

Mahopac PFAS Investigation

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) are working with the Town of Carmel and Putnam County Department of Health (PCDOH) to provide this community update regarding sampling of drinking water in Mahopac and investigation of emerging contaminants. This newsletter shares progress on the agencies' efforts to ensure the protection of drinking water in Mahopac and protect the community from potential exposures. These actions follow groundwater sampling at the nearby Mahopac Business District Site that detected the emerging contaminants per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), specifically perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), at levels above New York State's maximum contaminant level (MCL) for public drinking water.



Latest News

NYSDEC and NYSDOH are dedicated to ensuring that all area residents have access to clean drinking water. Portions of the surrounding area are connected to a public water supply sourced from Lake Mahopac. This public water supply is subject to annual monitoring and reporting, and PFOA/PFOS analytical results are below the state's MCLs. However, a number of residential and commercial properties in this area depend on groundwater supply wells for drinking, household activities, and commercial uses. While New York State does not regulate PFAS in private wells, the state's MCLs for PFOA and PFOS for public water supplies are used as guidelines to recommend actions to reduce potential for exposure to contaminants. Therefore, the two agencies are overseeing the sampling of drinking water wells in the area and are offering alternate water supplies if levels of PFOA and/or PFOS contamination are detected above drinking water standards.

Starting in 2021, sampling of wells was offered at no cost in four phases to all properties within a ¼ mile radius in this Area of Interest (see attached figure), which is made up of 159 wells. To date, samples were collected at 49 of these locations, with permission from property owners. If you want to find out if your location is (or is not) in the Area of Interest, you may also contact NYSDEC's contractor at the Mahopac PFAS Information e-mail provided for this purpose, (MahopacWellSampling@gmail.com).

With permission, a qualified NYSDEC representative will schedule, then collect, a drinking water sample from an

inside tap or faucet or an outdoor spigot. An alternate water supply (bottled water or treatment system) will be offered if PFOA and/or PFOS are detected above MCLs.

This work is being completed concurrently with an ongoing investigation to identify potential sources of PFAS contamination, including analysis of PFAS compounds in shallow and bedrock groundwater and surface water.

NY'S Stringent Drinking Water Standards

New York's MCLs were developed for public water supplies but are also used as guidance when evaluating private well data. The MCLs for PFOA and PFOS are highly protective and among the most stringent PFAS standards in the country. New York's MCL for each of these contaminants is 10 ppt.

NYSDEC and NYSDOH are investigating groundwater for emerging contaminants at new and legacy State Superfund and Brownfield Cleanup Program sites, including the Mahopac Business District Site. Whenever testing at these sites demonstrates an exceedance of the State's MCLs for emerging contaminants, NYSDEC and NYSDOH work with local health departments to expand sampling and evaluate community exposures. Concurrently, NYSDEC and NYSDOH conduct a review of potential sources, followed by comprehensive investigations to determine the nature and extent of contamination.

Community Engagement

Residents within the Area of Interest will be invited to participate in sampling of their drinking water wells by mail and/or door-to-door outreach. If a resident in the Area of Interest has not responded to the letters from NYSDEC and is interested in sampling, the resident may call the DEC Hotline included in the offer letter. NYSDEC's engineering contractor, Arcadis, will subsequently coordinate sampling and provide alternate water supplies as appropriate. Sampling results will be discussed and provided to property owners by NYSDOH. NYSDEC, NYSDOH, and PCDOH will continue to keep the community informed about area-wide activities throughout the process.

To support the NYSDEC's investigation into the source of the contamination and provide us with very useful information to guide the investigation, area residents are encouraged to complete an electronic questionnaire. Participation is voluntary, and your responses will be kept confidential. Any information you can provide will help this investigation. The questionnaire can be accessed by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or entering the following URL into your web browser:



<https://forms.office.com/r/ZChZDYeFd>

Contamination Source Investigation

In addition to the on-site investigation underway, a comprehensive investigation is being conducted by NYSDEC to identify any other potential sources of the PFAS contamination in the groundwater at and around the Mahopac Business District site.

The presence of PFAS in groundwater at the Site is not necessarily linked to the sources of dry cleaning chemical releases in the Mahopac Business District.

Additional investigation is required to determine if there is a correlation between PFAS in groundwater and former dry-cleaning operations.

Who to Contact

Department of Environmental Conservation

For questions related to the site and remedial activities, drinking water well sampling, and PFAS source evaluation:

Brianna Scharf, Project Manager

(518) 402-5987 | Brianna.Scharf@dec.ny.gov

To determine if your property is located within the Area of Interest, and therefore eligible for sampling, contact NYSDEC's contractor at the Mahopac PFAS Information e-mail: MahopacWellSampling@gmail.com

For questions related to the provision of an alternate water supply (i.e., bottled water, POET, or public water supply connections):

David Chiusano, Project Manager

(518) 402-9813 | David.Chiusano@dec.ny.gov

Department of Health

For health-related questions:

Stephen Lawrence, Project Manager

(518) 402-0450 | bee@health.ny.gov

Sign up to receive updates by email:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

Next Steps

NYSDEC, NYSDOH, and PCDOH will continue to implement the currently planned drinking water well sampling as well as evaluate the need for and oversee any additional drinking water well sampling, including taking actions to address exposures.

