



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

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As stated at the November and December Village Board meetings, the Village municipal water system continues to meet and exceed all County, State and Federal standards for public health safety. If that was not the case, the Rensselaer County Public Health Department would intervene immediately.

At the request of a residential water user, the Village water department sent pre-treated samples taken from each of the 3 wells for non-required chemical testing. This initial sample revealed what appears to be a synthetic element present in the pre-treated well water. This was considered a base-line sample and a 2nd sample has since been taken— including a post-treated sample. The results of the initial test are mixed—but also encouraging—as the results verify that in 2 of the 3 wells, the numbers fall within and under the EPA guidelines of 200-400 nanograms (or parts per trillion) for the element perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The primary well currently being used samples at less than 200 nanograms or ppt. Samples—both post and pre-treated— will continue to be taken as the Village monitors the situation.

Neither the County DOH, the State DOH, nor the Federal EPA has set minimum standards for exposure to this element. [The EPA is in the data collection phase only.](#)\* Since the EPA has not established allowable standards, it does not require such testing of municipal water systems. As mentioned, the element is called PFOA, and is present in many forms of plastic, certain types of clothing, surface coatings, food packaging, and has been found in soils and ground water globally.

Communications continue directly with the County Public Health Department and their direction will be followed. There have also been communications with the engineers who designed and installed the Village Water Treatment Plant. Consultations have been initiated regarding the filtration system as carbon filters are known to be effective in screening out this element. The current filters are state-of-the-art poly filters which include carbon filtration. We will be monitoring their effectiveness for this chemical.

This is very much a process of discovery and elimination and the plan is to proceed in an orderly and regulated manner. Sample analysis results are available at the Village Clerk's Office. [Village residents should be aware that the numbers in each sample represent parts per trillion and the EPA guidelines are based on parts per billion. As yet, there is no standard or benchmark to determine how these numbers are to be interpreted for their impact on public health.](#)\*

Obviously, it is un-nerving when the public water supply is questioned. Understandably, there is some misinformation and some valid concerned speculation "on the street". The Village is following the regulations and

oversight provided by the County, State and Federal authorities and will continue to provide safe drinking water and keep the community informed.

Thank you.

David Borge, Mayor  
Village of Hoosick Falls

Addendum:

\* [In a letter to the Village dated 11/25/2015, the EPA has disputed this wording and asked that it be removed. In accordance with full-disclosure, the statement will remain, but the public should be aware that EPA has established a provisional health advisory for PFOA at 400 parts per trillion \[per liter of water\].](#)

The EPA has also posted these Internet links regarding its provisional health advisory and the significance of that advisory. This information can be found at the links below:

- [Perfluorooctanoic acid \(PFOA\), Perfluorooctyl Sulfonate \(PFOS\), and Other Long-Chain Perfluorinated Chemicals \(LCPFCs\)](#)
- [EPA: Emerging Contaminants—PFOS, PFOA, March 2014](#)
- [Peer Review of Health Effects Documents for PFOA and PFOS.](#)
- [Provisional Health Advisories for PFOA, PFOS](#)