To: Fessler, Andrew[Fessler.Andrew@epa.gov]
From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Fri 10/16/2015 1:39:46 PM
Subject: RE: Saint-Gobain Info

Yes, please. thanks

From: Fessler, Andrew
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 9:13 AM
To: Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>
Subject: Saint-Gobain Info

I also have a hard copy of the below, let me know if you prefer that.

Saint-Gobain North America:

The company has more than 265 locations in North America and approximately 19,000 employees. In the United States and Canada, Saint-Gobain reported sales of approximately $7.7 billion in 2011.

Saint-Gobain North America includes CertainTeed Corporation, as well as Saint-Gobain Abrasives, Saint-Gobain ADFORS (previously known as Saint-Gobain Technical Fabrics), Vetrotech Saint-Gobain North America, Saint-Gobain Glass, Saint-Gobain Solar, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics and more.

Saint-Gobain has been at two facilities in Hoosick Falls –Liberty Street and McCaffrey Street - since 1999. Both facilities were originally built in the mid-1950s and early 1960s, respectively, and have had four prior owners. A total of 186 people are employed at the sites.

Hoosick Falls residents raise concerns after low levels of carcinogen found in water supply

By Danielle Sanzone , Troy/The Record

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Hoosick Falls Village Board swears in new member, Discusses Water

HOOSICK FALLS >> Low levels of a carcinogen believed to cause some types of cancers were detected in the water supply for the village of Hoosick Falls. While a state Department of Health study found that the amount found in the water is 50,000 times lower than exposures that are known to cause health effects, many residents are not taking that chance.

About 3,400 village residents utilize the municipal water system, along with 120 properties outside the village with access to the water, said Hoosick Falls Mayor David Borge.

The first samples of drinking water were sent to the state DOH in October, with results available later that month. The initial study found traces of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) at levels between 180 parts per trillion and 540 parts per trillion (ppt).

“What complicates this is this is a non-regulated element. There are no county, state or federal regulations,” said Borge, who said that the village has done “an awful lot of research” on the topic to determine the health risks and a plan of action.

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The possible health effects of PFOA are still not confirmed but, as a result of a class-action lawsuit and community settlement with American chemical company DuPont, previous studies concluded that there was probably an association between PFOA exposure on some level and health outcomes including kidney cancer, testicular cancer, ulcerative colitis, thyroid disease, hypercholesterolemia, and pregnancy-induced hypertension, according to online encyclopedia Wikipedia, which also stated that PFOAs persist indefinitely in the environment.

“Mark”, a resident in the village who did not want to use his name, said he was talking with neighbors last spring and they started to notice a lot of deaths that they later found were similar to the diseases found in the DuPont case.

“My dad passed away of kidney cancer,” he said. “I approached one local doctor to help with the research on this. He has also since been diagnosed with another cancer.”

While he reiterated that there are no state or federal regulations on PFOAs, he noted that New Jersey’s regulated level is 0.040 and the amount discovered locally is up to 0.540.

“Our wells are only 150 yards from the water treatment plant,” said “Jimmy”, another resident who wished to not be named. “If it’s something that ‘probably’ causes cancer, I don’t want my family drinking it.”

“Jimmy” said he has been vocal at meetings about possible negative side effects. His child goes to a

private school in Hoosick Falls and he sends his student to school with bottled water daily.

A Facebook community page called “PFOA’s in Hoosick Falls” was created in recent weeks to provide residents with more information about the potential cancer agent.

“The bigger concern is that many people aren’t on Facebook, online, or at local meetings to find out about this,” he said. “I’d like to see more public awareness and people err more on the side of caution.”

Borge said the village is doing everything it can to mitigate the issue but emphasized that the PFOA levels from the studies have been going down. He said one possibility is using carbon filters at the plant to continue to minimize the levels.

“We are being very proactive, transparent, and recognize the emotional aspect here. We are going after how to fix this unregulated contaminent,” said Borge. “There is no one-size-fits-all solution here. We realize this is an issue, but if it was an immediate threat to public health the Department of Health would close us down immediately. And that hasn’t happened.”