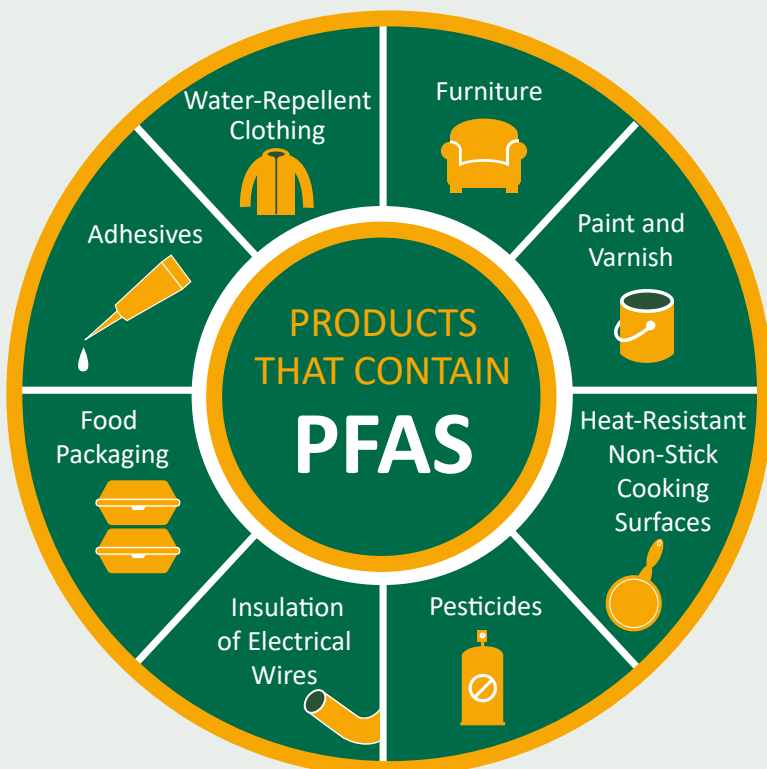
At this time, NYSDEC has not identified a source of the emerging contaminants impacting groundwater at the Mahopac Business District and nearby drinking water supplies. Additional field activities are being developed and will be implemented to support the source evaluation.

The feasibility and benefits of widespread installation and maintenance of drinking water treatment systems, called POETS, or possible extension of public water mains is being evaluated by NYSDEC in coordination with the Town of Carmel.

NYSDEC and NYSDOH will continue to keep the community informed throughout this process.

Comprehensive Assessment of Other Potential Sources

NYSDEC is overseeing a source evaluation that consists of a review of existing sampling data and a records review. The data collected to date suggests the potential for multiple sources. To further investigate for a potential source(s) of PFAS in groundwater in the affected area an investigation will be carried out through installation of up to four groundwater monitoring wells. The investigation will also assist in characterizing bedrock fractures and groundwater flow through bedrock. Site monitoring wells that have fallen into disrepair will be rehabilitated. Further, impacts from potential PFAS sources that were identified through records reviews will be further investigated by localized groundwater sampling using existing and new shallow groundwater monitoring wells.

