# JENKINSVILLE ASSESSMENT AREA

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) are providing this community update to share progress on the State's investigation after groundwater sampling at the Queensbury Landfill detected the emerging contaminants 1,4-dioxane and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at levels that may be a concern for nearby private wells.

DEC, DOH, and local partners are committed to protecting public health and the environment in the Town of Queensbury. This community update provides an overview of DEC and DOH's recent actions to investigate potential drinking water impacts and the steps the State is taking to address groundwater contamination from landfills and other potential waste disposal operations in the area.

## Jenkinsville Assessment Area

As part of New York's statewide efforts to address emerging contaminants, DEC is investigating potential, existing, and legacy State Superfund sites and inactive landfills, including the recently sampled Queensbury Landfill, to ensure any public exposure to contamination is addressed.

New York State is committing resources to perform and/or oversee a thorough investigation of emerging contaminants, namely 1,4-dioxane and PFAS, detected in groundwater near a complex of inactive landfills between State Route 149 and Mud Pond Road in the Town of Queensbury. DEC and DOH are dedicated to ensuring that all area residents have access to clean drinking water. As part of this commitment, the two agencies are overseeing the sampling of private wells in the area and are providing an alternate water supply if levels are detected above public drinking water standards.

## Private Water Well Sampling

DEC and DOH are identifying private wells in the Jenkinsville area and offering sampling for the contaminants detected in the Queensbury Landfill monitoring wells. The State is using a phased approach that targets the closest potentially affected wells and helps determine the extent of private well contamination. This approach identifies an Area of Interest, comprised of water supply sources that draw from groundwater. The initial Area of Interest extended approximately ½ mile from the Queensbury Landfill to Ridge Road to the west, and to the south and southeast along Jenkinsville Road. The area was expanded in May to include properties further to the south in the direction of groundwater flow.

If contamination that could potentially affect public health exists, New York State immediately acts to address exposures and provide clean water to affected residents and communities. Comprehensive investigations are then launched to determine the nature and extent of contamination.

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With property owners' consent, DEC and DOH are testing nearby private wells and taking actions to reduce potential exposure where necessary. DOH uses drinking water standards as guidance when evaluating sampling data from private wells.

To date, PFAS were not detected in any private wells above New York State's public drinking water standards. 1,4-dioxane was detected in some private wells at levels above the State's public drinking water standard. The highest levels detected to date do not pose a significant health risk. However, DOH always recommends people take actions to reduce exposure when drinking water standards are exceeded. Accordingly, DEC is currently providing bottled water to residences whose results were received and showed 1,4-dioxane levels at or above the State's standard.

## INFORMATION ON 1,4-DIOXANE

In August 2020, New York State adopted the nation's first-ever public drinking water standard for 1,4-dioxane at 1 ppb for these previously unregulated contaminants in drinking water. 1,4-Dioxane is a synthetic industrial chemical commonly associated with chlorinated solvents and was widely used as a chemical stabilizer in other formulations. New information indicates that it is also a byproduct or contaminant in consumer products such as laundry detergent. 1,4-dioxane has been found in groundwater at sites throughout the United States, particularly in Long Island's sole source aquifer, and in association with legacy industrial and hazardous waste sites.

Laboratory studies show that 1,4-dioxane caused cancer in animals exposed to high levels throughout their lifetimes. There is no evidence that 1,4-dioxane causes cancer in humans. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies 1,4-dioxane as "likely to be carcinogenic to humans" based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in animals and inadequate evidence of carcinogenicity in humans.

To date, DEC and DOH solicited owners of 122 private wells for testing. The State completed sampling at 101 private wells. In addition, 3 wells at Ridge/Jenkinsville Park that are used for drinking water purposes were sampled. Of the approximately 101 homes where data was received (as of August 2, 2021), no further action is needed for 73, resampling is recommended for 9, and bottled water is being provided to 19. At this time, no additional residential property owners in the Jenkinsville Area of Interest are being solicited for well sampling. As additional data become available, DEC and DOH will reassess whether additional private wells warrant sampling.

All residents within the expanded Area of Interest were invited to participate in sampling by mail and hang tags left at properties for sampling. If a resident was offered sampling and has not responded, and is interested in sampling, please reach out to the project contacts located on the final page of this document.

