NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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NOV 23 2016

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Supervisor Alan Webster
Town of Petersburgh
PO Box 130
65 Main Street
Petersburgh, NY 12138

Supervisor Robert E. Shay
Town of White Creek
28 Mountainview Drive
Cambridge, NY 12816

Dear Elected Officials:

As you know several investigations have been conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to assess perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) contamination in the Hoosick Falls and Petersburgh areas. Sampling events were developed based on findings from private well sampling, previous environmental sampling and reported disposal areas. These investigations will provide information to

better understand the possible sources, extent and potential impacts of the PFOA contamination in the Hoosick Falls and Petersburgh areas. Initial data indicates that multiple sources may be contributing to PFOA contamination in the region. Potential sources include the current and former manufacturing sites, closed landfills and suspected illegal disposal sites. The ongoing investigations are being performed in consultation with the New York State Department of Health (DOH). Recent DOH data from private wells in Washington County has led to investigations extending into the Towns of Cambridge, Jackson and White Creek.

Surface Water Low Flow Sampling Data

In August and September, the DEC conducted three sampling events along the Hoosic River and tributaries to the Hoosic River from Petersburgh to Buskirk, in order to assess PFOA concentrations within the region during low flow conditions. Table 1 presents the sample locations and the detections of PFOA and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) from the three sampling events. Figure 1 shows where surface water samples were collected and presents the PFOA results. PFOA was detected in all samples. The highest PFOA detections were from Case Brook and a tributary to Case Brook, which is located northwest of Hoosick Falls. Samples from Washington County tributaries detected low levels of PFOA within Little White Creek and the Owl Kill, but elevated PFOA levels within Whipple Brook. PFOA was also detected near the Vermont border in the Walloomsac River and Browns Brook. PFOA samples from the Hoosic River ranged from 13 parts per trillion (ppt) upstream of Hoosick Falls to 32 ppt downstream of Hoosick Falls. These concentrations are higher than PFOA results from February, which detected 7 ppt upstream of Hoosick Falls and 11 ppt downstream of Hoosick Falls. A sample from the Little Hoosic River in Petersburgh detected PFOA at 130 ppt, which is higher than the concentrations previously detected in February (20 ppt) and July (47.8 ppt). The lower flow in the river system in August and September 2016 appears to be the main factor for the increase in surface water PFOA concentrations.

Sediment Sampling Data

The primary goal of the third sampling event was to include sediment sampling in order to assess the presence of PFOA within river sediment. Based on surface water conditions observed during the first two sampling events, locations were selected to collect collocated surface water and sediment samples. Table 1 presents the sample locations and the detections of PFOA and PFOS from the sampling event. Figure 2 shows where samples were collected and presents the surface water and sediment PFOA results. PFOA was detected in all surface water samples. The highest surface water PFOA detections were from two pond samples, one adjacent to the Hoosick Falls Landfill and the other from a small pond near the Taconic facility. This may be attributed to the proximity to potential sources. PFOA was detected in sediment at the two pond locations where elevated PFOA concentrations were present within the collocated surface water samples. PFOA was not detected within the sediments where low concentrations of PFOA were detected within the overlying water.

Next Steps

Based on the enclosed data, DEC has recently collected additional surface water samples within Case Brook and Whipple Brook to further evaluate PFOA. DEC has also collected surface water samples at the Town of Cambridge Yard Waste facility and surface water and groundwater samples from the Cambridge Landfill. DEC will also share this data as it becomes available.

DEC will continue to investigate suspected disposal sites. We thank your residents for working with DEC to identify such sites through our tip line. DEC encourages residents to come forward with any information they may have about alleged disposal activities by contacting DEC at 518-402-9676.

Information is available on the DOH website regarding PFOA. In particular the August 2016 Frequently Asked Questions: PFOA in soils, water, and impact on agriculture. A copy of this document is available on the DOH website provided below.

https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/investigations/hoosick/

We will continue to make ourselves available to you, and the residents of the Towns and Villages you represent, to answer any questions regarding our ongoing efforts through the Superfund program to address the PFOA contamination in your communities. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or need any additional information on these important remediation projects.

