THE VILLAGE OF HOOSICK FALLS
New York
INC 1827

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February 5, 2016

Ms. Judith Enck
Regional Administrator – Region 2
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10007-1866

Mr. Basil Seggos
Acting Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 14th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-1010

Mr. Howard Zucker
Commissioner
NYS Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Ms. Enck, Mr. Seggos and Mr. Zucker:

As you know, officials from the Village of Hoosick Falls and the Town of Hoosick have been working diligently with your offices to address the presence of PFOA in groundwater and the municipal water supply. We support your efforts and are committed to assisting you as you pursue an investigation into the source of sources of PFOA in our community. We have been assured this investigation will be comprehensive in nature and will begin immediately. We are committed to remaining integrally involved to ensure the investigation continues to move forward, as promised.

Since New York State classified the Saint-Gobain McCaffrey Street property as a State Superfund Site, we have received numerous questions from local residents regarding how the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) intend to work together to investigate this critical situation. Some of the questions we have received include:

- What is the regulatory process for investigating a State Superfund Site and how long should residents anticipate such an investigation will take? Does this process take less time than the federal superfund designation and investigation?

- Will there be coordinated review between the EPA and DEC during this investigation? What undertakings will each Agency be responsible for? Will one of the two Agencies be taking a lead in this effort?

- How will each Agency go about determining "other sites" in which an investigation is deemed necessary?

- Will this investigation go beyond the Town and Village political boundaries?

- Are there specific levels of detection for PFOA that are deemed unacceptable for water, soil and airborne sampling? What are they?

- What legal authority does New York State have to collect environmental samples on the Saint-Gobain property, or other private properties in the Village of Hoosick Falls and the Town of Hoosick? What happens if these prior owners cannot be located, or are unwilling to participate in the investigation?

- Is it NYSDEC's policy or EPA's to obtain information from prior owners of the Saint-Gobain McCaffrey Street property? What happens if these prior owners cannot be located, or are unwilling to participate in the investigation?

- What steps does NYSDEC or EPA take to obtain information from prior owners of the Saint-Gobain McCaffrey Street property? What happens if these prior owners cannot be located, or are unwilling to participate in the investigation?

- What public involvement opportunities will New York State make available for local residents? Will regularly-scheduled public meetings be held to keep our community apprised of the investigation?

- Now that the Saint-Gobain McCaffrey Street property is a State Superfund Site, is EPA still considering nominating the property for inclusion on the federal National Priorities List, as recommended by NYSDEC in its letter to EPA dated January 14, 2016? If EPA continues to consider the property for inclusion on the list, what steps will EPA take to involve local residents in its decision-making process?

- As EPA and NYSDEC continue their investigations, how can the community be protected from receiving contradictory information from the Agencies? We have already been in a situation where

information provided to the Village by NYSDOH didn't mesh with information subsequently provided by EPA.

- Will either DEC or EPA attempt to place Saint-Gobain under a Consent Order? If so, can the County Health Department, NYS Health Department and the Village have input into that process and possibly be signators if benefits accrue to these governmental entities?

Most important, as you know, installation of a temporary Granular Activated Carbon Treatment System at our municipal water treatment plant has begun, and we anticipate the system to be fully operational and tested by NYSDOH before the end of the month. This is an extremely positive step, and we appreciate NYSDOH's efforts to quickly review and approve the design for this system.

Before the Village Board elected to lease this temporary treatment system, Village engineers performed a pilot study to determine if the system would effectively reduce PFOA in the municipal supply to safe levels. The results were very promising which caused us to move forward.

Despite the results of this earlier study, numerous residents are now voicing skepticism about the effectiveness of the GAC system in reducing PFOA levels in drinking water. Some residents have gone so far as to say they will not drink or cook with treated drinking water, no matter what EPA or NYSDOH say about the safety of the water supply. We wanted to make you aware of these concerns. We recommend that you initiate a public education program now to educate residents about the efficacy of GAC treatment and the confirmatory testing NYSDOH will perform before determining residents can again drink and cook with municipal water.

Our community needs answers to all of their questions. We appreciate your prior willingness to attend local public meetings to address the community's concerns directly. We now respectfully request that another meeting be scheduled where officials form NYSDEC, NYSDOH and EPA can provide information about the regulatory process moving forward and the opportunities for public participation. We would like the meeting to be held in February, if possible. We would be happy to assist with identifying a suitable location for such a meeting.

Thank you,

David B. Borge
Mayor, Village of Hoosick Falls

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