

FACT SHEET

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

AT

DFSP VERONA

5440 WEST MAIN STREET

VERONA, NEW YORK

Defense Logistics Agency-Energy, (DLA-E), will be performing a Remedial Investigation per the requirements of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), who will oversee activities involving the collection of soil, groundwater, sediment and surface water samples for laboratory analysis of per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) compounds in Verona, New York. The Remedial Investigation is anticipated to begin in late summer or fall 2024.

BACKGROUND

Defense Fuel Supply Point (DFSP) Verona was constructed in 1959 as a fuel storage and transfer facility. Currently owned by the United States Air Force, it was operated by Defense Logistics Agency-Energy (DLA-E) until it was decommissioned in 2017. Hydrogeologic investigations including groundwater monitoring performed since 2017 indicate that PFAS compounds from the fire suppression system has impacted soil and groundwater on the facility property. The known releases that occurred (one event sometime between 1988- 1993, and another event in 2003) were accidental in nature, when lightening tripped the photonic eye of the fire suppression system and foam material containing PFAS was released to the ground surface. Even though PFAS was not considered a regulated contaminant at that time, the releases were reported and cleanup was performed. Additional releases to the environment may have occurred during storage and maintenance activities of the fire-fighting foam material. PFAS from these releases has migrated downslope to the northwestern portion of the site via groundwater and stormwater.

A PFAS Remedial Investigation Workplan to further delineate and investigate the impact to human health and the environment has been approved by the NYSDEC. This Work Plan is available for public review in the Oneida Public Library. A Fact Sheet for PFAS from the USEPA is attached to this document.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

The primary goal of the Work Plan is to investigate the extent of PFAS compounds from DFSP Verona impacting soil, groundwater, surface water and sediment, per the requirements of the NYSDEC.

The environmental history of DFSP Verona is well documented. The release of PFAS was reported in September 2017 and the investigation is nearly complete pending the work described in the Remedial Investigation Work Plan. With the environmental history well known, and the environmental investigation and cleanup work already performed to date, the PFAS release is well understood and the

main receptor is considered to be the Stony Creek wetlands located to the northwest. No major migration pathway of contaminants to the community has been identified.

The potential for risk to human health from this site to the community at this point in the investigation is regarded as low as the PFAS is limited to the DFSP property, and a portion of the adjacent CSX railroad property to the northwest. Stony Creek and the associated wetlands will be evaluated as part of the Remedial Investigation. The exposure to PFAS to the community is low as groundwater at the site, and surface water within the wetlands, is not used as a source of drinking water. No restrictions on public activity is anticipated.

The NYSDEC was notified by DLA-E of the findings of the Site investigation for PFAS. On September 20, 2017, the NYSDEC conducted private well sampling in the surrounding community for PFAS in drinking water. Laboratory results indicated there were no impacts of PFAS detected above the NYSDOH Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) of 10 nanograms per liter (ng/L) of PFOS and 10 ng/L of PFOA. Of the ten private wells sampled, only one sample, located on New York Route 31 (approximately 2,400 feet to the northwest of the Site and across Stony Creek), had a detection of PFAS at 5.8 ng/L. All other private well results were not detected for PFAS.

The *Final Site Characterization Report* (July 2019), performed to investigate the PFAS releases, was approved by the NYSDEC in a letter to DLA- E dated September 4, 2019. The letter indicated that subsequent investigations should be performed to investigate the extent of soil and groundwater contamination and determine if groundwater contamination is impacting Stony Creek. That is the goal of the Remedial Investigation.

The impact from PFAS in soil is limited to the DFSP property, and a cleanup action has already been performed that excavated the higher concentrations in soil which were properly disposed off-site. Additionally, the site has been decommissioned and all petroleum and foam containing PFAS have been removed. The site is vacant with a security fence and gate and all future work will be performed per the approvals and reporting requirements of the NYSDEC, a Health and Safety Plan to protect site workers per OSHA requirements, and a Citizens Community Plan designed to inform and protect the public.

A Site Plan follows that shows the DFSP property and the layout of groundwater monitoring wells. These wells have been sampled once or twice per year since 2017 with the results provided to the NYSDEC.



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FIGURE 1
REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION WORK PLAN

FACT SHEET

DESIGNED BY: CP
CHECKED BY: EB
APPROVED BY: EB
DRAWN BY: CP
SCALE: AS SHOWN
DATE: 6/8/2023

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Drinking Water Health Advisories for PFAS Fact Sheet for Communities

On June 15, 2022, EPA released four drinking water health advisories for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). In releasing these drinking water health advisories, EPA is acting in accordance with its mission and responsibility to protect public health and keep communities informed when new science becomes available. EPA is committed to partnering with states, Tribes, territories, and water utilities, and the agency's new health advisories represent a key input that can be used to inform actions to address PFAS in drinking water, including water quality monitoring, changing sources of drinking water or modifying treatment to reduce exposure to these substances. EPA also announced that it is inviting states and territories to apply for \$1 billion – the first of \$5 billion in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law grant funding – to address PFAS and other emerging contaminants in drinking water, specifically in small or disadvantaged communities.

