

NOTE FROM THE MAYOR: Below is the summary that Mayor Allen gave to the Trustees and to the people in attendance at the February 13th 2018 meeting. These updates, being memorialized here, were updates specific to new water testing methods, an update on the GAC filtration system, and status updates on the roll-out of data from Blood Testing Round 1, plans to go forth with Blood Testing Round 2 (this spring), and an update on the Alternate Water Supply Study.

The recorded audio of this meeting will be uploaded on the new Village of Hoosick Falls YouTube page (likely by the end of February). The recording of the meeting will include questions from the Trustees and members of the audience, with answers and discussion additionally coming from Dr. Lloyd Wilson of NYS Department of Health, and Martin Brand and Sean Mahar of NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, who were in attendance for the meeting.

*–Mayor Robert Allen
2/14/2018*

Board Of Trustees Meeting: 2/13/2018

Update on new water testing methods

- Back in mid-December, we received some information that led us to believe that GenX has been used as the replacement chemical to PFOA at the St. Gobain facility at McCaffrey Street. This, if true, would be of concern, as there is a large body of research that states that GAC is inefficient at filtering out GenX, and that the current method we used for testing does not include this or many other replacement chemicals. With that very strong concern, two things happened, all independent of each other.
- First: The Village got in touch with Dr. Detlef Knappe. He is a professor of Civil, Construction, and Environmental Engineering at NC State University, who has a particular interest in drinking water quality and treatment, among other things. He and his team have been a big part of the investigation and testing down in North Carolina's Cape Fear region, where there is a large contamination issue with GenX emerging from the Chemours (formerly DuPont) facility. He agreed to do the testing for us. In early January, we took multiple samples and overnighted them back to him, and he ran his tests. The results showed no GenX showed up anywhere: not at the wells, not at the midfluent, not at the end of the line, and not in the WWTP's effluent. Additionally it showed that all perflourinated compounds were being properly filtered – there was no leakage in the midfluent or in the finished water.
 - The sample results from these tests are in the Trustee's packets, and is in the first section of the sampling binder that will be passed around shortly.

- Second: The State, hearing our concerns loud and clear, had been spending time getting the Wadsworth Lab ready to test for this extended list of PFC chemicals. This had been worked on during the end of 2017, and they said that as soon as the lab was ready to take these tests, they would be out to collect samples. On January 18th, they came out and collected samples, and in early February, on the day of our normal monthly conference call, they gave the results. They, too, confirmed that there was no GenX in our water – not at the well, midfluent, or finished water. And while the state’s detection limit for GenX is about 31ppt, NC State’s approach to the test gets their limit down to 10ppt.
- They also used this test on 5 of the monitoring wells on the McCaffrey Street site. GenX, and a handful of other replacement chemical possibilities, also came up at non-detect.
- We are very, very glad that both the state and a separate lab were able to do this work, see this as a priority for our community, and get us these results, and we’d like to thank the NYS Department of Health, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and Dr. Knappe and his team at North Carolina State University for this data and peace of mind.

Update on the GAC filtration system

- And this leads me to the update on the GAC filtration system. One of the surprises from the state’s first round of these tests is that they detected, for the first time, a small breakthrough at the midfluent (reminder – that is between tank 1 and tank 2 – I will explain that more in detail shortly). Trace amounts of PFBA (not PFOA) were detected in the midfluent, but were then properly filtered in the 2nd tank. Now before we get any further, there are a few points to mention:
 - PFBA, or Perfluorobutanoic acid – also sometimes called perfluorobutyric acid) is a C4 chain. It was only detected at 5.5 and 6 ppt at the midfluent. It was not detected in the finished water, and the detection limit for the testing is 5ppt.
 - PFBA has a half-life of 3 days. That’s very different from PFOA’s 3 years.
 - There is only one state that has a PFBA drinking water advisory level, and that is Minnesota. Their advisory level is 7,000ppt.
 - Interestingly, PFBA was non detected at the well, which means that it is likely coming in at below-detection levels, and over time, once it builds up in the first filtration tank, it begins to break through. This matches the literature we have seen about smaller-chain PFC chemicals – the carbon capacity fills up sooner with the smaller PFCs than it would with PFOA or PFOS would, so it would likely break through sooner, and at a higher levels than what it comes in to the filter with.

