Message

From: Enck, Judith [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3DB0C221D8194266B9568FA8961B6CCA-ENCK, JUDITH]
Sent: 5/16/2016 10:27:56 PM
To: Simon, Paul [Simon.Paul@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Petersburgh Articles

fyi

From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 6:16 PM
To: 'Seggos, B B (DEC)' <b.seggos@dec.ny.gov>; Zucker, Howard A (HEALTH) <howard.zucker@health.ny.gov>
Subject: RE: Petersburgh Articles

Good to hear but I think it's important to engage with some of the local residents who have contacted epa to explain that waiting in line for tickets and then take the tickets to the town hall for one gallon per day per person is not working out well. some people are buying their own water, which is fine, but I am concerned that others are just drinking contaminated water because aside from the recent water shortage, the process is very burdensome.
Residents are also on a waiting list to get private wells tested by DOH and and don't know when that will occur.
Further, while I understand that if a consent order is being negotiated with Taconic Plastics, you cannot publicly announce what is being negotiated but it would be good for, at a minimum, the EPA to know what is being done to control the source, address the plume and is there a schedule to install carbon filtration or another treatment technology on the public water supply. We can discuss next week or perhaps one of the DEC lawyers could phone Paul Simon, our assistant regional counsel, with an update on these broader issues.
Thanks.
Judith

From: Seggos, B B (DEC) [mailto:b.seggos@dec.ny.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 6:10 PM
To: Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>; Zucker, Howard A (HEALTH) <howard.zucker@health.ny.gov>
Subject: RE: Petersburgh Articles

Judith,

As directed by the Governor, we are in regular contact with the leadership in Petersburg and other municipalities that are grappling with drinking water contamination.

In Petersburg this winter, we helped provide bottled water to the Town and secured an agreement from Taconic to cover the cost. As to the water shortage from last weekend noted in the articles, we spoke with the Town Supervisor. He took full responsibility for not having enough water on hand. The state offered to supply him with extra water and he declined. He assured us that will have ample supply on hand for the upcoming distributions on Wednesday and Saturday. Tops also continues to make water available to residents.

The state has ample bottled water on hand and stands ready to assist communities when called upon.

Thanks,
Basil

From: Enck, Judith [mailto:Enck.Judith@epa.gov]
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2016 4:41 PM

To: Seggos, B B (DEC) <b.seggos@dec.ny.gov>; Zucker, Howard A (HEALTH) <howard.zucker@health.ny.gov>
Subject: FW: Petersburgh Articles

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Commissioners: the articles below illustrate the concerns I raised with you last week. if it is so difficult to obtain bottled water, I suspect many people are just giving up and drinking what may be contaminated water. Please let me know what EPA can do to assist with this situation. Thank you, Judith

Folks in Petersburgh have run out of bottled water following PFOA contamination

By Carmen Chau May 15, 2016, 5:64 pm

PETERSBURGH, NY (NEWS10) – Community members in Petersburgh are voicing their frustrations after finding out the water bottles have run out at the Town Hall.

Several people have told News10ABC it's been nothing but an inconvenience, especially felling like they're left in the dark with no answers.

News10ABC talked to the Town Supervisor, who didn't want to be on camera, and he admitted that he thought he ordered enough water but he was wrong.

"Water shouldn't be running out," said Emily Marpe who lives in Petersburgh.

It was Saturday at 11a.m. when water ran out at the Town Hall. People were then directed to go to Tops in Hoosick Falls, which many said is a drive that's out of their way.

"We shouldn't have to drive. For me, it's 1.8 miles just to drive to the Town Hall back and forth, said Marpe.

In order to pick up water, people must have tickets that can be obtained at the Town Clerk's Office, which is only open at certain hours.

"This town is getting more and more frustrated," said Marpe.

Water was being distributed five hours a week at the Town Hall. People have been allowed to get one gallon per day.

But instead, people in the small town of Petersburgh find themselves filing their trunks over 20 miles away.

"They are pretty frustrated because some people have been getting water filters and all that in Hoosick Falls and nobody else has been getting them and it's just very stressful and it's irritating," said Renee Wagner, who lives in Cherry Plain.

"There should just be an overabundance. It should be there," said Marpe.

Emily Marpe said she bought a well for a reason but it's no longer in use since tests showed it had PFOA levels of 2,100 parts per trillion.

The Town Supervisor told News10ABC actions are being taken. The DEC will be visiting on May 23 to do groundwater work and a design for the filter is already in place.

But the Petersburgh community said that's not good enough.

"I need to see that this filter is going to work over a long period of time. You can't just force me to start giving my kids this water," said Marpe.

The meeting will take place at the Town Hall Monday at 7:30 p.m. and News10ABC will be there to cover it.

The Town Supervisor also told News10ABC he'll be ordering more water Monday which will arrive Wednesday so people can continue to come to the Town Hall in Petersburgh to get their water.

Town board to meet in Petersburgh to discuss PFOA crisis

By WRGB Staff Monday, May 16th 2016

PETERSBURGH - People in Petersburgh will meet with the town board to discuss the PFOA crisis.

That's after the mayor says they ran out of bottled water this weekend.

The city has been supplying it to residents for months.

Tests in February showed levels of PFOA in the municipal water supply.

The mayor tells us this is the first time the city has run out of bottled water.

The tops grocery store in Hoosick Falls is still offering bottled water, and the mayor says he plans to order more than usual this week.

Results from soil testing are starting to be released as Bennington also deals with PFOA contamination in its water.

The state's DEC says the first tests show very low levels of the chemical, safety standard for PFOA in soil is 300 parts per trillion.

A spokeswoman for the DEC told Vermont public radio that the results are below that level.