

In 2009, the United States District Court determined that Starmet was responsible for the remediation costs. The EPA is negotiating with the principal responsible parties (mostly the US Army) to pay the costs of the removal of the buildings, since Starmet itself does not have the means to meet these expenses.

The Committee also began reviewing the first draft of the Baseline Environmental Risk Assessment for the site. Most contamination that affects wildlife at the 2229 Main Street location also poses a risk to human beings, and will be cleaned up, but the site possesses a unique ecological feature – a sphagnum bog. This is an acidic wetland with a thick mossy mat suspended in it that is home to frogs, turtles, bugs, and fish. It is a food supply for birds and mammals. There is also a man-made cooling pond on the site that is currently classified as wetlands, but will need to be dredged in order to be cleaned. Committee members discussed with EPA how future plans for the use of the site could impact the methods used to clean up these special areas.

More information about the Starmet cleanup can be found at the following websites. The committee does not have control over the content of these sites:

- www.nmisite.org is the website created by the contractor de maximis inc. It includes a list of the current activities at the site, including data and maps from the sampling that has been completed.
- The EPA also has a website with historical information. Go to www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/findsite/fnd-index.htm and search for “Nuclear Metals”.
- www.crewconcord.org is the website for the environmental advocacy group CREW.

HANSCOM FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION (HFAC)

Elise Woodward, Selectmen Representative

The Hanscom Field Advisory Committee (HFAC) was established in 1980 by the Massachusetts legislature and is comprised of representatives of Concord, Bedford, Lexington, and Lincoln, and other nearby towns; aviation-related interests and businesses; citizen groups; and the U.S. National Park Service. Its role as an advisory commission has primarily focused on review of issues of land use, noise and transportation and to provide a forum for communications among the surrounding towns, the users of the airfield, and Massport in matters pertaining to Hanscom Field.

Massport continued to monitor aircraft noise and activity levels at Hanscom Field. Aircraft operations in 2009 represented the lowest decibel levels since 1978. In 2010, noise levels increased slightly, but noise disturbance reports decreased slightly. Military flights that have a high noise level now comprise approximately 1% of the activity at Hanscom.

Massport reported on-going progress on funded capital projects including: security enhancements to the perimeter fence, sprinkler and fire-alarm upgrades, airfield improvement rehabilitation, noise system software upgrades, stormwater infrastructure, and roof repairs. The vegetation management programs use Orders of Conditions from all four towns.

Massport's intention to demolish Hangar 24 and replace it with a privately financed Fixed Base Operation (FBO) was challenged by an appeal supported by community groups.