

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
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March 8, 2016

Honorable David Borge
Mayor
Village of Hoosick Falls
Municipal Building
24 Main Street
Hoosick Falls, New York 12090

Dear Mayor Borge:

I write this letter to update you on the status of the Department's discussions with Honeywell International and Saint Gobain Performance Plastics (the "Companies") regarding the investigation and cleanup of PFOA contamination in the Village of Hoosick Falls and Town of Hoosick. Those discussions, which build upon the previous conversations among the Village, Saint Gobain and the State, involve securing the Companies' commitment through an Order on Consent under the State Superfund law to continue the work they have thus far voluntarily agreed to perform. Specifically, the continued commitment to provide bottled water to village residents and to install, operate and maintain the temporary Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) system that would treat the village drinking water supply.

Additionally, the Order on Consent that the parties are currently negotiating would require the installation of a full capacity GAC system that would be designed to remove PFOA contamination from the Village water supply. The Companies have indicated a willingness to implement these measures to protect drinking water supplies in the Village, along with conducting an investigation to determine the location of sources of PFOA, and ultimately a full remedy that would cleanup that contamination. The Order on Consent would unambiguously place the Companies in the State Superfund program through an enforceable document.

As the enclosed letter indicates, Saint Gobain specifically has reaffirmed its promise to proceed with these commitments while the Department and the companies finalize an Order on Consent. In this respect, Saint Gobain stated that its "commitment on these matters will not alter, and will be maintained, during any period of negotiations ... concerning a consent order."

Finally, to ensure that the full capacity GAC system is put in place in a timely fashion, DOH has completed its initial review of Saint Gobain's design submission and today sent the company a comment letter that identified a few areas that Saint Gobain needs to address. Once Saint Gobain has addressed these areas, DOH expects to be able to approve the design, which would allow installation and construction to begin in an expeditious manner. While these immediate measures proceed, the State remains committed to evaluating the feasibility of an alternative water supply for the Village as a potential remedy for the present contamination of the ground water caused by PFOA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Basil Seggos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Basil Seggos
Acting Commissioner

Enclosure