

September 18, 2024

Update on Hangars 5 and 6
Our Commitment to Accountability, Transparency, and Collaboration

Dear Manager Henze,

I'm writing today to provide a comprehensive update on developments at Brunswick Landing, with a particular focus on the status of Hangars 5 and 6.

As part of our commitment to transparency and accountability, we are today sharing the annual testing reports for these hangars and addressing the deficiencies identified within them. We know the public is counting on us to get this right, and I assure you: we are committed to continuous improvement through listening, learning, and action.

Following the release of Hangar 4's report, I want to emphasize that our team is fully aware of the challenges we face with Hangars 5 and 6. It's our responsibility to ensure that these issues are addressed quickly and comprehensively, and we will not shy away from the work ahead. We are committed to clear communication, and that starts today with a candid update on the situation and our plan to move forward.

Hangar 5:

The full report is attached for your review. It shows that a recent inspection flagged several deficiencies. The flame detectors are listed as "Fail – Covered." I want to point out that these detectors were *intentionally* covered to prevent accidental activations from dust or light, which can accidentally trigger the foam system.

In case of a fire, heat sensors would activate the foam suppression system. That said, *covered sensors are not a solution, they are a stopgap*—but the ultimate solution is complicated and potentially expensive. Additionally, we've identified issues with batteries needing replacement, a non-functional control unit, and aging multiple extenders. These are unacceptable vulnerabilities. We've reached out to Eastern Fire, our external contractor, as well as other contractors, for assistance, and are pursuing all avenues to address these problems head-on.

Hangar 6:

As the attached report notes, in Hangar 6 the key deficiency is related to horn/strobe devices in three areas. These are essential safety components, and while not immediately critical, they need to be addressed in a timely manner.

A Path Forward:

We are not alone among former military properties who are exploring broader alternatives to foam-based fire suppression systems. I've attached a helpful report regarding the U.S. Air Force's shift to water-only in some of their systems. It reflects a national trend seeking safer and more environmentally responsible alternatives to legacy foam systems. We are working with industry experts and contractors to evaluate how best to move from AFFF-based systems to water-based fire suppression, or fluorine free foam systems, an approach that aligns with the Department of Defense's mandate to phase out PFAS-containing foams by 2024 – and mirrors many of the concerns that have been voiced locally in the aftermath of our recent incident.

As it stands, the cost estimate for removing the foam systems from all three hangars is approximately \$8 million, and we are actively seeking detailed quotes to inform decisions going forward. We will share updates on our progress.

Our Commitment to Collaboration:

I want to be clear: *this is not just our responsibility—it's our mission.* We understand the urgency, and we are committed to resolving these challenges as swiftly as possible. But we cannot do it alone. We need the continued support, ideas, and collaboration of our community, elected officials, and industry partners. *Accountability means taking responsibility, but success requires partnership.*

We are prepared to meet these challenges with the openness, candor, and determination that this community deserves. Our actions must speak louder than our words, and we welcome the feedback and insights that will help us move forward.

Thank you and please know that we are fully committed to transparency and results. We look forward to your continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Kristine Logan

Kristine Logan
Executive Director
Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority