OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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January 14, 2016

Ms. Judith A. Enck
Regional Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
290 Broadway
New York, New York 10007-1866

Dear Ms. Enck:

The detection of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) in the public water supply of the Village of Hoosick Falls (Village) in Rensselaer County, New York is deeply concerning. Sampling data shows PFOA in Village drinking water and groundwater above the provisional United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory of 400 parts per trillion (ppt). For over a year, the State Department of Health (DOH) has worked closely with the Village to assess the situation and ensure residents have access to alternate sources of water for drinking and cooking.

As the government agencies charged with protecting public health and the environment, it is imperative that DOH, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and the EPA work together on a full investigation of the nature and extent of PFOA contamination and, then, on any necessary cleanup. DEC and DOH stand ready to assist in this investigation by the EPA.

I am proposing that EPA, after conducting an investigation, nominate for inclusion on the National Priorities List the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corp. McCaffrey Street Plant Site in the Village of Hoosick Falls (EPA facility No. NYD000829598), where high levels of PFOA in groundwater have been observed, and any other source of a release of PFOA in the Village or Town of Hoosick Falls that may be identified during the course of the investigation.

In accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, DOH will remain responsible for all matters related to public health regarding the site, including, but not limited to, public water supplies, public health matters generally such as private water wells, and any special health-related studies to be performed, and communication of public health information.

Robert W. Schick, Director of DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation, will contact your staff today to follow up and discuss next steps. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss further.

I look forward to continued collaboration at all levels of government to address the PFOA contamination and ensure that there is no additional hardship for the Village and its residents.

Sincerely,

Basil Seggos
Acting Commissioner