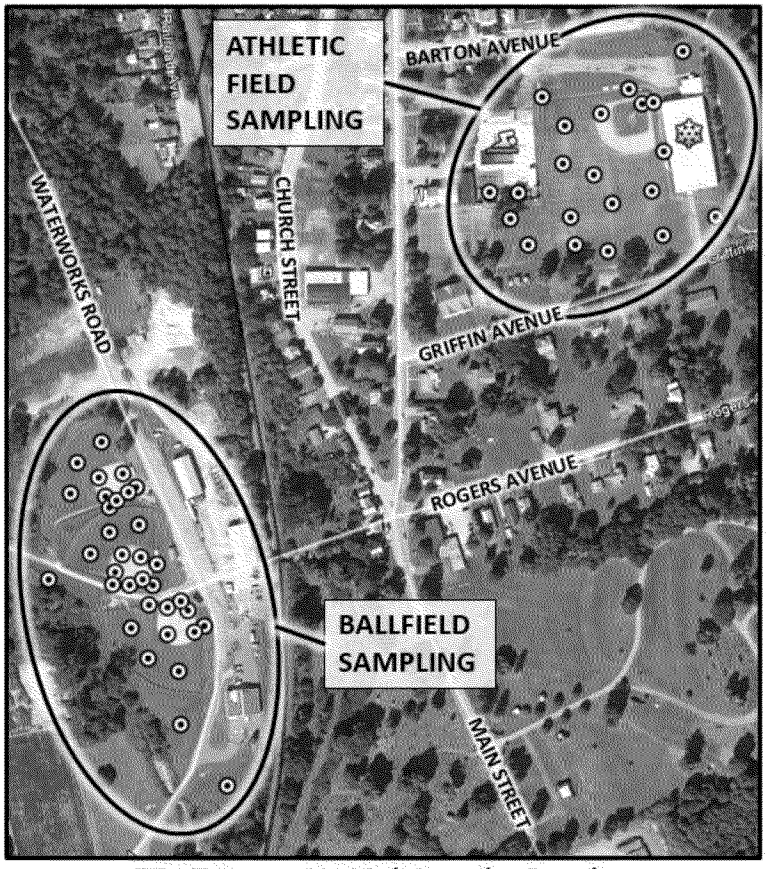
Hoosick Falls Update: EPA Results Show Ballfields & Athletic Field OK to Use

Community Update No. 3 **Spring 2016**



EPA February 2016 Soil Sampling Locations

WHAT IS PFOA?
Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) belongs to a group of chemicals used to make household and commercial products that resist heat and chemical reactions and repel oil, stains, grease and water. PFOA was widely found in non-stick pots and pans, carpets and fire-fighting foam.

WHY IS PFOA A PROBLEM?
PFOA does not break down easily and therefore is very persistent in the environment. Its toxicity and persistence in the environment pose potential adverse effects to human health and the environment.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been investigating the Hoosick Falls perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) contamination in conjunction with the Village of Hoosick Falls, the county health department and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

In February 2016, EPA sampled soil at the ballfields and park areas along Waterworks Road as well as throughout the Athletic Field to determine if past releases from local manufacturing facilities had contaminated the fields. Samples of soil were collected in the upper three inches and at a depth from three to twelve inches below the ground surface at 55 locations. Several samples were also collected from depths between 1.5 and 20 feet below the ground surface. Samples were analyzed for a wide range of contaminants, including PFOA and related compounds, volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals.

WHAT DID THE RESULTS SHOW?

Levels of PFOA and related compounds ranged from non-detect to 0.021 parts per million (ppm), as compared with the EPA's action level for PFOA in soil, which is currently 15.6 ppm. These levels will not necessitate any need for cleanup work in any of the areas sampled. The highest concentrations of PFOA and related compounds were generally found deeper than three inches under the surface.

The EPA also tested for an entire suite of other contaminants, including volatile and semi-volatile compounds, PCBs and metals. Many of the compounds were not detected, and others were found at levels well below EPA action levels.

IS ADDITIONAL ACTION NECESSARY?

Based on the data, the EPA does not plan any further actions at either the ballfields along Waterworks Road or at the Athletic Field located on Barton Avenue. The EPA does not see a need for any closure or restriction of any of the fields, which were thoroughly sampled. Therefore, additional investigation is not needed in any of the areas sampled. EPA considers the soil at the fields to be acceptable for recreational use.

WHERE ARE THE RESULTS AVAILABLE?

The analytical results are available on EPA's webpage for Hoosick Falls: http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/hoosick -falls-water-contamination. The EPA may participate in a public session in the future to explain the results and answer questions.

ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION

The EPA, NYSDEC and NYSDOH will be planning and conducting soil and groundwater sampling in other areas of Hoosick Falls, and will continue to provide updates on the status of the investigation. Currently, the EPA is planning to undertake additional soil, groundwater and sediment sampling near the McCaffrey Street facility in spring 2016, which will be discussed in a separate fact sheet. All fact sheets are available on EPA's website, and copies are being provided to the Tops Market and Cheney Library in Hoosick Falls.

As the overall investigation progresses, an Information Repository will be established at a local library where the public can review and copy records related to EPA's work in Hoosick Falls.

If you would like information about the sampling please contact:

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Visit the EPA's website at:

http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/hoosick -falls-water-contamination