

**Letter to the Editor of the Cape Cod Times**  
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Let's set the record straight regarding Barnstable Municipal Airport's excellent environmental record in light of allegations made by Eric Schwaab in a December 1, 2010 letter.

Regular professional monitoring conducted by the Hyannis Water District and the airport show there is no groundwater contamination of public water supply wells from the airport. Last Thursday, the Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection confirmed this. David DeLorenzo told the Barnstable Town Council that Barnstable has high quality drinking water. "There is no indication that contaminants have migrated at all," he said.

While the airport does lie within zones of contribution to public drinking water supplies and includes Upper Gate and Lewis Ponds (which collect a portion of storm water runoff), significant proactive steps undertaken over the past 20 years have led to the elimination of known sources of groundwater contamination.

Our initiatives include the implementation of a pollution prevention plan in compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, a spill prevention control and countermeasures plan required by federal law, and our own zero-discharge policy for all airport and tenant facilities. That rule prohibits the washing of vehicles, aircraft or heavy equipment unless the wash water is captured and discharged into a town sewer. Also, the airport has implemented procedures for capturing aircraft deicing fluid, further minimizing potential impacts to groundwater.

Additionally, hazardous materials at the airport, now and in the future, are significantly capped and subject to semi-annual audit and reporting.

The current Airport Improvement Project will help to rectify relatively low concentrations of immobile fuel oil compounds and metals that are trapped in sediment at the bottom of the ponds near drainage outfalls, and state-of-the-art structures will pre-treat storm water discharged into the ponds. These pose no threat to the aquifer.

The bottom line is: the Airport Commission and staff have been and continue to be responsible stewards of the environment.

Daniel W. Santos, P.E.  
Chairman  
Barnstable Municipal Airport Commission