- Again – it was not detected in the finished water. The summary of all the sample results is in the packet, and in the second section of the binder.
- After the state shared these results with me, they instantly wanted to get another round of sampling done. They were up here again on Friday the 9th, first thing in the morning, and kept the Lab staffed over the weekend to have the results back to us yesterday. Those sample results are the second set of state samples in the packet, and is the third section of the binder. Of note:
 - All finished water continues to be non-detect of everything they can test for.
 - PFBA was again detected in the midfluent, at 6.76 and 6.64 ppt.
 - An additional chemical, PFPeA (PerfluoroPentanoic Acid, a C5) was detected at trace amounts – 2.06 ppt – in the midfluent. It was again non-detect in finished water.
- So...what does this mean? A few things. First: the filtration continues to work as planned. Secondly, that the lead-lag design of using two filters was the correct design. Third: even though our main concern with the water was PFOA, these additional compounds are a concern that we are all looking at. And because of this, it has accelerated the discussion regarding the frequency of the carbon recharge – in other words – when we change out the carbon in the first filter. The state is discussing with the Village the timing and procedures on this, which means, as a community, this is the first time we will go through the process of a tank being changed out. Here's what we need to know.
 - The GAC system, besides its two filtration tanks, includes a series of pipes and valves that allow you to modify the flow direction. Right now, we send the water into tank 1, where it is filtered, and then through tank 2, where it is filtered again.
 - When the time to change out tank 1 happens, the pipes and valves will be set so that water no longer goes through tank 1 – it will just go through tank 2. Since Tank 1 has been the one taking the PFCs out of the water, Tank 2 is practically empty of these chemicals, and based on this first year of operation, will likely take another year to fill up and need recharging.
 - The change-out process lasts about 2-3 weeks. During that time, Tank 2 will be filtering, and we'll be running tests with the state to ensure that the filtration process continues to work as normal. Once Tank 1 is completely refreshed, than we will run the water through Tank 2 first, and then into the newly prepared Tank 1. At this point, we should be good for another year. Tank 2 will then be the first to have breakthrough, since it will

then have been the one filtering the PFCs, and will need to have its change-out happen. We simply repeat the process.

- During this process, we will be communicating to the community when it starts, how things are going, any testing results we receive, and when it is complete. It is my understanding that some of the early GAC systems only had one tank, and this two-tank design is to make sure that, even through the changeout of one of the tanks, we will still have non-stop filtration producing non-detect finished water.

At this point – I will take any questions on the new tests or the filtration process.

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Blood Testing/Data Results from Round 1:

- A few months ago, DOH came in to have a sit-down with some Village officials and come community members regarding the prior data roll-outs regarding the PFOA blood serum levels. They came to the meeting ready to listen, and took a bunch of ideas from the group on what they can additionally try to do with the data.
- They have taken those suggestions and questions back, and have been working for a few months on the final data from round 1. They are in the final stages of going over the data and their materials, and then they hope to meet with the same panel to walk them through the results and get comments. The full community roll-out of the data will be coming shortly after that, so hopefully in the next month.
- The state has already committed to a 2nd Round of Testing, and at the last meeting we confirmed that Twin Rivers would be a location that people could have their blood taken for this specific testing, even if they aren't patients there. As soon as the final details are all solidified, we will have that information out, but we are hoping for an early spring start.

Alternate Water Supply Study Update:

- As you know, DEC, through their Consent Order with Saint-Gobain and Honeywell, required the responsible parties to produce a study of all potential options to supply the Village with water free of PFOA) and other contaminants.
- DEC has continued to push the responsible parties to conduct a thorough and comprehensive analysis that identifies a range of possibilities to consider and the next steps needed to more fully evaluate these options.

- It is important to remember that this interim report will not identify one specific option at this time, but present to our community a full suite of options, from groundwater sources and surface water sources, to connections to a municipal supply, or others options. This meeting will be both a presentation of these many options, and where they are at with each one, and also a chance to get feedback from the community.
- A final option will only be selected after the state receives our feedback on which option makes the most sense and will be incorporated into the broader remediation plan that is being developed to address the contamination in our community.
- The state will be meeting with myself and the Town to brief us on the interim plan in the coming days and from there I will work with the state to set a date for an upcoming public meeting to discuss the report and begin gathering our feedback on this important study.
- DEC wants everyone to know that they are continuing to oversee the responsible parties as they advance the ongoing investigations into the nature and extent of the contamination and developing options to remediate the sites, as well as pressing them to move quickly on the necessary next steps regarding the alternate water supply feasibility study.