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Hello All,

As you may be aware, the presence of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) has been detected in the drinking water supplied by the Village of Hoosick Falls' municipal water system. This was discovered as the result of voluntary samplings which have been conducted from October 2014 to the present. PFOA is currently considered an unregulated contaminant by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and it is not subject to required testing by County, State or Federal laws/regulations. The Village is in compliance with all regulated testing. Currently, the EPA continues to gather data only as to the potential impact of PFOA on public health, and selected municipalities need not report any PFOA findings under 200 parts per trillion. Samples taken by the Village indicate PFOA concentrations that have ranged from 150-540 parts per trillion (ppt) and such samples include raw or pre-treated water from our 3 wells, as well as treated samples at various locations within the municipal water system. Since our wells are under the influence of the Hoosic River, samples have also been taken from the river upstream of our wells and those samples were found to be negligible for PFOA. The Village has been in constant communication with the Rensselaer County and NYS Departments of Health and each has been supportive of our efforts to learn how to mitigate and minimize the amount of PFOA in our finished water. There is no Federal drinking water standard and subsequently there is no standard method for compliance monitoring. The US EPA is conducting sampling at selected water supplies across the country under the Federal Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) and has approved a limited number of laboratories to do this analysis. We have used two of these laboratories for our sampling, Eurofins in Indiana and Test America in California. Water samples taken at a single testing event (as well as blanks) have been sent to both labs simultaneously to insure that the results we obtain are as accurate as possible. Additionally, NYS DoH has also offered to analyze future samples at no charge which will be a significant financial savings to the Village. All results are available to the public through the Village Clerk's Office.

The source of the PFOA is unknown currently and the Village has been focusing its efforts on minimizing and stopping it from going beyond the treatment plant. Research suggests that granulated activated charcoal (GAC) is effective in blocking PFOA and we are collaborating with several engineering firms, NYS Rural Water Association, Water Services Inc., local industry, State and County Departments of Health, as well as the New Jersey Department of Public Health to determine the most effective and practical plan to pursue. This is very much a process of elimination as there is not a "one size fits all" solution. MRB Group has been working with the Village on determining the most cost effective method for treating PFOA in the Village's water system.

After considerable research through the US EPA, New York State & County Departments of Health and numerous research papers, four treatment methods were selected.

Initially our first attempt at treatment was chemical oxidation of the PFOA. This was proven to be ineffective. Next we tried to chemically settle the PFOA out of solution, however, this method also proved to be ineffective. There were two remaining methods of treatment. The first being Reverse Osmosis. While found to be very effective, this method is not economically feasible due to excessive operation costs (\$40,000 per month for routine maintenance upkeep). The remaining method is granular activate carbon (GAC). This has been shown to be highly effective at other water treatment facilities. A pilot project using GAC will be set up at the water treatment facility to determine the effectiveness of this method in our particular situation. Both the County and NYS Health Departments will monitor our efforts. Should this prove to be effective, then plans for significant physical changes to the Water Treatment Plant will be initiated.

To date, the Village has committed over \$10,000 to sampling procedural costs. We have also contracted with MRB Group to assist us at an initial cost of \$26,000. The preliminary estimates for a pilot study utilizing GAC range from \$15,000 to \$30,000. Permanent GAC upgrades to the water treatment plant are projected at approximately \$2,000,000. Unfortunately, there are no simple inexpensive quick solutions to this situation. In order to help us with these costs, I have been in communication with representatives from the offices of Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, Congressman Gibson and NYS Senator Marchione and each has indicated strong support and a willingness to help. Rensselaer County DoH is compiling all sampling results and I ask any individuals with private sampling results, to make them available to the Village Clerk so that an overall record can be maintained – the more information we have, the more comprehensive our planning will be. If you have rental property, please share this information with your tenants. Please know that the Village Board understands the concern we all share and is working towards a resolution as quickly as possible.

Thank you.

David Borge, Mayor
Village of Hoosick Falls