Information on the health effects of PFOA in humans is limited, according to the state DOH.

PFOA is a manufactured chemical that is used to make other chemicals called fluoropolymers. Fluoropolymers are substances that have special properties such as fire resistance and the ability to repel oil, grease and water. Thus, they have many manufacturing and industrial applications. PFOA is used to make non-stick surfaces on cookware and in fire-fighting foams, cosmetics, greases, lubricants, paints, polishes, and adhesives. PFOA can get into drinking water through releases from fluoropolymer manufacturing or processing facilities, wastewater treatment plants, and landfills, the DOH letter to the village stated.

Borge said they are not concentrating on the source of the isssue and instead they are concentrating on fixing it.

The exact source is not confirmed.

Saint Gobain and Oak-Mitsui are two companies along the Hoosic River in the community. Saint Gobain, in Hoosick Falls, makes tapes and foams, according to spokeswoman Dina Pokedoff. Saint-Gobain has been at two facilities in Hoosick Falls –Liberty Street and McCaffrey Street - since 1999. Both facilities were originally built in the mid-1950s and early 1960s, respectively, and have had four prior owners. A total of 186 people are employed at the sites.

“As a member of the community, and a company committed to upholding standards, committed to the safety of our employees, and minimizing our impact on the environment, we share the community’s concerns and will cooperate with the Village of Hoosick Falls, the State of New York, and other authorities as appropriate,” stated Pokedoff, adding that Saint Gobain has not had any issues with PFOAs at other locations.

Oak-Mitsui was unable to be reached for comment.

“Jane”, a village resident for nearly 40 years, said her family members have worked at Oak-Mitsui for years. From her family members’ stories, she is also a firm believer in not drinking the village water.

“The water is funky,” she said succinctly. “It smells weird and we don’t drink it. For as long as I can remember, we’ve been told to not swim in the water and not drink the water. It’s not new but people are just learning about what’s in the water now. I don’t think it’s a safe thing.”

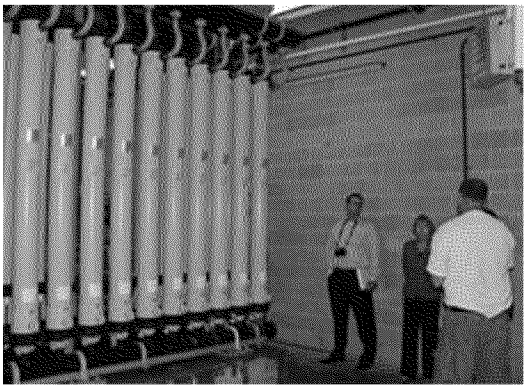
Borge said, “We’re working with the local industries, engineers, and experts in the field so we can find a way that people will be comfortable with drinking the water. I drink it. My family drinks it.”

Danielle Sanzone may be reached at 290-8362.

From <http://www.troyrecord.com/general-news/20150124/hoosick-falls-residents-raise-concerns-after-low-levels-of-carcinogen-found-in-water-supply>

Village of Hooksick Falls News

Water Update



September 2015—This is the 3rd summary in a series of updates enclosed with the water meter readings mailed to those who are billed for the use of the municipal water supply of Hoosick Falls. Over the past months, much has been learned and a summary is as follows:

A pilot study has been completed and it has been determined that Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) is effective in reducing the amount of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) to unmeasurable levels for our specific water supply. This technology exists and is recognized as effective by Rensselaer County Department of Health and NYS Department of Health.

NYS DoH has agreed to analyze water samples on an on-going basis at no charge to the community. Additionally, samples have been taken from privately owned wells in the surrounding area to investigate the extent of the contamination to see whether the contamination is localized, or broader in scope. Again, I ask that anyone who has had water samples privately analyzed, to please provide copies of specific results to the Village Clerk’s Office. This information will be used by the County and NY State Departments of Public Health to determine the most effective long term mitigation plans for our

community water supply.

The Village Board has approved an agreement with the MRB Planning/Engineering Group to provide an engineering report which will summarize the specifics of our water concerns, and which verifies that the correct steps are being taken toward a successful resolution. This report is also required by all potential funding sources – whether they are state, federal or private sources.

