My name is Marion Stevens

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First I want to thank this Senate committee for having these hearings
I also thank those representatives that made these hearings occur.
I have been a very public voice on the PFOA issues in Hoosick Falls.
Though I have been public not everyone knows how this issue has affected me personally.

My story begins with the letters sent with our water bill beginning Dec 2014. These letters say there is a problem with our water, samples are being done, and attempts to remove PFOA, its cost and our water met and exceeded all standards for public safety. A co-worker concerned about the letters asked me about them, her daughter and family had just moved to HF. I assured her there was nothing to worry about, the village was in compliance with all testing and they were working with the Health dept., the factory involved, EPA etc. to assure safe water. I carried on what I believed was honest representation concerning the water issues from what info I read.

Why did you say our water was safe when safety of it was in question?

Letter
Dec 1st, 2015 my husband and I make our last house payment and own our home. Dec 1st, 2015 was to be new beginnings for us toward our retirement road. To sell our home and move closer to our grandchildren. How a letter received that day changed our dreams. We did not have safe water to drink, cook with. Bottled water was available at Tops. For those who choose this option. Our dreams began to wither away. Our life began to change. In fact now a daily, weekly trip to Topps would be made to have drinking water. 5 gallons at each pick up.

Why wasn't a no water use distributed to all residents in this village when our water did not meet or exceed all standards for public safety?

End of Dec my husband starts to feel strange, he has lost his taste, nothing tastes good to him. New Year's dinner Prime Rib remains on his plate. Now we are notified to attend a public meeting about PFOA at the school. Harold is unable to attend, he has become very fatigued as time goes on, he has pressure on his stomach, hard time breathing, becomes very weak and every bone and muscle in his body aches. He has a hard time even lifting a jug of water, bags of pellets and walking. I attend the meeting in January, We hear about Mike Hickey and his concerns over a year before we are notified about the poison water. We hear about illness affects one is infertility, tears well in my eyes. (It took 5 years and many treatments to have our miracle grandchildren) Harold's mom, my mom and I had no problem conceiving children. My thoughts are we thought we were raising our children in a healthy town when we bought our home in HF. Next on the list Cancer I had lost most of my family to Cancer lung, breast bone cancer. I do not blame PFOA on it there

are many lines of cancer in the family. Then i remember being notified the day after Christmas that my sister in law had pancreatic Cancer 2012. She died by Feb the next year. Tears continue. There is talk about other effects and plumes in our ground. More talk continues we are told what precautions we must take. Many people ask questions that provide more information to all of us. Use bottled water for drinking cooking, pets, washing and brushing teeth. Towel dry our dishes. Do not eat food that was grown in ground, gotten by fishing, have limited showers if possible no baths. I come home that night in a panic state, get paper supplies for use. Change dog's water to bottled water. Shower with door open and limited time. Our living habits were doing a major change. Jugs of water are now all over our home, counters, stove, by pet dishes bathroom sink, kitchen sink to remind us not to use the water from our sinks for drinking cooking. I call my daughter saying I refuse to have grandchildren chance a shower in our home and would use bottled water to wash them when they stayed at our home.

Trust is melting.

I had always brought my children up to be honest, I could handle anything as long as the truth was said. Lies result in loss of trust.

Why did we have to wait to January to hear the above? Why weren't we educated on prevention measures sooner?

Feb Harold's health gets worse, he cannot even get out of bed to go to work. Doctor is called, and shocked to see Harold so sick. Doctor knew he was sick, Harold has lost weight. Vertigo had begun occurring 4+ times a week. He looks terrible. Harold has always been to the doctors just for his yearly checkups. The tests begin, EKGS, Blood, x-rays and cat scans, ultrasounds, chemical heart stress test, echocardiogram, nothing is found. Lyme testing done he is treated for Lyme all 9 test return negative. Harold is not working our finances take a dive. 8 thousand dollars. Thank goodness for family and neighbors that were there for us to carry in pellets for our heat. We continued to get our own water at Topps carrying it in by single jugs at a time. Harold has to return to work, by end of month. Or he could lose his job and insurance. March/April/May he drags himself from bed to work. There are days he is sent home due to his health using vacation time. He works and is in bed by 6:30 7pm at night. Blood test, doctor visits continue, specialist are call, we have wait for appointments and then for testing times.

During this time our neighboring state has also found PFOA in their water, There governor is doing public meetings within the week and had water delivery to homes. I now am very public about the issues I attend all village meetings and am interviewed by the news media often voicing my concerns and asking questions.

Why is water not being delivered to our doors by those responsible for the poison in our water like our neighboring states? Instead volunteers (Water Angels, HACA food closet volunteers and police have and are delivering water.)

We also have blood testing done by Health dept we are the first group to be tested. We are told we should have our results back 3-4 weeks. We do not get them until everyone else get them. Months later We receive our blood test results. Our levels are high and yet not as high as others. Especially children in our neighborhood. Our numbers reported in graphs are mixed with everyone, including those who have moved from HF over 10 years ago. We are relieved our daughters' numbers are very low.

Why the long wait and misrepresentation of our results.

March our governor does an hour notice visit to HF. The public is not welcomed. On the TV he says there will be water delivery, we are a superfund site, testing will continue and a new water source would be found. By the way he thinks our filtration system has pretty tanks. In the summer senator Gillibrand comes to visit. She gives us 2 hours, in that time she hears stories of selected families and adults. One concern is addressed. She promises medical monitoring. She gives us hope, she sends us a mailing to contact her with any concerns.

Why is time limited why didn't our officials hear all our concerns hold public meetings?

In June Harold's health continues to be a problem, Father's day all he wants is to go for a walk with his grandchildren. We go to mile round woods he is exhausted just getting to the woods, he sits on a bench I walk with family, Harold e-mails his doctor, something needs to be done he cannot keep on going on this way. We visit the doctor the next day he admits him to emergency room for testing. We spend the day there and are sent home after more blood test, x-rays, ekg . With recommendation to see specialist we have appointments for in Sept. His doctor is able to move up some of Harold's appointments, including an upper and lower GI and visit to ENT specialist. The following week after those results another Cat scan is done. Still no answers. July comes Harold is beginning to have some good days. He walks his first 10,000 steps in Saratoga on our anniversary. First time since Dec. Harold now has good days and bad days Vertigo is still occurring. Taste is still affected, still gets tired. Muscles and bones still ache. Driving time is limited on trips due to fatigue. We meet with another specialist, more blood tests. Many anomalies more tests to follow, we ask ourselves is this PFOA results?

We hope not. We are relieved something is now coming to light.

In closing I have to say this situation and my personal life have been very difficult. With family, friends, and neighbor support we have survived.

During this time of crisis in my home and village, I would have liked to see our officials, governor show they cared and meet with the residents. I would have liked and, would like to have promises carried out by making all involved responsible for their actions, a new water source promise kept and addition to the consent order to provide medical monitoring for residents of this town village for now and future so if they have to go through what Harold has they do not go broke doing so.

PS as for the coworker I spoke about and my guilt for not being honest to her she told me to let it go, she said it was not myself that lied I was saying what officials had told us.