



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts:

Martha Lou Wheatley-Billeter, Spokane County, mwheatleybilleter@spokanecounty.org

Todd Woodard, Spokane International Airport, twoodard@spokaneairports.net

Kirstin Davis, City of Spokane, kdavis@spokanecity.org

AIRPORT, COUNTY & CITY SUBMIT WORK PLAN TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER ON WEST PLAINS

Plan responds to a requirement by Ecology to address forever chemicals

Spokane International Airport (SIA), the City of Spokane, and Spokane County today submitted a plan to the Washington State Department of Ecology that details work to provide access to clean drinking water and initiate additional testing of private wells in the West Plains for PFAS, commonly known as “forever chemicals”.

The Plan responds to a requirement by the Department of Ecology to implement emergency interim actions in an Ecology-defined area primarily to the north and east of the airport. Ecology will need to approve the Plan before implementation begins.

The three partners have developed a response plan that focuses first on the need for clean water, facilitating immediate access to clean drinking water for property owners and tenants who get their water from private wells in the defined area. That population includes up to 900 parcels.

“While we continue to work towards a longer-term, data-driven approach, we also recognize residents’ concerns and desires for access to clean water. This effort, in partnership with the City of Spokane and Spokane County, is a meaningful step forward in this process and a reflection of our shared commitment to collaboration and community health,” said Dave Haring, Spokane International Airport CEO.

Spokane County Commissioner and Board Chair Mary Brooks reiterated the county’s commitment to working with SIA, the City of Spokane, and the Department of Ecology to ensure the affected properties have access to clean drinking water. “Submitting this Short-Term Interim Action Work Plan is a first step toward lasting solutions for the West Plains community,” Brooks said.

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County Commissioner Al French, who represents the West Plains, added that the work plan provides the necessary structure to act quickly and responsibly. “By expanding sampling of private wells and providing clean water options, we are reducing exposure risks while gathering the data necessary to understand the extent of these ‘forever chemicals’ in our groundwater,” French said. He added, “The installation of Point of Entry treatment systems will begin later this year.”

“With this plan, we are prioritizing public health and safety for members of our community who need clean water,” says Spokane Mayor Lisa Brown. “The challenges on the West Plains require ongoing collaboration and partnership from all levels of government going forward.”

The partners are proposing **immediate access to clean water**—and will not first require a test that confirms contamination of their well water. The plan proposes:

- Offering immediate access to the **City’s clean water fill station** on Garden Springs Road for those in the interim action area. This site can be used to get small or large amounts of drinking water, responding to a need identified by property owners.
- Preparing to provide **containers made of food-grade plastics for use at the fill station and Point of Use Treatment (POUT) filters** for in-home drinking water.

The plan anticipates that these actions would be a bridge to the installation of **Point-of-Entry Treatment (POET) filter systems**, which Ecology has identified as a “permanent” solution to the PFAS contamination. The County and Spokane Regional Health District are currently working to install \$7.5 million in point-of-entry treatment systems by June 30, 2027. And, they have funded two navigators to help connect residents with this help.

Finally, the plan proposes a **program to complete testing** of properties with private wells in the identified area.

More work is anticipated under a separate required plan, the Long-Term Interim Action Work Plan, which is due in May 2026. Work is already under way to identify funding for long-term actions, which would include ongoing work to install POET systems and connection of properties to municipal water.

SIA, the County and the City have been named Potentially Liable Persons related to the PFAS investigation at SIA. The airport property is jointly owned by the County and City.

About Spokane International Airport

Spokane International Airport (GEG), jointly owned by the City and County, is the second largest commercial service airport in the state of Washington, and an important gateway to the key markets and destinations across the Inland Northwest and British Columbia. The airport is served by eight major airlines and three cargo carriers, provides employment for over 3,000 people and in 2025, proudly welcomed a record total of more than 4.35 million passengers and handled 60,153 tons of cargo.

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About the City of Spokane

The City of Spokane, home to more than 220,000 people, is located in the heart of the Inland Northwest. Our 2,000 employees strive to deliver efficient and effective services that facilitate economic opportunity and enhance the quality of life for all our residents. For more information, visit www.spokanecity.org, or follow us @spokanecity on [Facebook](#), [X](#), or [Instagram](#).

About Spokane County

Spokane County government serves over half a million citizens and 13 municipal jurisdictions, making it the fourth-largest county in the State of Washington. For more information, visit www.spokanecounty.org, like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [X](#).