To: Evangelista, Pat[Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov]; Mugdan, Walter[Mugdan.Walter@epa.gov]; Carpenter, Angela[Carpenter.Angela@epa.gov]; Simon, Paul[Simon.Paul@epa.gov]; Gratz, Jeff[Gratz.Jeff@epa.gov]; Mears, Mary[Mears.Mary@epa.gov]; Romanowski, Larisa[Romanowski.Larisa@epa.gov]; Mccabe, Catherine[McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov]; Plevin, Lisa[Plevin.Lisa@epa.gov]
From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Thur 10/13/2016 8:50:49 PM
Subject: albany times union

Cuomo, take command of water crisis

By Alex Beauchamp, Commentary
Published 3:35 pm, Wednesday, October 12, 2016

How long is too long to drink tainted water?

The residents of Hoosick Falls, a small New York town near the Vermont border, drank poisoned water for 14 months after state government officials knew it was contaminated with dangerous chemicals. The people who live there were failed by public officials, including members of Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration.

Instead of acting to rectify their error, state officials used recent public hearings as an opportunity to play the blame game, saying the real problem was with the federal government agency that was advising them to issue a health warning.

The people of Hoosick Falls weren't buying it, and neither should anyone else. We should demand action and accountability.

Hoosick Falls residents are suffering with elevated levels of perfluorooctanoic acid in their bloodstream, which puts them at greater risk of cancer and other health ailments. The likely culprit is a plant in town that manufactured products that included nonstick coating.

To hear the state government tell it, they were on the case. In February, Cuomo claimed, "We have been very active in Hoosick Falls from day one." That simply wasn't true. State officials waited well over a year after the first discovery of contamination to warn local residents to avoid drinking their water.

That is scandalous. But it gets even worse. The Cuomo administration resisted issuing this alert, even after federal regulators at the Environmental Protection Agency warned New York's senior health department officials that people in Hoosick Falls must be told their drinking water contained dangerous levels of PFOA.

So how can the Cuomo administration pretend that it acted responsibly? The people of Hoosick Falls, and all New Yorkers, deserve a real answer. But getting administration officials to explain themselves has been difficult. After months of pressure, state legislators agreed to hold public hearings. But after three such events, we still don't have a satisfactory answer to the most basic questions, and the Cuomo administration is sticking by its bogus blame-the-EPA story.

In a particularly ludicrous exchange at the second hearing in Albany, Department of Health Commissioner Howard Zucker was unable to tell legislators whether it was the right call to finally warn Hoosick Falls residents not to drink their poisoned water. This doesn't exactly inspire confidence that the state is well prepared for the next drinking water crisis.

And that crisis might come sooner than we think. Since the bad news about Hoosick Falls broke, other communities nearby are reporting elevated levels of PFOA in their water systems. And new research shows that the problem with PFOA contamination is much broader, potentially affecting drinking water of millions of Americans in more than a dozen states.

It is clear that we need a comprehensive plan to deal with water contamination from PFOA and similar chemicals. It must start with an aggressive plan for the residents of Hoosick Falls, Petersburgh, Newburgh and other communities that are already suffering. The state must commit to ongoing biomonitoring — including blood testing — for those affected. And the state should make clear that long-term testing be paid for by the corporate polluters.

We owe it to the people who are suffering to come up with a real plan to solve our drinking water crisis. For that to happen, Cuomo must show real leadership. Is he up to it?

Alex Beauchamp is the Northeast region director at Food & Water Watch.

David W. Kluesner
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Acting Chief, Public Outreach
Public Affairs
290 Broadway, 26th Floor
New York, NY 10007
212.637.3653 (Office)

347.330.9439 (Cell)

www.epa.gov/region2
https://twitter.com/EPAregion2
https://www.facebook.com/eparegion2
http://blog.epa.gov/blog/category/greeningtheapple/

From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 4:31 PM
To: Kluesner, Dave <kluesner.dave@epa.gov>; Shore, Berry <Shore.Berry@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Google Alert - PFOA

Plz send me the times union article tx

From: Google Alerts [mailto:googlealerts-noreply@google.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 4:01 PM
To: Enck, Judith <Enck.Judith@epa.gov>
Subject: Google Alert - PFOA

PFOA

Daily update · October 13, 2016

NEWS

Vermont DEC geologists work to build 3D map for **PFOA** contamination
NEWS10 ABC
His team of scientists are determined to learn how **PFOA** may be traveling through groundwater, potentially finding new sources of clean water.
Flag as irrelevant

Manchester homes with **PFOA**-contaminated wells transitioned to city water
WMUR Manchester
WEBVTT AND PRESERVE IT FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITARY WATER USE. SHELLEY: MEANTIME IN MANCHESTER, WORK IS ...
Flag as irrelevant

China's emission of toxic fluorinated chemicals highest in the world
Science Daily
They studied two fluorinated substances in particular, PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) and **PFOA** (perfluorooctanoic acid). PFOS is used, for ...

Flag as irrelevant

Cuomo, take command of water crisis

Albany Times Union

Since the bad news about Hoosick Falls broke, other communities nearby are reporting elevated levels of **PFOA** in their water systems. And new ...

Flag as irrelevant

You have received this email because you have subscribed to **Google Alerts**.
Unsubscribe

Receive this alert as RSS feed

Send Feedback