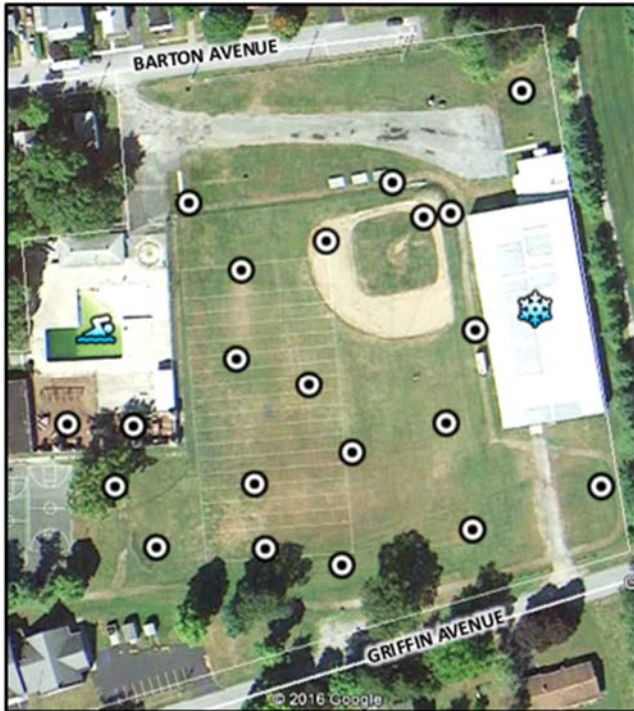




Hoosick Falls Update: EPA Sampling Hoosick Falls Athletic Field

Community Update No. 2

February 2016



EPA February 2016 Athletic Field Soil Sampling Locations

Testing by the New York State Department of Health and the Village of Hoosick Falls, New York, has revealed that groundwater and drinking water in the Village of Hoosick Falls is contaminated with perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been gathering information regarding the Hoosick Falls PFOA contamination in conjunction with the Village of Hoosick Falls, the county health department and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

WHY IS THE EPA SAMPLING ADDITIONAL FIELDS?

As part of its work to address PFOA in the Village of Hoosick Falls, the EPA sampled the ballfields and park areas along Waterworks Road from February 15 - 19, 2016. The purpose of the sampling was to determine whether past releases of PFOA into the air from local facilities may have contaminated the soil on the fields. Recently, EPA was notified by village officials that the Hoosick Falls Athletic Field near the ice rink and community pool, located approximately ¼ mile from the Waterworks Road ballfields, may be the main field used by the Town of Hoosick Youth Baseball and Softball league this season.

WHAT IS PFOA?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) belongs to a group of chemicals used to make household and commercial products that resist heat and chemical reactions and repel oil, stains, grease and water. PFOA was widely found in non-stick pots and pans, carpets and fire-fighting foam.

WHY IS PFOA A PROBLEM?

PFOA does not break down easily and therefore is very persistent in the environment. Its toxicity and persistence in the environment pose potential adverse effects to human health and the environment.

EPA will evaluate the Hoosick Falls Athletic Field, which is used for athletics as well as summer camps and community events. This will include EPA collection of samples from the upper foot of soil. The samples will be analyzed for PFOA and related chemicals, as well as volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), metals and other contaminants. The sampling results will be compared to values that EPA has established to determine if cleanup work is necessary.

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IN WHICH AREAS OF THE ATHLETIC FIELD WILL THE SOIL BE SAMPLED?

The EPA will be sampling multiple locations in and around the Hoosick Falls Athletic Field where people, especially children, are most likely to be exposed to the soil. This includes the playground next to the community pool, several locations on the ballfield and football field area, several locations which may be used as a little league field near the old backstop, areas used by summer camps and the bleachers and spectator areas. The upper foot of soil will be sampled at two intervals: the first three inches, and from three inches to a foot below the surface.

WHEN WILL THE RESULTS BE AVAILABLE?

The laboratory results are expected to come back in April 2016, along with the results from the Waterworks Road ballfield sampling. All results will be announced and will be available to the public prior to the start of the pre-season for baseball and softball. The EPA plans a public session to explain the results and answer any questions.

NEXT STEPS

If hazardous substances, including PFOA or other contaminants, are present in the soil at the ball fields, the EPA will review the results and determine whether any cleanup work is necessary to protect the people who use the ballfields.

ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION

The EPA, NYSDEC and NYSDOH will be planning and conducting soil, groundwater and surface water sampling in other areas of Hoosick Falls, and will continue to provide updates on the status of the investigation.

As the investigation progresses, EPA will also establish an Information Repository at a local library where the public can review and copy records related to EPA's work in Hoosick Falls.

If you would like information about the site please contact:

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Visit the EPA's website at:

<http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/hoosick-falls-water-contamination>