

Questions:

I'm following the PFAS issue and wanted to know if DoD is considering this tech (attached release) for the cleanup issue at the investigation sites?

Also: What firms and what technology will be used for the sites? Will it go to tender?

How much funding has been allocated for the cleanup work/investigation?

<http://www.crccare.com/news/world-first-technique-for-eliminating-toxic-chemicals-linked-to-firefighting-foam-contamination>

Response:

Defence is engaging with industry experts both nationally and internationally, to identify the best management and remedial options for PFAS.

Since 2005, the company CRC CARE has carried out research on behalf of Defence to support a risk-based, scientifically robust management approach for contaminated sites. CRC CARE continues to perform a critical research role in relation to contaminants found on the Defence Estate.

Defence has sought information from CRC CARE and is eager to be given the opportunity to review this technology and ascertain the likelihood of successfully remediating contamination across the Defence Estate.

Defence is establishing a research program to ensure it gains access to all research proposals across industry, including CRC CARE, relating to PFAS contamination.

Defence is continuing to monitor Australian and international industry progress in the area of PFAS management and remedial technologies and options. The best management and remedial options for a particular site are determined by site-specific factors, including the site's hydrogeology, the type of contamination, and access to the site. The environmental investigations currently underway at several Defence sites have provided Defence with significant site-specific information.

The following PFAS management and remedial technologies are currently being trialled by Defence:

- interim Water treatment Plant – Lake Cochran
- groundwater and surface water trials
- solidification
- stabilization.

Defence has completed trials for In-situ Oxidation, In-situ Reduction, Foam Fractionation/ Separation, Ultrasonification/ Sonochemistry and Fungal Treatment trials.

Response provided to journalist
23 March 2017

Specifically solidification and stabilisation trials were completed in mid February 2017 using soil samples from Williamstown and Oakey. The outcomes of the trials are promising, however, additional testing is required to address data gaps and uncertainties about long term performance. Defence has engaged an environmental consultant to undertake this additional testing.

Defence is committed to keeping the community informed about the work being undertaken regarding remediation.

As new information becomes available, Defence will update the website, produce fact sheets and hold community information sessions with local communities as required.

Information on Defence's remediation trials can be accessed at:
<http://www.defence.gov.au/id/PFOSPFOA/Guidance.asp>

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