COMMUNITY UPDATE

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation | Department of Health

FEBRUARY 2022

POESTENKILL PFAS INVESTIGATION

Updates: New Investigation Summary Reports

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH), and the Rensselaer County Department of Health (RCDOH), are working together to protect the public health and environment of the Poestenkill community. The following is an update from the November 2021 community update.

The State and County's comprehensive investigation began after DOH-required public water supply sampling at the Algonquin Middle School detected per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), specifically perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), at levels slightly above New York's public drinking water standard for PFOA of 10 parts per trillion (ppt). Beginning in December 2021, the school installed a granular activated carbon (GAC) system to provide effective long-term treatment of the contaminants to ensure clean water for the school community. System startup and flushing of the school's distribution system continued throughout January and into February 2022. The school district is currently working with the RCDOH to test the water and make the system operational.

DEC, DOH, and RCDOH held two public availability sessions on Wednesday, Dec. 8, 2021, at the Middle School for local residents to ask questions directly and engage in conversations with State and County staff. The presentation materials and other updates are on DEC's Poestenkill Assessment Area website https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/124334.html and staff remain available to answer any questions the community may have.

Private Well Testing

In August 2021, RCDOH began sampling nearby private wells starting with those closest to the school. To date, the County has contacted 116 private homes to sample wells, 89 wells were tested, and the County shared the results with all of the property owners. Of the 89 sampled private wells, PFOA or and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) was detected above the State's highly protective public drinking water standards in 14 private wells. New York State does not regulate PFAS in private wells. The state's public drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS are used as guidelines to recommend actions to reduce exposures in private wells. As a result, DEC is providing the 14 homes served by private wells that exceed the 10 ppt standard with point-of-entry-treatment systems (or POETs) to filter out PFAS chemicals and provide clean drinking water. The remaining 75 private wells did not show PFAS detections above the standards.

Residents who collect their own samples are encouraged to share the results with the RCDOH. None of the samples collected by residents outside of the current assessment area boundaries have exceeded public drinking water standards.

For more information on PFAS and Private Wells: https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/pfasinprivatewells.htm

Algonquin Middle School Investigations

In November 2021, DEC completed a preliminary investigation at the Middle School to help determine the source of PFAS found in the water supply wells. This work included the collection of soil and groundwater samples on the school property. DEC also collected samples of surface water and sediment from the creek which runs along the south and west of the school. All samples were tested for multiple PFAS chemicals using a certified laboratory for analyses. Select wells were also sampled for volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

There were no detections of VOCs in any collected samples. PFOA was detected above the drinking water standard at two temporary monitoring well location (22 ppt in MW-4 and 47 ppt in MW-22).

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DEC prepared a data summary report which details the sampling and analysis efforts. The February 2022 report is available for download at the DEC's Poestenkill Assessment Area webpage: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/124334.html

The next phase of field work is anticipated to begin in Spring 2022. Continued investigation efforts will involve the use of specialized drilling techniques and exploration methods to understand the depth and orientation of bedrock fractures and help with the placement of permanent groundwater monitoring wells into bedrock. In addition to sampling groundwater, measurements of water depth will also be taken to assess groundwater flow direction and gauge whether contamination may be emanating from an off-site source or sources.

Potential Nearby Sources of PFAS

Nearby commercial properties that are being considered as potential sources of PFAS due to the nature of their operations include *Valente Lumber, Cooper's Used Auto Parts, the WM Transfer Station, Haas Manufacturing, and a former car wash*. DEC remains open to conducting sampling on these properties with the owner's consent. Should the results of the ongoing investigation at the Algonquin Middle School indicate that contamination is migrating onto the school property from one or more of these businesses, DEC will take appropriate actions to investigate the source.

Poestenkill Landfill. As previously reported, DEC collected samples of groundwater from six wells at the closed landfill in late October 2021. Based on the results of groundwater sampling at the landfill, the DEC and DOH determined that the landfill is not a source of PFAS contamination in drinking water supply wells at the Middle School or Algonquin Estates. Continued monitoring of the closed landfill is being performed by the Town of Poestenkill in accordance with DEC's post-closure requirements.

Other Manufacturing Plants in Poestenkill

As part of DEC's statewide and ongoing efforts to assess facilities that have or may have used PFAS, groundwater sampling at two local manufacturing plants was performed. These two plants are located two miles north of the Algonquin Middle School on Route 355 at an elevation more than 160 feet below the Middle School. Geographical evaluation of the topography in the Poestenkill area, the higher elevation of the school relative to the two facilities, the low concentrations of PFAS detected in groundwater, the presumed groundwater flow direction, and the significant distance between the two areas leads DEC to conclude that these two manufacturing plants are not contributing to the contamination observed at the Middle School or in private wells surrounding the school.