Sincerely,

William L Daigle, P.E.
Director
Remedial Bureau D

cc: Keith Goertz, Region 4 Director
Robert Stegemann, Region 5 Director
Richard Mustico, NYSDEC
Justin Deming, NYSDOH
Charlotte Bethoney, NYSDOH
Rich Elder, RCDOH

Table 1: Hoosick Falls Landfill - Sample Summary
Rensselaer & Washington Counties, New York

Client ID	Date	River	Medium	Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS)	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	Units
HFSW1	8/25/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	2.80	17.3	ppt
HFSW2	8/25/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	3.07	18.6	ppt
HFSW3	8/25/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	2.44	18.5	ppt
HFSW4	8/25/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	2.11	16.8	ppt
DUP (HFSW4)	8/25/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	3.09	17.1	ppt
HFSW5	8/25/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	2.06	14.4	ppt
HFSW6	8/25/2016	Owl Kill	Surface Water	1.82	5.16	ppt
HFSW7	8/25/2016	Owl Kill	Surface Water	1.76	3.69	ppt
HFSW8	8/25/2016	Case Brook	Surface Water	ND	188	ppt
HFSW9	8/25/2016	Case Brook Tributary	Surface Water	ND	157	ppt
HFSW10	8/25/2016	Little White Creek	Surface Water	ND	2.09	ppt
HFSW11	8/25/2016	Walloomsac River	Surface Water	ND	23.3	ppt
HFSW12	8/25/2016	Walloomsac River	Surface Water	ND	22.0	ppt
HFSW5	9/8/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	3.7	32	ppt
HFSW6	9/8/2016	Owl Kill	Surface Water	3.1	11	ppt
HFSW13	9/8/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	3.7	24	ppt
HFSW14	9/8/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	6.9	28	ppt
HFSW15	9/8/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	11	27	ppt
HFSW16	9/8/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	3.9	17	ppt
HFSW18	9/8/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	4.0	16	ppt
DUP (HFSW18)	9/8/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	4.4	17	ppt
HFSW19	9/8/2016	Browns Brook	Surface Water	3.6	44	ppt
HFSW20	9/8/2016	Browns Brook	Surface Water	4.1	55	ppt
HFSW21	9/8/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	3.9	14	ppt
HFSW22	9/8/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	4.0	13	ppt
HFSW23	9/8/2016	Little Hoosic River	Surface Water	ND	130	ppt
HFSWA	9/21/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	2.6	18	ppt
HFSW1A	9/21/2016	Whipple Brook	Surface Water	5.4	58	ppt
HFSW5	9/21/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	3.7	19	ppt
HFSW8	9/21/2016	Case Brook	Surface Water	ND	130	ppt
HFSW9	9/21/2016	Case Brook Tributary	Surface Water	ND	170	ppt
HFSW11	9/21/2016	Walloomsac River	Surface Water	ND	21	ppt
HFSW16	9/21/2016	Hoosic River	Surface Water	2.7	13	ppt
PETSW	9/21/2016	Private Pond	Surface Water	ND	1,100	ppt
HFSWTHAY	9/21/2016	Thayer Pond	Surface Water	4.7	780	ppt
HFSEDA	9/21/2016	Hoosic River	Sediment	4.2	ND	ppb
HFSED5	9/21/2016	Hoosic River	Sediment	ND	ND	ppb
DUP1 (HFSED5)	9/21/2016	Hoosic River	Sediment	ND	ND	ppb
HFSED11	9/21/2016	Walloomsac River	Sediment	ND	ND	ppb
HFSED16	9/21/2016	Hoosic River	Sediment	ND	ND	ppb
HFSEDTHAY	9/21/2016	Thayer Pond	Sediment	0.80	14	ppb
PETSED19085	9/21/2016	Private Pond	Sediment	ND	23	ppb

