

that these activities were not a sign of an emergency at the site. To enhance security, de maximis inc. installed a fence at the site around a wider area, removed trees and brush that interfere with visibility along the fences and by buildings, and asked the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) to provide 24 hour security service. De maximis inc. also made plans to keep the fire suppression systems in the buildings working over the winter by upgrading the power lines, installing new natural gas lines to supply forced hot air blowers to heat the buildings, and reinforcing the roof.

Starmet did indeed turn over the buildings to the EPA on November 1st and the Committee spoke with Town staff and updated our website to inform the public about this change. The EPA updated the committee about their plans for the building removal at a meeting on November 9th. There are new work trailers at the site, and there is more security now that MDPH and EPA are in charge. EPA and de maximis inc. representatives are meeting regularly with the Concord Fire Department, the Concord Health Director, and other Town staff to update them on the progress at the site.

If the schedule continues as planned, the contractors will spend this winter stabilizing the inside of the buildings and removing loose flammable materials. In the spring and summer of 2012 large machines and furniture will be packaged, removed from the buildings, and shipped out for disposal. Actual building disassembly will start in 2013. The feasibility study for the remediation of the contaminated soil and groundwater at the entire site is ongoing.

More information about the Starmet cleanup can be found at the following websites. The committee does not have control over the content of these sites:

- [www.nmsite.org](http://www.nmsite.org) is the website created by the contractor de maximis inc. It includes a list of the current activities at the site, including data and maps from the sampling that has been completed.
- The EPA also has a website with historical information. Go to [www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/fndsite/fnd-index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region1/superfund/fndsite/fnd-index.htm) and search for "Nuclear Metals".
- [www.crewconcord.org](http://www.crewconcord.org) is the website for the environmental advocacy group CREW.

## HANSCOM FIELD ADVISORY COMMISSION

Elise Woodward, Selectmen Representative

The Hanscom Field Advisory Committee (HFAC) was established in 1980 by the Massachusetts legislature and is comprised of representatives of Concord, Bedford, Lexington, and Lincoln, and other nearby towns; aviation-related interests and businesses; citizen groups; and the U.S. National Park Service. Its role as an advisory commission has primarily focused on review of issues of land use, noise and transportation. It also provides a forum for communications among the surrounding towns, the users of the airfield, Massport and the FAA in matters pertaining to Hanscom Field.

In 2011, Massport continued to monitor aircraft noise and activity levels at Hanscom Field. Aircraft operations in 2009 represented the lowest decibel levels since 1978. Comparisons between 2010 and 2011 activity showed a decrease of approximately 7% in total operations, and in night activity; and noise disturbance reports decreased slightly. Military flights that have a high noise level now comprise approximately 1% of the activity at Hanscom. In April, Streamline Air began scheduled charter flights twice daily between Hanscom and Trenton. This resulted in transport of approximately 500 passengers monthly in addition to the transport of approximately 40 passengers monthly by Linear Air charters.

Massport reported on-going progress on funded capital projects including: security enhancements to the perimeter fence, runway safety area environmental requirements, airfield improvement rehabilitation, and storm water infrastructure. Noise system software upgrades were completed in 2011. The vegetation management programs use Orders of Conditions from all four towns.

Third Party Development opportunities at Hanscom include East Ramp, Pine Hill Hangar, Hartwell Road Parcel, Jet Aviation Ramp Extension, Massachusetts Air and Space Museum and the Navy Property, in addition to Hangar 24 replacement.

Massport's intention to demolish Hangar 24 and replace it with a privately financed Fixed Base Operation (FBO) was challenged by an appeal supported by community groups. The appeal was overturned. Massport is now evaluating responses to its RFP for demolition.