Dynamic Systems Inc. The DSI facility is currently in the DEC State Superfund Program as a "P" site, or potential Inactive Hazardous Waste Site (Site ID #442040). A DEC Order on Consent was signed in 2011 to require a site characterization to investigate chlorinated solvents, including trichloroethylene (TCE), in groundwater. Interim steps were taken to address the TCE, which is not a PFAS chemical, and additional work is needed/monitoring is ongoing.

At DEC's request, DSI collected groundwater samples from three monitoring wells at their Poestenkill facility in November 2021 as part of DEC's ongoing remedial program efforts at the site. The samples were analyzed for PFAS and VOCs. PFOA was detected in one of the three wells sampled at a maximum concentration of 23.1 ppt, which exceeds the New York State drinking water standard of 10 ppt. PFOS was also detected in the

same groundwater sample at a concentration of 6.59 ppt, below the New York State drinking water standard of 10 ppt.

The results of the sampling at DSI are summarized in the most-recent semi-annual monitoring report prepared by DSI which is available for download at the DEC's Poestenkill Assessment Area web page: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/124334.html.

While the low-level contamination detected at DSI is not impacting drinking water supplies in the vicinity of the Middle School, the State is taking actions out of an abundance of caution to further assess the PFAS in groundwater at DSI and address any potential exposures in nearby drinking water supply wells.

NEXT STEPS

RCDOH, DEC and DOH will continue to implement the currently planned private well sampling as well as evaluate the need for and oversee any additional private well sampling, including taking actions to address exposures.

DEC will work with the owners of properties in the area and conduct investigations as appropriate. At this time, DEC has not identified a potential source of the detections of emerging contaminants impacting groundwater at the Algonquin Middle School s water supply or private drinking water supplies in the area, and additional field activities are being developed and implemented. DEC and DOH will continue to keep the community informed throughout the process.

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

The following actions will be taken by DEC in the coming weeks: 1) testing of drinking water at up to 13 nearby homes that are not connected to the municipal water supply and 2) providing an alternate water supply if levels are detected above the State's stringent public drinking water standards. DSI has agreed to collect groundwater depth measurements in all onsite monitoring wells and resample certain monitoring wells for PFOA and PFOS during the next semi-annual sampling event.

As employed at other sites, DEC and DOH will be using a phased approach that targets the closest potentially affected wells and helps determine the extent of private well contamination.

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics. Groundwater samples were collected from four existing monitoring wells at the SGPP facility in early January 2022 and analyzed for PFAS and 1,4-dioxane. PFOS was detected in three of the four wells at concentrations ranging from 4.2 ppt to 5.0 ppt. PFOA was detected in all four wells and ranged from 0.47 ppt to 3.7 ppt. A report summarizing the sampling results is now available on the DEC's Poestenkill Assessment Area website: https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/124334.html.

Based on the information contained in the report, the DEC and DOH do not believe further action is required.

Ongoing Community Engagement

Private well sampling by RCDOH is ongoing and will be expanded as needed based on sampling results from private wells and from the source investigations. If any exceedance of public drinking water standards is found, the State or County will, at the owner's request, immediately provide an alternate water supply to ensure the protection of public health.

DEC, DOH, and RCDOH experts will continue to keep the community informed about the area-wide activities throughout the process and are always available to answer questions from residents. Please see "Who to Contact" below for key points of contact.

WHO TO CONTACT

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NY Highway 66

Weatherwax Rd

Colehamer Rd

Poestenkill Landfill
Oct 2021: Groundwater Sampled

Cherokee Ln

Liberty Ln

Hass Manufacturing

Seneca Dr

Mohawk Dr

Averill Park Rd

Waste Management Transfer Station
Septemeber 2021: Private Well Sampled

Algonquin Middle School
November 2021: Groundwater, Soil,
Surface Water, and Sediment Sampled

Former Car Wash

Ford Rd

Cayuga Ct

Lumber Yard

Gun Club Way

Castle Way

NY Highway 66

Algonquin Beach Rd

Turnabout Rd

Cooper Tire
Disposal Area

Reichards Lake Rd

Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c)
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Dynamic Systems Inc
November 2021:
Groundwater Sampled

Saint-Gobain
January 2022:
Groundwater Sampled

Algonquin Middle School

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Legend

- Potential Sources
- Algonquin Middle School
- Local Streets

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

Date: 2/22/2022

DEC Potential Source Investigation
Poestenkill, NY

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

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Kathy Hochul, Governor | **Basil Seggos**, Commissioner **www.dec.ny.gov**

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