DEC is working to identify all potential sources of the 1,4-dioxane and PFAS contamination. The following updates provide the latest information on the potential source investigation and progress of ongoing work in the area.

## Queensbury Landfill Investigations

The Queensbury Landfill was a municipally owned and operated solid waste disposal site in operation from the late 1940s through 1993. A portion of the property currently operates as the Town of Queensbury Transfer Station.

DEC's Division of Materials Management (DMM) performed groundwater sampling at the Queensbury Landfill site in January 2020, under the Inactive Landfill Initiative, and found detections of 1,4-dioxane and PFAS, specifically perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). Sampling from five existing landfill monitoring wells indicated maximum concentrations of 210 parts per trillion (ppt) PFOA. The maximum concentration at the landfill of 1,4-dioxane was detected at 6 parts per billion (ppb). While the groundwater at the landfill is not used

for drinking, these findings led to a recommendation by DOH to sample off-site private drinking water supplies because detected levels exceeded the State's stringent public drinking water standards for PFOA (10 ppt) and 1,4-dioxane (1 ppb).

In March 2021, DEC designated the landfill as a potential inactive hazardous waste disposal site and is moving forward to begin a Site Characterization under the State Superfund Program to determine whether the landfill is the most likely source of the contamination found in private wells downgradient and the degree to which it potentially threatens human health and/or the environment. In July 2021 the DEC retained TRC Engineers, Inc., an environmental engineering firm, to develop and implement the Site Characterization scope. Documents pertaining to this site are available in the link to the right through DECinfo Locator.

## Other Jenkinsville Area Landfills

The Finch Paper Landfill is located to the northeast of the Queensbury Landfill. DEC sampled the existing on-site monitoring wells on April 1, 2, and 6, 2021, as part of the ongoing investigation into groundwater contamination. Based on a review of the data, no obvious sources of 1,4-dioxane or PFAS were identified, therefore, the Finch Paper Landfill is not considered to be contributing to the contamination found in many of the private wells sampled.

The Ciba-Geigy Landfill is located on land off Jenkinsville Road owned by the Town of Queensbury, southwest of and adjacent to the Queensbury Landfill. DEC completed sampling of on-site monitoring wells in April 2021 as part of the ongoing investigation into ground-water contamination. Based on a review of the data, no obvious sources of 1,4-dioxane or PFAS were identified, therefore at this time Ciba-Geigy (Hercules) Landfill is not considered to be contributing to the contamination found in many of the private wells sampled.

The McLaughlin Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Landfill is an inactive landfill located directly to the west of the Ciba-Geigy Landfill and the Queensbury Landfill. DEC installed new groundwater monitoring wells at the site in April 2021. Sampling was completed in April 2021, but the data was rejected by DEC due to the samples being above the required temperature limit when received at the lab. To ensure the scientific accuracy of DEC's analysis, sampling was conducted again in June 2021. Data has been received from the June 2021 sampling. PFOA was detected at concentrations of 5 and 28 ppt in the 2 monitoring wells that produced sufficient water to be sampled for PFAS. 1,4-Dioxane was found in 3 monitoring wells ranging from 0.37 ppb to a maximum of 1.2 ppb. These data are not suggestive of a significant contributing source of these compounds to groundwater or drinking water.

## WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

### DECINFO LOCATOR

https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/557005/

### AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY FACT SHEETS

https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/factsheets.html /

### PFAS AND 1,4-DIOXANE INTERSTATE TECHNOLOGY AND REGULATORY COUNCIL (ITRC) FACT SHEETS

PFAS:
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts200.pdf

1,4-Dioxane:
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts187.pdf

## State Superfund Process

The first step under the State Superfund Program is a Site Characterization to determine if hazardous waste is present and whether it poses a significant threat to public health or the environment. The Site Characterization will include the installation and sampling of additional groundwater monitoring wells, collection of samples from any visible seeps, and collection of surface water and sediment samples, along

with a review of historical documents to determine types of waste placed in the landfill. Based on these findings, DEC may initiate a Remedial Investigation (a more detailed investigation) to determine the full extent of contamination and develop a plan for interim cleanup actions, if appropriate, or to support a plan to clean up the site.