Several conversations with staff from the offices of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congressman Gibson, as well as direct discussions with Senator Marchione and Assemblyman McLaughlin regarding federal and state sources for funding have occurred. The issue remains that until the Federal EPA completes its current data gathering process regarding PFOA and makes a determination, this man-made substance remains officially an "unregulated contaminant" and therefore, rules, regulations or enforceable standards for levels in drinking water do not exist. Both the Village Water Treatment Plant and the Waste Water Plant continue to meet and exceed all county, state and federal regulations. We are in compliance in all areas.

Discussions have also taken place with the regional representative from the Governor's Office. There will be more communications as we continue to move forward.

To date, our efforts have been focused on finding a practical and feasible way to minimize and or eliminate PFOA from our water supply. The addition of a secondary filtration system using GAC technology is the route we will pursue. Efforts are being made to secure funding at all levels. There is a regulated process with specific time frames to follow and the Village Board has directed MRB to initiate that process.

At the regular July meeting of the Village Board, representatives from Saint- Gobain presented their plans to support the collaborative efforts of our community in working toward a successful resolution. We consider this a positive step. They have retained C. T. Male Engineering to do a hydrogeologic study of the McCaffery Street property. The results of this study will be shared with the community as we move forward. We hope to have the results from this effort by the Fall of 2015.

Since October of 2014 to the present, the financial cost to the Village has been in excess of $63,000. The estimated cost to add the secondary GAC filtration system is approximately $2,200,000 for initial construction not including routine maintenance. Although the Village is financially solvent, other funding sources will be required to meet this need.

Rest assured that the Village Board is working diligently to resolve this issue and is committed to restoring the public's confidence in our municipal water supply. Your patience is appreciated, we share your concern, and you will continue to be updated as to the progress made. Suggestions or comments can be forwarded to me at themayorhf@gmail.com or messages left at 686-7072 ext. 5.

From <http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/news.html>

NYSDOH Risk Characterization and Health Effects for Hoosick Falls Water Supply

The Village has requested guidance from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) in analyzing our water contamination and its potential impact on public health. We received their response via the Rensselaer County Department of Health on January 12th 2015. It states:

The presence of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) at the levels detected in the supply wells and in finished water does not constitute an immediate health hazard. Based on specific toxicity information for PFOA, the estimated exposure to PFOA in the water at the highest level detected (0.54 µg/L) is at least 50,000 times lower than PFOA exposures that are known to cause health effects in animals. The detection of PFOA indicates a need to identify the sources of contamination and to take measures to reduce it so that long-term exposure can be reduced and future exposures prevented.

Samples taken from the water supply wells on October 2 and November 4, 2014 were found to contain PFOA at levels ranging from 0.17 micrograms per liter (µg/L) to 0.54 µg/L. One sample of finished (treated) water taken on November 4th contained PFOA at 0.44 µg/L. These levels are below the New York State unspecified organic contaminant public drinking water standard of 50 µg/L, which applies to certain types of organic chemicals such as PFOA, which do not have a standard based on their toxicity.

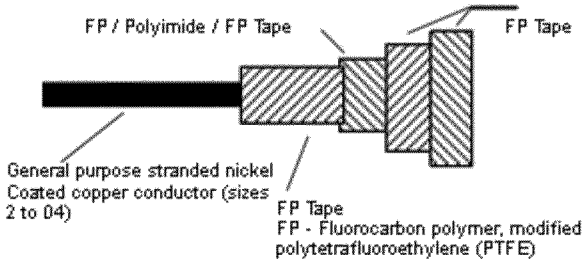
Information on the health effects of PFOA in humans is limited. There is evidence from studies in people that elevated levels of PFOA in serum can lead to reduced fetal growth. There is also some evidence from studies in humans that increased serum PFOA levels may increase the risk for testicular and kidney cancer, but collectively the studies are not strong enough to draw a definitive conclusion about whether PFOA causes cancer in humans. In laboratory animals, exposure to high levels of PFOA caused weight loss, increased liver weights, developmental delays, reduced red blood cells, and reduced fetal growth. PFOA caused cancer in laboratory animals that were fed large amounts for their lifetimes. Chemicals that cause adverse health effects in animals after high levels of exposure may pose a risk to humans exposed to lower levels over long periods of time.

