

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
MILITARY STAFF - OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
Joint Force Headquarters, Camp Fogarty
2841 South County Trail, Bldg. 330
East Greenwich, RI 02818-1728



Daniel J. McKee
Governor
MG Andrew J. Chevalier
Director

March 5, 2026

The Honorable William W. O'Brien
Chair, House Finance Public Safety Subcommittee
State House, Room 35
One Capitol Hill
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Dear Chairman O'Brien:

We write to provide you and specifically, Representative George Nardone, with a more detailed response to his inquiry regarding the Rhode Island National Guard's Coventry site.

The Rhode Island Army National Guard operates a drinking water system at the Coventry Facility. Of the four wells that supplied water to the water system, all have tested positive for the presence of PFAS. While they test below the federal threshold of 70 parts per trillion (PPT), Well No. 4 consistently tested above the State of Rhode Island's threshold of 20 PPT. As part of a consent agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Health, we closed Well No. 4. We continue to monitor our wells but recognize that connecting to Kenty County Water Authority (KCWA) water system makes the most long-term sense.

The KCWA water infrastructure project currently underway includes installing approximately 3,100 feet of new water main along Read Schoolhouse Road and Nike Site Road and constructing a modern booster pump station. The nearby Washington Oak School is already connected to the KCWA water supply and will not be adversely affected.


In terms of timeline, the project design was completed in 2025 in coordination with KCWA and local authorities. We are in the procurement process now and expect to award the bid in April 2026. Construction will begin shortly thereafter and should be completed by December 2026. Once complete, the new connection will provide RING facilities with a reliable municipal water source and modern pumping infrastructure to maintain consistent water pressure and flow. The project will also allow the RING to permanently retire the aging water system.

While the primary purpose of the project is to ensure a reliable water supply for the RING's training site in Coventry, the improvements will also benefit the surrounding community. Extending the KCWA water system and installing modern pumping equipment will strengthen the local water distribution network. These upgrades help ensure more stable water pressure, improve fire-protection capabilities, and modernize water infrastructure along this corridor.

Importantly, these improvements are being 100% funded through federal military infrastructure resources, meaning the Town of Coventry will receive long-term water system improvements without requiring local taxpayer investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee and answer your questions. The Rhode Island National Guard values its strong relationship with the Town of Coventry and remains committed to ensuring our facilities operate in a way that supports both mission readiness and the surrounding community. If you need further information, or would like to tour the installation, or are looking for an occasional update on the project, please do not hesitate to reach out to my deputy director, Michael Jolin, at michael.p.jolin.nfg@army.mil or 401-787-1076.

Sincerely,



Andrew J. Chevalier
Major General
The Adjutant General

Copy to:

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney, Chairman, House Finance Committee
The Honorable Grace Diaz, House Finance Committee
The Honorable Raymond Hull, House Finance Committee
The Honorable Jacquelyn Baginski, House Finance Committee
The Honorable Sherry Roberts, House Finance Committee
The Honorable George A. Nardone, House Finance Committee
Mr. Christopher O'Brien, Committee Clerk, House Finance Committee
Ms. Sharon Reynolds Ferland, House Fiscal Advisor
Ms. Susan Stenhouse, Chief of Staff, Office of the House Minority Leader