



January 3, 2017

The Honorable David B. Borge  
Village of Hoosick Falls  
Municipal Building  
24 Main Street  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Dear Mayor Borge:

On December 1, 2016 the New York State Department of Health collected samples from the Village Public Water supply to evaluate the on-going effectiveness of the interim carbon filters to remove perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The results show that the carbon filters are removing PFOA to non-detect levels in the finished water.

Review of the PFOA data in Table 1 shows that the first carbon filter reduced the PFOA levels in the untreated water from 448 parts per trillion (ppt) to 4.18 ppt and below. This small amount of breakthrough was expected to occur at some point this fall and is the reason why the GAC system has a second filter. The second filter is there as an additional barrier. It is important to note that the first filter is removing a significant amount of the PFOA and is reducing the PFOA to levels far below the USEPA provisional health guidance value of 70 ppt.

The purpose of our sampling is to analyze for PFOA and/or PFOS. The standard battery of testing for PFOA and PFOS, as per USEPA Method 537, includes four additional perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs): perfluorobutanesulfonic (PFBS), perfluorohexanesulfonic (PFHxS), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), perfluoronoanoic acid (PFNA). These other PFCs may have been detected at very low concentrations in the untreated water. The USEPA has not established health advisories for these chemicals. All six PFCs are effectively removed from drinking water by granular activated carbon filtration systems.

In summary, the results show that the GAC filters are effectively and consistently removing PFOA and other PFCs from the water, and that the PFOA levels at locations in the Village distribution system are non-detectable.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (518) 402-7650.

Sincerely,

Lloyd R. Wilson, Ph.D.  
Bureau of Water Supply Protection

cc: R. Swider  
R. Elder – Rensselaer County Health  
M. Surdam – Town of Hoosick

Table 1: PFOA Results (parts per trillion) from NYSDOH's December 1, 2016 Water Sampling

SAMPLE LOCATION	SAMPLE DATE	PFOA CONCENTRATION
Pre GAC Filter (untreated water)	12-1-2016	448
GAC – Between Filters	12-1-2016	4.18
GAC—Between Filters Duplicate	12-1-2016	3.93
GAC Effluent (after both filters)	12-1-2016	<2
11 Water Works Road - DPW/Village Garage	12-1-2016	<2
24 Main Street - Village Hall	12-1-2016	<2
Field Reagent Blank	12-1-2016	<2