UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

NOV 2 5 2015

Honorable Mayor David B. Borge
Municipal Building
24 Main Street
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Dear Mayor Borge:

I am writing regarding the perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) water contamination that has been discovered in groundwater and drinking water in the Village of Hoosick Falls, NY. On October 15, 2015, I was contacted about the problem with the Hoosick Falls public water supply and was asked if funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was available to address this drinking water problem.

EPA does not have a funding stream to which the Village could apply in this situation. A more detailed response will be provided shortly. In summary, EPA provides Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Funds to New York State to address drinking water needs. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund Program is implemented by the New York State Department of Health (DOH).

Because of PFOA's extreme persistence in the environment and its toxicity, mobility and bioaccumulation potential, which pose potential adverse effects to human health and the environment, EPA has been gathering information regarding the Hoosick Falls PFOA contamination and has been discussing this matter with DOH and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). While EPA has not, to date, promulgated an enforceable drinking water standard for PFOA under the Safe Drinking Water Act, in 2009, EPA's Office of Water established a provisional health advisory of 400 nanograms per liter, that is, 400 parts per trillion (ppt), for PFOA.[1]

Provisional health advisories reflect reasonable, health-based hazard concentrations above which action should be taken to reduce exposure to unregulated contaminants in drinking water. In 2014, EPA stated that its provisional health advisory for PFOA, if exceeded, suggests the need for discontinuing use of the water for drinking or cooking; and that the advisory reflects an amount of PFOA that may cause adverse health effects in the short term (weeks to months).

[1] See http://water.epa.gov/action/advisories/drinking/upload/2009_01_15_criteria_drinking_pha-PFOA_PFOS.pdf.