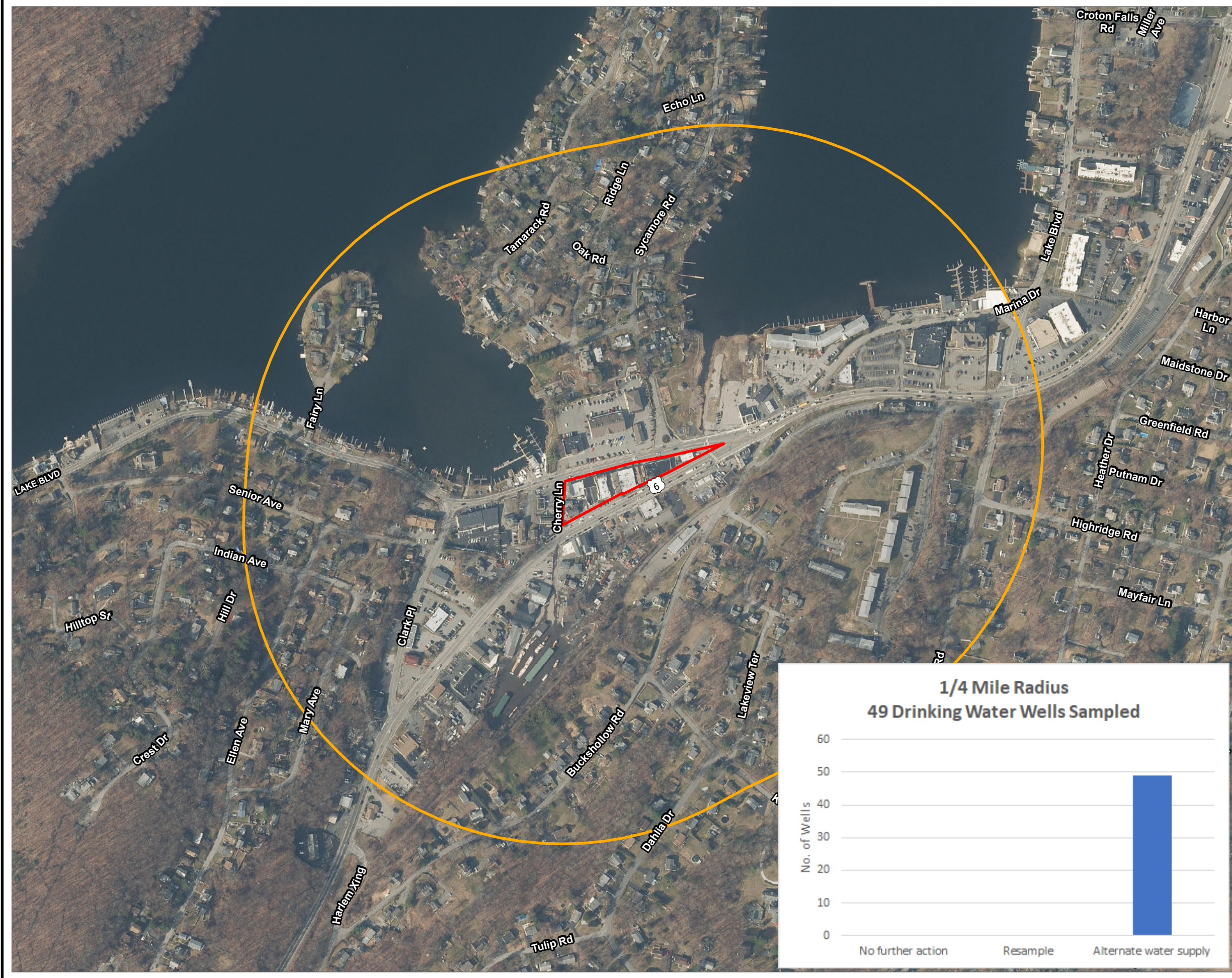


Information on PFAS

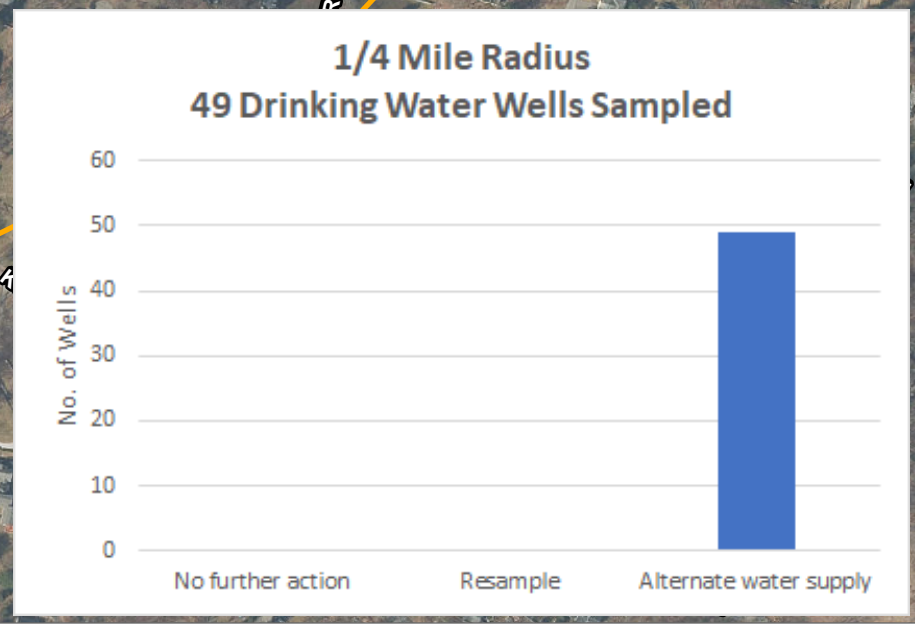
Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) are a group of chemicals used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resist heat, oil, stains, grease, and water.

Fluoropolymer coatings are blends of resins and lubricants used in products such as water-repellent clothing, furniture, adhesives, paint and varnish, food packaging, heat-resistant non-stick cooking surfaces and insulation of electrical wires. Chemicals in this group include PFOA and PFOS.

Due to their widespread use and persistence in the environment, most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS. Some of these compounds remain in the environment and in the human body for many years, but levels go down once exposures have ended. New York State is leading the nation to reduce exposure to PFAS to protected public health and the environment. More information is available at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108831.html>.



LEGEND
SITE BOUNDARY
1/4 MILE BUFFER



1:4,800
1" = 400'
0 200 400 FEET



BASE MAP: NYSGIS 2021 ORTHO PHOTOS SERVICE LAYER
DATA SOURCES: DEC, ARCADIS, TRC
SHEET SIZE: 11X17L

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
MAHOPAC BUSINESS DISTRICT WELLS - SITE NO. 340013
ROUTE 6 AND ROUTE 6N
MAHOPAC, NEW YORK

SITE RADIUS MAP

TRC
10 Maxwell Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065
Phone: 518-348-1190

DATE: 5/9/2022