ppt: parts per trillion
ppb: parts per billion
ND: not detected

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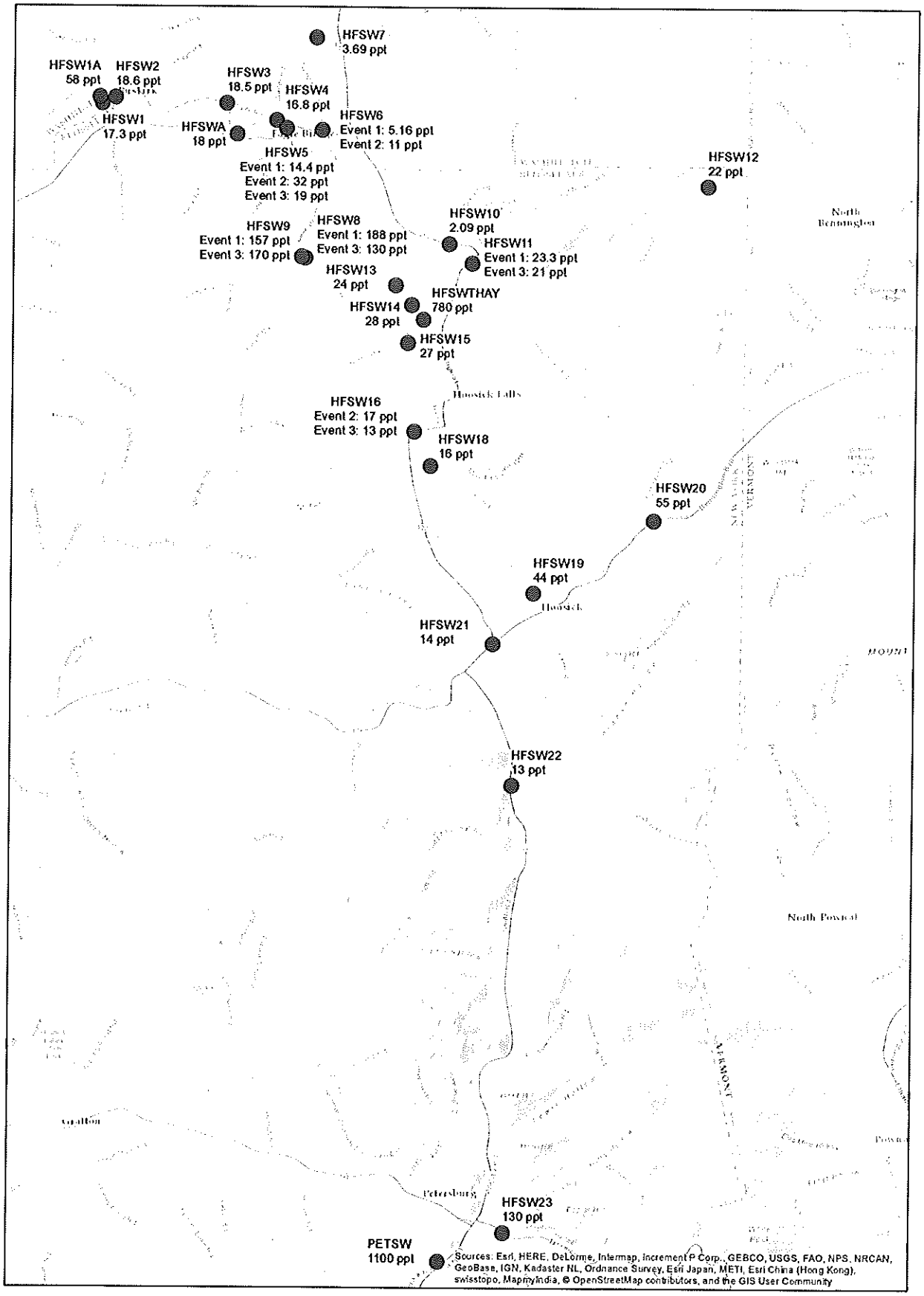
Figure 1: Baseflow Stream Sampling PFOA Results August & September 2016 Rensselaer & Washington Counties, New York