PFOA is a manufactured chemical that is used to make other chemicals called fluoropolymers. Fluoropolymers are substances that have special properties such as fire resistance and the ability to repel oil, grease and water. Thus, they have many manufacturing and industrial applications. PFOA is used to make non-stick surfaces on cookware and in fire-fighting foams, cosmetics, greases, lubricants, paints, polishes, and adhesives. PFOA can get into drinking water through releases from fluoropolymer manufacturing or processing facilities, wastewater treatment plants, and landfills.

From <http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/news.html>

From St. Gobain Website:

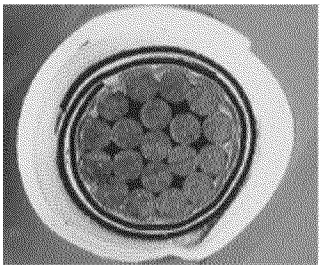
Aircraft Wire and Cable

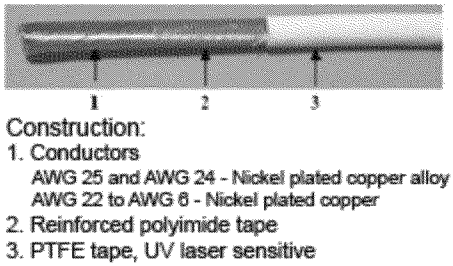


Aircraft Flight Wire requires insulation systems that provide a superior electrical performance, environmental protection, low flammability and cut through resistance.. all in a very lightweight package.

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics provides for the highest level of electrical insulation materials on the market today for Airframe and Hook-up wires. In fact, we are the only world-class supplier who can provide for both the PTFE based products as well as the polyimide based products which make up the bulk of aircraft wire insulation on commercial and military aircraft today.

Our PTFE films are offered as paste extruded (including laser markable products), skived, and cast versions depending upon the insulation needs. Our FLUOROWRAP® composite products are polyimide film based products that are coated with PTFE, FEP, and other fluoropolymers to suit individual specifications.





We provide a very wide range of electrical insulation products that meet Boeing Specifications (e.g. BMS 13-60), Airbus specifications (DR and CF wire), as well as most Military/SAE specifications such as AS22579 and WC27500.

Products

- □□□□□□□□ Paste Extruded PTFE Film
- □□□□□□□□ Skived PTFE Film
- □□□□□□□□ CHEMFILM® Cast PTFE Film
- □□□□□□□□ FLUOROWRAP® Film

From <http://www.norton-films.com/aerospace-market.aspx#aircraftwire>

02 July 2013

Saint-Gobain Launches New Production Line at Hoosick Falls, New York

Company executives and employees attended a special ceremony recently to unveil the new aircraft wire insulation (AWIN) extrusion line at the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics plant in Hoosick Falls, New York.

Photo: A special ceremony was held to unveil

Hoosick Falls' new production line.

Among those in attendance were Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics President Tom Kinisky and Loic Mahe, Vice President of Performance Plastics' Composites business.

"The aerospace, wire and cable insulation markets are growing, as more electronics are put on planes for more and more applications," says Hoosick Falls Plant Manager Michael Shepherd. "Our new $3.2 million extrusion line is a game-changer in our industry, and will help us to meet customers' increasingly demanding weight and safety requirements for electrical insulation. Our vision is to be seen as the 'material experts' in electrical insulation products."

"Major aircraft manufacturers like Boeing and Airbus have switched to PTFE wire insulation because it provides much better passenger safety than other materials," says Philip Guy, business manager, tapes. "The new AWIN line allows us to provide our wire and cable customers with the best insulation products in the world."

The 190-employee Hoosick Falls plant makes adhesive tape, extruded tape, skived film and silicone rubber.

From <http://www.chrtape.com/news_detail.aspx?id=271820>