



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

June 2016

Dear Neighbors,

New York State officials have made major headway recently, finalizing an agreement with Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics and Honeywell International whereby the companies will investigate PFOA contamination at their facilities in our community. The agreement also solidifies several commitments Saint-Gobain already made to the Village. More information about this agreement is below.

In a separate action, the Village received funds from New York State to reimburse local water users for past water usage. The rebates are based on actual usage during a six-month period, so the amount received by each household varies. Reimbursement checks have been processed and mailed. If you have not received a reimbursement check, and believe you ought to receive one, please contact the Village clerk's office.

Finally, if you participated in the New York State Department of Health's ("NYSDOH") PFOA blood testing program, you may have already received your results. If you have questions about the information you received, you are advised to contact your own health professional or NYSDOH at 518-402-7950 or beoe@health.ny.gov. In addition, NYSDOH representatives will be available at various dates and times at the HAYC3 Armory, 80 Church Street. For a weekly schedule, visit <http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/investigations/hoosick/>.

Summary of Saint-Gobain, Honeywell Commitments to Our Village

The major elements of the agreement call for Saint-Gobain and Honeywell to:

- Pay for the continued operation, monitoring and maintenance of the temporary Granular Activated Carbon ("GAC") system, any modifications needed in the future, and continued monitoring of the system to ensure it continues to be effective at eliminating PFOA from the municipal water supply. Saint-Gobain has already paid for the design and installation of the system, which has been operating effectively since March 30, 2016.
- Fund the design, installation and operation of a Full Capacity GAC water treatment system, and perform needed maintenance and at least monthly monitoring once the system is in place to demonstrate its continued effectiveness. Design of the Full Capacity system has already been approved by NYSDOH. All the equipment has been ordered and some has already been received.
- Continue to pay for the bottled water program available at Tops Friendly Market for residents until the Full Capacity system is installed and operational, and continue to provide bottled water delivery services to those unable to obtain the water for themselves. Residents will continue to be able to obtain five gallons of bottled water per day, per household, or more if requested.

continued on back

- Maintain the property-specific water treatment systems, called POET systems, installed at seven local businesses and adult care facilities and pay to remove the systems, if requested, once the Full Capacity GAC system has been installed at the water treatment plant.
- Fund the installation and maintenance of POET systems on two private water supply wells already installed at two private residences in the Village. These are the only two homes with private drinking water wells in the Village. The companies will also fund the installation and maintenance of POET systems installed on private wells in the Town of Hoosick.
- Perform a comprehensive investigation into the sources of PFOA in our community — a study called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (or RI/FS). This investigation will evaluate the methods that could be implemented to eliminate or reduce PFOA in the municipal water supply, such as creation of an alternate water supply; cleanup or treatment of the sources of PFOA to groundwater and the municipal water supply; upgrades to the municipal water supply system beyond installation of the Full Capacity GAC system; continuation of the DOH-approved (but not yet installed) Full Capacity GAC system; or no further action. It will likely take several months, or possibly years, for the companies to perform this work.

Based on the findings of this RI/FS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will develop a draft cleanup plan, called a Proposed Remedial Action Plan, which will review each alternative and the reasons the state selected or rejected it.

- Reimburse the state for the costs it incurred to sample private water wells, the Hoosick River, other surface waters and soils; to evaluate alternative water supplies; and the State’s personnel and administrative costs.
- Discuss reimbursement of the Village’s out-of-pocket past and future expenses associated with the presence of PFOA in the Village’s drinking water supply. These discussions have been ongoing and Village officials are confident that residents will not have to bear these costs, which include overtime for our staff and the work of the legal, engineering and communications team we have assembled to address this crisis. If, for any reason, Saint-Gobain doesn’t agree to a satisfactory reimbursement within 45 days of the effective date of the agreement, New York State will seek to recover these costs on the Village’s behalf.

Saint-Gobain and Honeywell have proven to be willing partners and have stepped up to the plate to address the PFOA issue. We thank them for their commitment and for their willingness to do the right thing. We believe that by working together, and not in an adversarial manner, we have moved our community forward. Today, we are miles ahead of the other communities that unfortunately find themselves in similar circumstances.

There is certainly more for us to do and we are committed to staying focused on these issues every day. If you have any suggestions for how we might move forward together, or if you have any questions or concerns you’d like the Village Board to know, we encourage you to contact us. We’d be happy to hear from 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