Message

From: Benenati, Frank [benenati.frank@epa.gov]
Sent: 7/26/2016 3:22:23 PM
To: Enck, Judith [Enck.Judith@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Schumer urges EPA to quickly put Hoosick Falls on Superfund list

Okay thanks for the update. Very helpful. Let me know what you may need from me.

From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 11:05 AM
To: Benenati, Frank <benenati.frank@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Schumer urges EPA to quickly put Hoosick Falls on Superfund list

Region 2 has sent all the necessary information and data to olem to support a September listing of this site on federal superfund. We spent a lot of money on sampling and found toxic contamination at levels that more than meet the numerical requirements to list a site on the federal superfund list.

Ex. 5 - Deliberative Process

Nichole Distefano just informed me that senator Gillibrand has a request in to speak with the Administrator about this same topic.

From: Benenati, Frank
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 9:54 AM
To: Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Schumer urges EPA to quickly put Hoosick Falls on Superfund list

Thanks for passing along. What do you think the next turn of the crank is here?

From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2016 8:19 AM
To: Stanislaus, Mathy <Stanislaus.Mathy@epa.gov>; Fritz, Matthew <Fritz.Matthew@epa.gov>; Benenati, Frank <benenati.frank@epa.gov>
Subject: Schumer urges EPA to quickly put Hoosick Falls on Superfund list

Subject: Schumer urges EPA to quickly put Hoosick Falls on Superfund list

Schumer urges EPA to quickly put Hoosick Falls on Superfund list

m.timesunion.com/local/article/Schumer-urges-EPA-to-quickly-put-Hoosick-Falls-on-8412415.php
By Rick Karlin | July 25, 2016

Albany

Sen. Chuck Schumer is urging the federal Environmental Protection Agency to fast-track efforts to get Hoosick Falls named as a federal Superfund site — a designation it already has on the state level.

The New York Democrat is also seeking a speedup in listing perfluorooctanic acid, or PFOA, which has polluted the community's water supply, as a hazardous substance.

"I strongly advise your agency to expeditiously complete the agency's numerical scoring of the site on the federal Hazard Ranking System," Schumer said in a July 22 letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. The letter was obtained by the Times Union on Monday.

"I urge you to promptly complete and approve New York State's request that the St. Gobain McCaffrey Street site be added to the EPA's NPL," the letter added.

NPL is National Priorities List: the designation that comes with federal Superfund status.

New York officials in January requested the same federal designation, which could free up more money for remediation.

The EPA twice a year fields nominations for Superfund status with the next round coming this fall. A nomination is no guarantee of getting that status, however.

Schumer's letter is the latest development regarding Hoosick Falls, which has been reeling from a toxic water crisis traced to PFOAs which for years were released by St. Gobain Performance Plastics and its predecessor Honeywell International. The plant makes industrial tapes and materials that go into items like auto batteries and wiring used in aircraft. While not officially listed as a toxin, PFOA has been linked to a variety of cancers and thyroid maladies that appear to be plaguing Hoosick Falls residents at unusually high levels.

The EPA in late 2015 recommended that people stop drinking the water there, following growing suspicions about contamination.

If added to the nomination list, Hoosick Falls would compete with other sites around the nation for the federal Superfund program, said EPA spokesman John Martin.

That list is developed twice a year.

If it gets on the list, the government would seek cleanup money from the companies involved in the contamination. If no money was available there, funds could come from government coffers, said Martin.

"Any steps that can be taken to help further identify and clean up PFOA in Hoosick Falls is always welcome. The more resources and expertise Hoosick Falls can receive into understanding why and how this happened can only be of great benefit," said Republican Assemblyman Steve McLaughlin, who represents the community.

Schumer's request comes amid plans by both Congress and the state Legislature to conduct public hearings on how the contamination problem evolved in Hoosick Falls.

Discussions leading up to the planned hearings have been tortured and contentious.

Cuomo critics, including McLaughlin, have charged the Administration with covering up and foot-dragging in responding to concerns in Hoosick Falls as they emerged about a year ago.

And the Democratic-controlled Assembly reversed itself in recent weeks, saying they would conduct hearings after earlier contending they were unnecessary.

The state departments of Health and Environmental Conservation have outlined their response, which included the installation of filtering devices, the creation of a hotline, and ongoing information sessions in the village.

[rkarlin@timesunion.com • 518-454-5758 • @RickKarlinTU