

Focus on: Spokane International Airport PFAS investigation

Initial PFAS Investigation Work Plan

The [Initial PFAS Investigation Work Plan](#)¹ explains where and how preliminary groundwater and soil samples will be collected on SIA's property, focusing on areas with potential or known use of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) at the Spokane International Airport (SIA). AFFF contains per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which can quickly put out jet fuel fires, but last a long time in the environment and affect human health. Until recently, the Federal Aviation Administration required the use of AFFF at airports to meet safety requirements.

Groundwater samples will be collected from 52 monitoring wells. Soil samples will be collected from 57 locations at multiple depths below the ground surface. See Figure 1 on page 2 for sampling locations.

The field work will be completed by February 4, 2025. The investigation results will be summarized in an Initial PFAS Investigation Report, including maps and preliminary analyses of soil and groundwater data. The report is due 30 days after SIA receives all validated laboratory data associated with this work. The results will be used to develop a Remedial Investigation Work Plan.

March 2024 groundwater sampling results

Appendix A of the work plan is the results of groundwater samples SIA took in March 2024. Based on Ecology's review, the results are generally consistent with SIA's past sampling and indicate several areas within the airport property had PFAS. Highest concentrations were observed in the Joint Fire Training Area, with one type of PFAS (PFHxS)

at 16,000 parts per trillion (ppt), which is 1,600 times the drinking water standard of 10 ppt.

Work plan appendices

The Initial PFAS Investigation Work Plan has five [appendices](#)²:

- A. March 2024 Groundwater Sampling Data
- B. Quality Assurance Project Plan / Sampling and Analysis Plan
- C. Health and Safety Plan
- D. Inadvertent Discovery Plan (for if historic artifacts are found during the investigation)
- E. Groundwater Monitoring Well Boring Logs

Site background

Ecology issued an enforcement order requiring investigation and cleanup after receiving sample results that found PFAS in groundwater at SIA.

The Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is Washington's environmental cleanup law. It provides requirements for contaminated site cleanup and sets standards that protect people and the environment. Ecology implements the [MTCA cleanup process](#).³

Related information

- **Ecology's SIA PFAS cleanup site page:**
<https://go.ecology.wa.gov/SIA-PFAS>
- **Join the West Plains PFAS updates email list:**
<https://go.ecology.wa.gov/WestPlainsPFASupdates>

Contact information

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ADA accessibility

To request an ADA accommodation, contact Ecology by phone at 360-407-6831 or email at ecyadacoordinator@ecy.wa.gov, or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/Accessibility>. For Relay Service or TTY, call 711 or 877-833-6341.

¹<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/149715>

²<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/cleanupsearch/document/149716>

³ <https://ecology.wa.gov/MTCA-process>

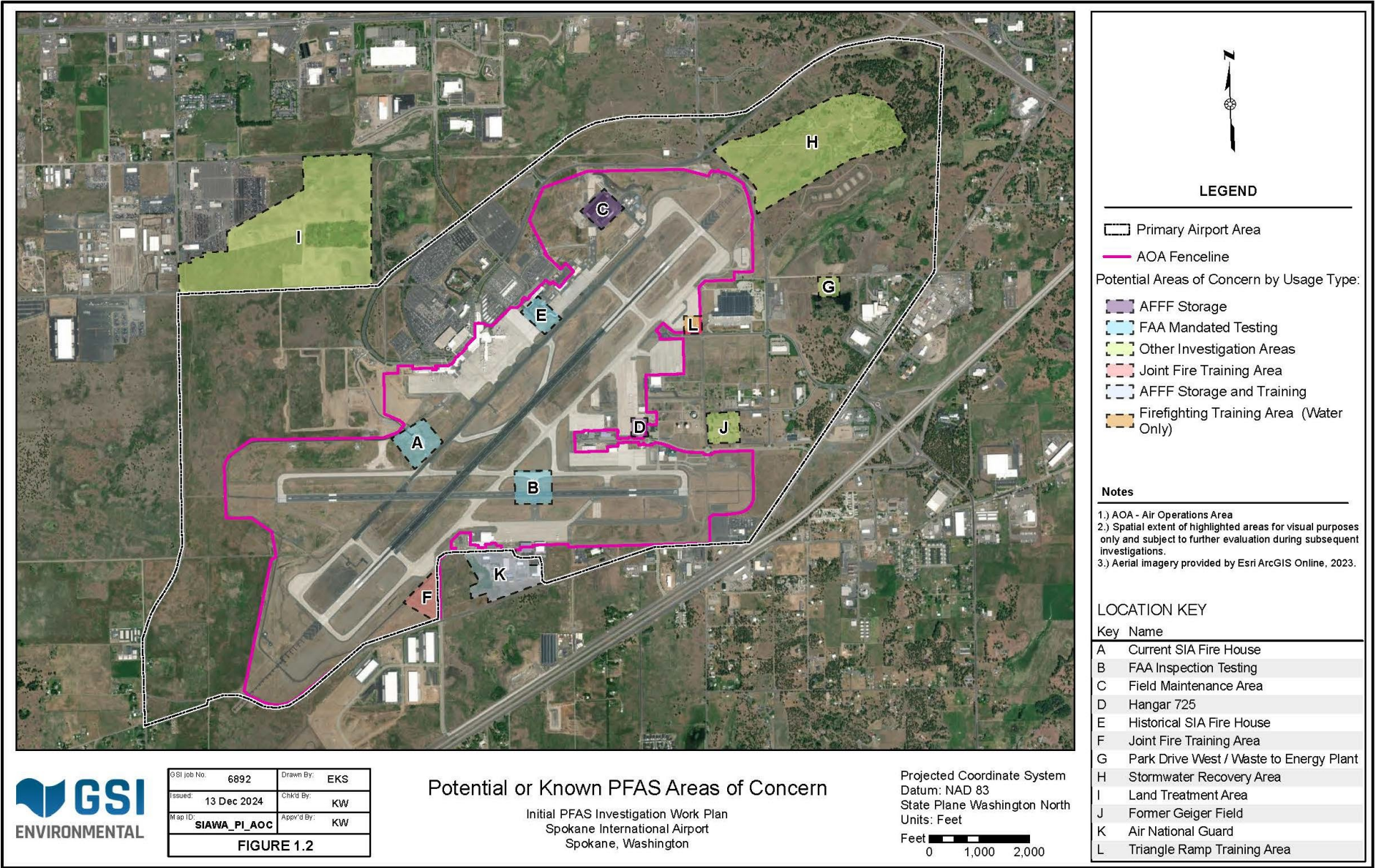


Figure 1. Areas where soil and groundwater will be sampled, except for Hangar 725 where PFAS firefighting foam was stored but no known spills have occurred.
Note: This is Figure 1.2 in the Initial PFAS Investigation Work Plan (figure by GSI Environmental).