


Hoosick Falls Municipal Water Supply Study Released/ Meeting Announced

New York State Superfund Program Hoosick Falls, New York

WHO TO CONTACT 

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

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FOR INFORMATION ON THE HOOSICK FALLS AREA CLEANUP ACTIVITIES, PLEASE VISIT:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108791.html>

<https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442046>

New York State is committed to ensuring that Hoosick Falls Water District residents have access to clean and reliable drinking water now and into the future. As part of that commitment, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has directed Saint-Gobain and Honeywell, the parties responsible for the contamination of the existing public water supply well field, to perform a Municipal Water Supply Study of other potential drinking water source options.

This study produced by the companies has been thoroughly reviewed by DEC experts to ensure it met the specific requirements directed by the state and is now available for public comment. Copies of the report are available at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108791.html>.

DEC encourages the community to weigh in on the options presented in the companies' draft study and is accepting feedback through November 18, 2019, via e-mail HoosickWaterSupply@dec.ny.gov or letters to DEC Project Engineer Ian Beilby (address adjacent).

In addition, DEC is hosting availability sessions and overseeing a presentation of the options identified in the study at a community meeting with the Town, Village and the Community Participation Work Group (CPWG) on October 23 at 6 p.m. at the Hoosick Falls High School. The availability sessions will be held on the same date and location at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The sessions will provide an opportunity for members of the public to interact one-on-one with the companies, DEC, and New York State Department of Health (DOH) officials, get information on the work underway in the community, and provide feedback on the study.

Municipal Water Supply Study Options

The water supply study produced by the companies has found the following five potential options for a long-term water source for the village of Hoosick Falls water supply:

- New groundwater source (LaCroix & Wysocki Wells)
- New surface water source (Tomhannock Reservoir)
- Interconnection with an existing public water supply (City of Troy)
- Continued use of existing wells with upgrades
- Continued use of existing wells with upgrades and capture of PFAS affecting the existing village wellfield

Project Background

In 2016, Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) contamination was confirmed in the Village of Hoosick Falls' drinking water supply. The state's first priority was to eliminate the community's exposure to the contamination, and install a granular activated carbon (GAC) treatment system in the village water treatment plant to filter the PFOA and other per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS) from the drinking water supply. This filtration system is routinely monitored and maintained, and continues to effectively treat the contaminants and provide clean water to the community. Recognizing that a new source of water for the village may be necessary, New York State committed to ensuring a study to evaluate sources of drinking water capable of replacing the existing public supply wells was performed by Saint-Gobain and Honeywell, the Responsible Parties identified under the state Superfund program.

To jumpstart water source investigations, DEC located a geologically suitable property south of the Village to install a test drinking water supply well. Once installed, pump tests were performed which indicated insufficient water production rates could be attained from this one well. Given other favorable geologic conditions in this area of the Hoosick River valley, the Responsible Parties were directed to install a second well and evaluate water volume and quality. Test results confirmed that sufficient volumes of water could be generated from the second well to supply existing needs, and from both wells to supply anticipated future needs.

As these groundwater wells were being installed, the Responsible Parties were also studying other options for a drinking water source. Under DEC direction, those options included a surface water source and an alternative municipal source. The Tomhannock Reservoir was identified as a viable alternative surface water source and the City of Troy's municipal water system was shown to be sufficient as an alternative municipal supply. These are among the options identified by the companies in the study for public review and input.

In addition to this work on the municipal water supply study, DEC continues to oversee and direct the Responsible Parties as they undertake detailed investigations into the nature and extent of the contamination in the community and in the development of cleanup plans. Additionally, DOH initiated, and continues to maintain, a biomonitoring program to assess and monitor levels of per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) in the blood of Hoosick-area residents. Two rounds of blood samples have been collected and analyzed with results being provided to the individuals.

Public Engagement and Information Exchange

DEC will join the Town of Hoosick, Village of Hoosick Falls, and the CPWG at their upcoming meeting and, with DOH, host two availability sessions to collect comments on the companies' water supply study and answer questions from the public that may arise upon review of the document. DEC officials will be available to discuss the water supply options evaluated and presented in the study and explain the process and requirements of the Responsible Parties in conducting their study and why some options offered by the community were ruled out.

Attendees at the meeting will have the opportunity to ask DEC and Responsible Party representatives questions related to the water supply study and offer feedback and impressions on the various options that are presented.

DOH will be presenting the Round 2 biomonitoring results for groups of participants from the Hoosick and Petersburg areas. The presentation will include group-level PFAS blood level results from Round 2. Comparisons between Round 2 and Round 1 PFOA level results will be presented to show the pace of PFOA blood level reductions. DOH will also provide a brief overview of the Multi-site Health Study recently funded by Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry.

The state's availability sessions at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on October 23 are opportunities for the public to meet and discuss topics in a one-on-one format with representatives of the agencies and Responsible Parties. Representatives will be prepared to talk about the water supply study alternatives, the DOH biomonitoring program, and the various remedial projects taking place in and around Hoosick Falls. Visual aids and figures will be on display for the various sites in which the DEC is involved including:

- Saint-Gobain – McCaffrey Street
- Saint-Gobain – Liberty Street
- John Street
- Hoosick Falls Landfill
- Mechanic Street
- River Road
- Interface Solutions

Next Steps

At the conclusion of the comment period on November 18, DEC will evaluate the community feedback, and direct the Responsible Parties to make any necessary revisions to the study before finalization. The recommended supply may be one of the options presented in the water supply study or an alternative that combines and/or enhances some elements of the options in the study. The public will have additional opportunities to provide input on the water source recommendation before a final selection of an option that will be implemented to provide clean drinking water.

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION



Project documents are at these locations:

Village of Hoosick Falls Library
73 Classic Street
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090
(518) 686-9401

Village of Hoosick Falls Offices
24 Main Street
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090
(518) 686-7072

Project documents are available on the NYSDEC website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108791.html>

TO STAY INFORMED



DEC DELIVERS: SIGN UP at
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>

DECinfo LOCATOR: A MAP-BASED document and information repository <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/109457.html>