## NEXT STEPS

DEC and DOH will continue to evaluate the need for and oversee any additional private well sampling, including taking actions to address exposures. DEC will continue to work with the owners of all the landfills in the area and oversee ongoing landfill post-closure management and oversee additional investigations as appropriate. However, the current focus of investigation will be on the Queensbury Landfill as the primary potential source of groundwater contamination affecting private drinking water supplies in the area. DEC anticipates commencing field activities as part of the Site Characterization work this fall. DEC and DOH will continue to keep the community informed throughout the process.

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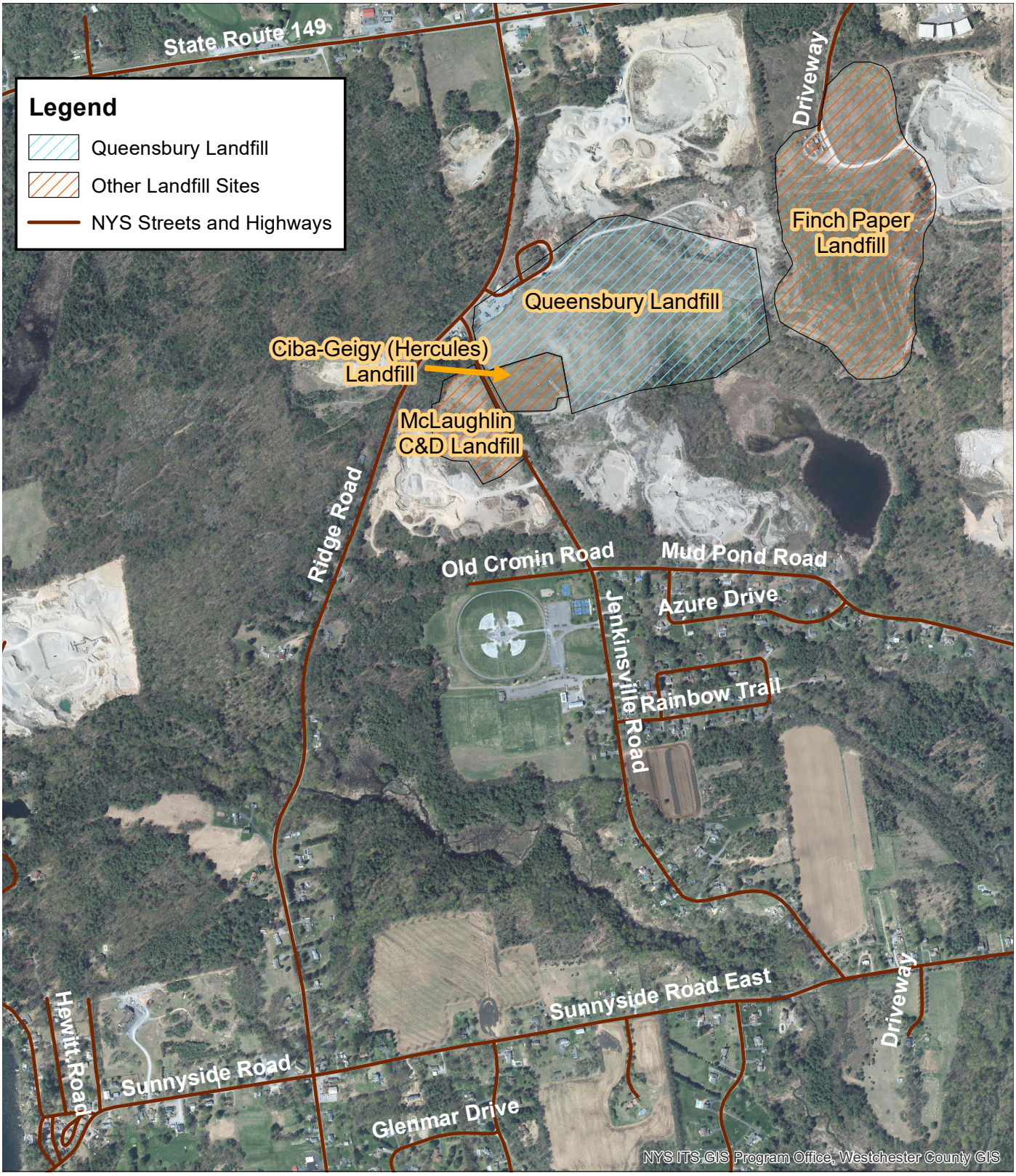


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