

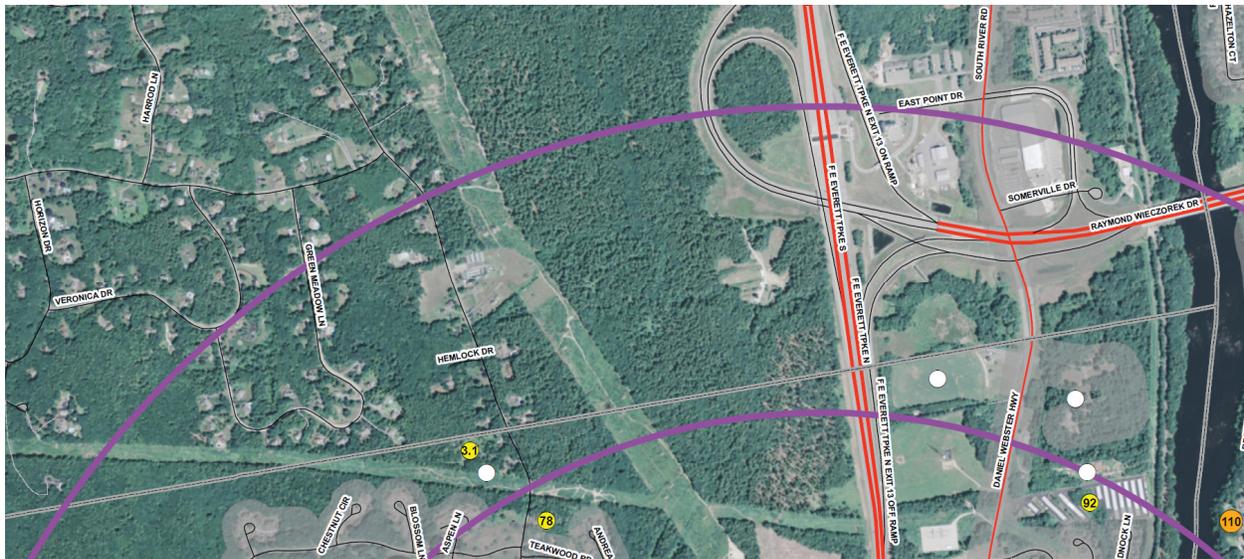
MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Acting Town Manager
Date: April 21, 2016
Re: PFOA Drinking Water Contamination Update

As reported at the April 13, 2016 Council meeting the PFOA contamination issue continues to evolve as more testing is completed and NHDES has more time to determine what the appropriate steps should be. On April 13th DES announced the expansion of the private well water testing to 1.5 miles of the Saint-Gobain factory which includes approximately 40 properties in Bedford along Back River Road, Hemlock Drive, Green Meadow Lane, and Veronica Drive (see map below). The expanded radius also covers the southern end of South River Road, but I do not believe there are any wells in that area. All property owners within the expanded radius will receive notification directly from DES and it is my understanding that many if not all of the water tests in Bedford have been completed. Residents within the 1.5 mile radius who would like to request a well test should complete the form at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHDES-S-03-008>

As soon as we became aware of the expanded radius an announcement was added to the Town Website, Facebook Page, BCTV, and WBNH. Bottled water is not currently being supplied to Bedford residents within the expanded testing area or the area that receives Pennichuck water supplied from the Merrimack Village Water District (MVD).



On April 14th DES announced the results of soil and water tests at the Saint-Gobain facility and that soil tests would be completed on properties with sensitive populations within 1-mile such as schools, daycare centers, and playgrounds which is currently underway. As no Bedford properties are within 1-mile no soil tests are currently being completed in Bedford. The soil results around the plant are below the levels DES is concerned about given current standards. The water results are very concerning and range from 280-5,800 PPT.

We continue to await new results for the Pennichuck water entering the community from Merrimack and initial results for Manchester Water Works. The second round of tests for the MVD wells in use came back with similar results as to the first tests. The pollutant level entering Bedford will depend on how the blending of wells within the MVD system is occurring. The Manchester water, which comes from Lake Massabesic, is expected to be consistent with background levels. A test of the Merrimack River has been completed with results of less than 3 PPT which is the background level and the level to which can be tested.

Following the April 8th meeting with Senator Ayotte and the towns of Bedford, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, and the Merrimack Village Water District, it was agreed by all parties present that it would be beneficial to meet as a group to share and receive information as a group. The first meeting is scheduled for April 26, 2016, at 6:30 PM at the Merrimack Town Office. Should a proposal for this group to become a consortium as reported in the Union Leader or some official action is requested it will be forwarded to the Council for consideration. The town managers/administrators of the four communities have also completed a conference call with DES Assistant Commissioner Friese which will now continue on a weekly basis.

DES has established a dedicated phone number for those impacted residents (603) 271-9461.

We will continue to monitor the situation daily and provide updates as they become available and as appropriate.

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