

PFOA UPDATE – APRIL 11, 2016

The Town Council wants to assure the public that we remain vigilant regarding the safety of our residents and are making every effort to keep abreast of the myriad of complex issues related to this problem. The Town Manager communicates almost daily with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) seeking information and advocating for our residents. Please check the Town's website for a compilation of information and new information as we receive and post it.

<http://www.merrimacknh.gov/home/pages/pfoawater-information-updates>

As you know, NHDES has prioritized analysis of the private wells within a 1 mile radius of the Saint-Gobain site and undertaken other studies on the site in an attempt to determine the scope of the contamination. It is our understanding that the radius will move beyond the one mile radius as results indicate. In the meantime, those who are not within the 1 mile radius and wish their wells to be tested should contact Kaitlin Murphy at the NHDES at 271-2972 or Kaitlin.Murphy@des.nh.gov.

The New Hampshire Department of Environment Services (NHDES) website also has a large volume of information from many sources that is intended to address resident concerns.

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pfoa.htm>

If you would like to receive email updates from NHDES regarding this investigation, please email james.martin@des.nh.gov.

As the information has become available, questions regarding soil, air quality, and any materials substitutions must also be addressed by the NHDES. The Council will push these concerns as well with them.

As you know, the Merrimack Village District (MVD) is a separate entity under state law. Although we have no legal authority over the Merrimack Village District, we communicate with them frequently, exchange information, and monitor their tests analyses and future plans. The MVD has been diligently working for resolution of the PFOA chemical in our Town water supply. They regularly contact and meet with their consultants and NHDES. The MVD has signed a contract with Underwood Engineering to research filtration systems and make recommendations regarding viable options for the District in about 6 weeks. Information from the MVD is available at: <http://www.mvdwater.org/>

The Town is joining with Litchfield, Bedford and Londonderry in a consortium to focus on: monitoring and sharing information, responding to common concerns of our residents, and dealing with NHDES and Saint-Gobain.

On Friday, April 8, 2016, Senator Ayotte met with representatives of the affected communities and the MVD to get a more in-depth look at the PFOA issues. The following actions by Senator Ayotte were suggested:

1. Encourage the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to quickly establish lifetime PFOA levels in order to evaluate all water resources for safety.
2. Encourage the EPA to establish a consistent laboratory standard upon which all testing water can be evaluated.
3. Encourage the federal and regional EPA to become more visible and active in this investigation.
4. Further explore and investigate the historical and current air quality monitoring practices of the NHDES.