0 3,000 6,000 12,000 18,000 Feet

1 inch = 6,000 feet

Legend

- Surface Water Sample Location

ppt: parts per trillion

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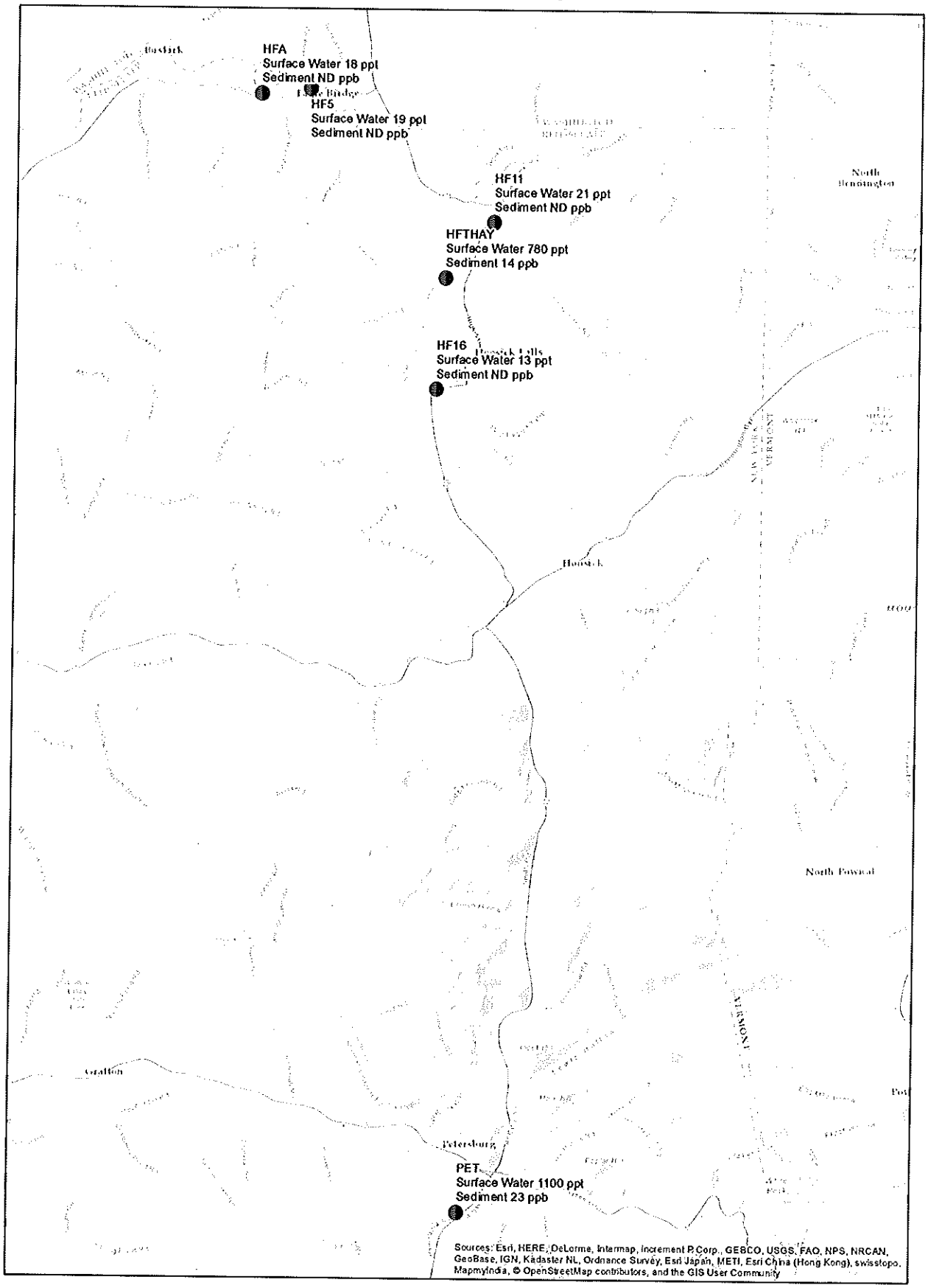
Figure 2: Surface Water & Sediment PFOA Results September 2016 Rensselaer & Washington Counties, New York



0 3,050 6,100 12,200 18,300 Feet

1 Inch = 6,000 feet

Legend

● Sample Location

ppt: parts per trillion, typical water units
ppb: parts per billion, typical sediment units
ND: Not Detected