What are PFAS?

PFAS are a group of manufactured chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1940s. There are thousands of different PFAS, some of which have been more widely used and studied than others. One common concern is that PFAS generally break down very slowly, meaning that concentrations can accumulate in people, animals, and the environment over time.

Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS) are two of the most widely used and studied chemicals in the PFAS group. PFOA and PFOS have been replaced in the United States with other PFAS in recent years. In chemical and product manufacturing, GenX chemicals are considered a replacement for PFOA, and perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS) is considered a replacement for PFOS.

What Is a Health Advisory?

Drinking water health advisories provide information on contaminants that can cause human health effects and are known or anticipated to occur in drinking water. EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory and provide technical information to states agencies and other public health officials on health effects, analytical methods, and treatment technologies associated with drinking water contamination.

EPA's lifetime health advisories identify levels to protect all people, including sensitive populations and life stages, from adverse health effects resulting from exposure throughout their lives to these PFAS in drinking water. The health advisory levels were calculated to offer a margin of protection against adverse health effects. EPA's lifetime health advisories also take into account other potential sources of exposure to these PFAS beyond drinking water (for example, food, air, consumer products, etc.), which provides an additional layer of protection.

What Is the Basis for EPA's New Health Advisories?

The interim updated health advisories for PFOA and PFOS are based on human studies in populations exposed to these chemicals. Human studies have found associations between PFOA and/or PFOS

exposure and effects on the immune system, the cardiovascular system, human development (e.g., decreased birth weight), and cancer. The final health advisories for GenX chemicals and PFBS are based on animal studies following oral exposure to these chemicals. GenX chemicals have been linked to health effects on the liver, the kidney, the immune system, and developmental effects, as well as cancer. PFBS has been linked to health effects on the thyroid, reproductive system, development, and kidney.

Why is EPA Issuing Interim Updated Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS?

Consistent with EPA's mission and responsibility to protect public health and keep communities informed when new science becomes available, EPA is issuing interim updated health advisories for PFOA and PFOS in light of new scientific information on these chemicals' health effects. These interim health advisories will be in place until EPA's forthcoming PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation is in effect.

What are the Health Advisory Levels?

- Interim updated Health Advisory for PFOA = 0.004 parts per trillion (ppt)
- Interim updated Health Advisory for PFOS = 0.02 ppt
- Final Health Advisory for GenX chemicals = 10 ppt
- Final Health Advisory for PFBS = 2,000 ppt

What Does this Mean for Communities?

The agency recognizes that these new health advisories may raise many questions. EPA encourages people who are concerned to learn about PFAS, including actions that may already be underway and opportunities to reduce exposure. EPA has created [answers to a list of important questions](#) related to this announcement to help members of the public learn more.

If you are concerned about PFAS in your drinking water, EPA recommends you contact your local water utility to learn more about your drinking water and to see whether they have monitoring data for PFAS or can provide any specific recommendations for your community. EPA recommends that public water systems that find PFOA or PFOS in their drinking water take steps to inform customers, undertake additional sampling to assess the level, scope, and source of contamination, and examine steps to limit exposure.

In many communities, public health officials have taken steps to reduce exposure to PFAS in drinking water. Current science indicates that **lower levels of PFAS exposure present less risk**, so those efforts help protect public health.

Drinking water systems have reduced exposure to PFAS by closing contaminated wells, changing the rates of blending of water sources, or installing technologies that remove PFAS from the water (such as granular activated carbon or reverse osmosis).

If you are **concerned about PFAS in your drinking water**:

- Learn about testing and actions your water system may have taken, or request testing.
- If you have a home drinking water well, ensure you are protecting and maintaining it: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water>
- Consider any resources and recommendations from your state: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/us-state-resources-about-pfas>

- Review EPA's Meaningful and Achievable Steps You Can Take to Reduce Your Risk:
<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/meaningful-and-achievable-steps-you-can-take-reduce-your-risk>
- Review EPA's questions and answers about these drinking water health advisories:
<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/questions-and-answers-drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>
- Follow EPA's progress in developing a PFAS National Drinking Water Regulation:
<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>
- Learn about EPA funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to reduce PFAS in water:
<https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/wiin-grant-emerging-contaminants>.
- Learn more about PFAS and review the agency's PFAS Strategic Roadmap:
<https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-strategic-roadmap-epas-commitments-action-2021-2024>

* List of Acronyms: Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA); Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS); Perfluorobutane Sulfonic Acid and its Potassium Salt (PFBS); Hexafluoropropylene Oxide (HFPO) Dimer Acid and its Ammonium Salt (GenX Chemicals)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Project documents are available at the following location to help the public stay informed.

Oneida Public Library

459 Broad Street
Verona, NY 13478
Phone: 315.363.3050

WHO TO CONTACT:

Comments and questions are always welcome and should be directed as follows:

Project Related Questions:

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