



Municipal Building  
24 Main Street  
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Phone: 518-686-7072  
Fax: 518-686-4902  
village@hoosick.org  
villageofhoosickfalls.com

Mayor:  
David B. Borge

Deputy Mayor:  
Ric DiDonato

Trustees:  
Robert Downing  
Kevin O'Malley  
Robert Ryan  
Ben Patten  
Karen Sprague

February 1, 2016

Dear Neighbors,

This week, the Village took delivery of a temporary treatment system for the water treatment plant which, when fully installed, will reduce PFOA in the water to safe levels. Installation of the system has begun and we anticipate the system will be fully operational and tested by late February.

In addition, New York State officials have announced their intention to classify the Saint-Gobain McCaffrey Street plant site as a state Superfund site, enabling state resources to be allocated for a full investigation of the PFOA contamination that is present there or elsewhere.

These are decisive actions that will help our community restore the use of our water supply.

Below is more information about these and other events that have occurred most recently:

- The temporary treatment system for the water treatment plant was obtained from Calgon Carbon in Pittsburgh, PA. Village Trustees authorized Mayor Borge to enter into a lease agreement for the equipment earlier this month, after a pilot study determined it would effectively reduce PFOA in the water to safe drinking levels. The NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH), which oversees operations at the municipal water supply, approved installation of the temporary system, until a permanent system can be designed, approved and installed. Saint-Gobain has agreed to pay for installation and maintenance of both systems.

The temporary system is being constructed on a concrete pad approximately 10 feet from the existing water treatment plant. It will be installed inside a heated enclosure to protect it from the elements. Water will be piped from the municipal supply wells to the existing water treatment, then through the new Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system, and out to local households via the existing 12-inch water main.

Once the system is installed, our engineers and NYSDOH will perform a comprehensive sampling program to ensure the GAC treatment is effectively removing PFOA from the drinking water supply. The Village will not encourage residents to use the municipal water for drinking or cooking until NYSDOH and/or EPA informs us that the water is safe.

- Governor Cuomo announced that New York State issued an emergency regulation to classify PFOA as a hazardous substance. Officials at NYSDOH will conduct a Health Risk

Analysis to establish a maximum acceptable level for PFOA in municipal drinking water systems. EPA's current Provisional Health Advisory is 400 parts per trillion and EPA recommends that local residents who have private wells at a level greater than 100 parts per trillion not use that water for drinking or cooking.

- Now that PFOA is a state-regulated chemical, New York State can use state Superfund resources to investigate the presence of PFOA at the Saint-Gobain McCaffrey Street plant and at other areas in our community. We will be coordinating closely with NYSDEC as it pursues its investigation to ensure whatever contamination is found will be cleaned up thoroughly. Village and town officials communicated to state officials that we are not willing to wait years for this to occur.
- New York State has also committed to re-test private wells in the Greater Hoosick community, install treatment systems at the Hoosick Falls Junior/Senior High School and other community gathering places, and perform a health study including blood testing of residents. The state's press release outlining these activities has been posted on the village website at [www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/](http://www.villageofhoosickfalls.com/Water/).
- New York State has established a telephone hotline where the public can get information. Residents can call **1-800-801-8092** with questions and concerns.
- We have received disturbing information that some of our community financial institutions have decided to no longer issue mortgages in our community due to the PFOA issue. Village and town officials requested immediate assistance from the Governor, who committed to working with state banking officials to identify a resolution. We are aware that state officials have already contacted the local banks to discuss the matter. We will keep you apprised of any developments.
- The Village Board is close to finalizing the first of two agreements with Saint-Gobain. We consulted with Healthy Hoosick Water, EPA, New York State and Rensselaer County Departments of Health, engineering firms, laboratories and others regarding various components of the agreement. Among other things, the agreement will:
  - Ensure Saint-Gobain fully funds the free bottled water program available to residents at Tops Market;
  - Ensure Saint-Gobain fully funds installation and maintenance of the temporary and permanent GAC treatments at the water treatment plant, and that both treatment technologies remove PFOA in municipal water to levels deemed to be safe by EPA and/or NYSDOH;
  - Ensure Saint-Gobain reimburses the Village for the costs it has incurred to address the PFOA issue. This includes the

costs associated with the team of experts the Village has assembled, including engineers, lawyers and communications specialists.

- The free bottled water program at Tops Market will continue until the temporary treatment system at the water treatment plant is fully installed, operational and determined to be operating effectively by NYSDOH and/or EPA.

If households are in need of more water than is currently available, please call the Village clerk's office to discuss the situation. We will make every effort to accommodate your needs.

If you are unable to get to Tops to obtain the water, please call the Village clerk's office and arrangements will be made to bring the water directly to you.

The Village Board is committed to keeping you informed. If you have questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact the Village Clerk's office at 686-7072. If your question cannot be answered immediately, it will be passed along to the Village Board for further discussion and response. Further, we invite you to attend the Village Board meetings, scheduled each second Tuesday of the month and held at the Village municipal building.

Additional information may be obtained by visiting:

EPA's website:

[www.epa.gov/aboutepa/hoosick-falls-water-contamination](http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/hoosick-falls-water-contamination)

NYSDOH's website:

[www.health.ny.gov](http://www.health.ny.gov)

NYSDEC's website:

[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

State informational hotline:

1-800-801-8092

Finally, if you are interested in having water samples collected from your private well, contact Albert DeMarco at NYSDOH at 518-402-7860 or [bee@health.ny.gov](mailto:bee@health.ny.gov).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mayor David Borge  
Deputy Mayor Ric DiDonato  
Trustee Robert Downing  
Trustee Kevin O'Malley

Trustee Robert Ryan  
Trustee Ben Patten  
Trustee Karen Sprague