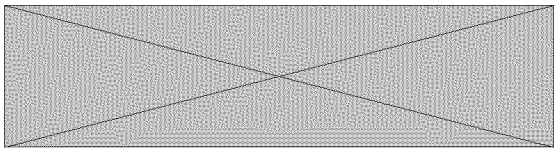
To: Lyons, Brendan[BLyons@TimesUnion.com]
From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Thur 1/14/2016 10:08:44 PM
Subject: Re: New York State Announces Progress to Address Contamination at Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Site and in Village Water Supply

This is significant

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 14, 2016, at 4:40 PM, Lyons, Brendan <BLyons@TimesUnion.com> wrote:



For Immediate Release: 1/14/16

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Press Office | PressOffice@dec.ny.gov

DOH Contact: Public Affairs Office (518) 474-7354 ext 1
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New York State Announces Progress to Address Contamination at Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Site and in Village Water Supply

Departments of Environmental Conservation and Health urge EPA to take steps to address water contamination and advance cleanup of the area

In response to public concern, DOH Conducting Cancer & Biomonitoring Study in Hoosick Falls

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Department of Health (DOH) today called on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to add the Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corporation

McCaffrey Street Plant and other possible sources of contamination in Hoosick Falls to the National Priorities List (NPL) under the federal Superfund program and to undertake a full environmental investigation to address the sources of contamination. In addition, the state, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Corporation and the Village of Hoosick Falls (Village) are collaboratively working on an agreement to install water treatment systems to remove hazardous chemicals from the Village's water supply. To view the state's letters, click here and here.

Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker said, "As soon as the Department of Health was notified of the contamination, we immediately began working with all parties in a collaborative manner to gather more data on the problem and work on solutions to reduce people's exposure to PFOA. I look forward to working with DEC, EPA and the Village of Hoosick Falls to address the sources of contamination."

Acting DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said, "It is imperative that all levels of government work collaboratively to protect public health and the environment in situations such as this. DOH is working to develop a long-term solution for the Village's public water supply and we must ensure the extent of contamination is identified and cleaned up. I urge the EPA to take vigorous action on the federal level to regulate PFOA and quickly add this site to the National Priorities List so the resources of the federal Superfund program can be used to advance these next steps."

State Calls for National Priorities Listing & Urges Federal Action on PFOA

NPL listing permits EPA to use the resources of the federal Superfund to investigate and clean up hazardous substances. Listing also enables EPA to issue an order requiring a responsible party or parties to clean up the site if that becomes necessary. The source, or sources, of PFOA to the Village's public water system has not been confirmed. Through the federal Superfund program, all potential sources and responsible parties will be evaluated.

The state also called on the EPA to take stronger national actions to address Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) contamination. In a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, DEC and DOH requested that EPA lower its health advisory for PFOA in drinking water to take into account the most current scientific evidence and adopt a protective maximum contaminant level. This letter also called upon EPA to expeditiously list PFOA as a hazardous substance under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) to facilitate the cleanup of contaminated groundwater and other media. Further, the letter asks EPA to review the remaining uses of PFOA under the Toxic Substance Control Act and curtail them whenever less toxic alternatives are available.

DOH Continues to Monitor Water to Ensure Public Health Safety

PFOA was detected in the Village's public drinking water in 2014. Although the use of PFOA is being phased out, it is still used to make household and commercial

products that resist heat, and repel oil, stains, grease, and water. This includes nonstick cookware, surface coatings for stain-resistant carpets and fabric, and paper and cardboard food packaging. Studies of people have associated exposure to PFOA with an increased risk for several health effects. This includes associations with effects on the liver, immune system, thyroid gland, cholesterol levels, blood pressure during pregnancy, and kidney and testicular cancer.

After PFOA was detected in the water supply, DOH worked closely with the Village to provide technical advice and assistance for water sampling and to evaluate water treatment options to eliminate health risks. Because the levels of PFOA in public water were higher than the EPA health advisory level, DOH determined that people should reduce their exposure by avoiding the use of tap water for drinking and cooking. In addition, DOH continues to monitor private wells and will have more results very soon.

State Undertakes Cancer Registry & Biomonitoring Studies

In response to public concern, DOH has also begun an investigation of the incidence of cancer among Village residents, using data from the DOH Cancer Registry. The agency will also offer a PFOA biomonitoring study for residents of the Hoosick Falls area. This study will measure PFOA in blood to provide information on exposure. Detailed information about the project will be shared with area residents prior to the start of the project.

DOH will continue to provide technical advice and assistance to the Village, to protect the health of the affected residents. The agency has been testing water samples since first notified of the contamination, and will continue to test private wells.

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********** ATTACHMENT REMOVED
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Attachment type: [image/jpeg]

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