.Bemidji.mn.us](mailto:alanfelix@ci.Bemidji.mn.us)**