

MEMORANDUM



To: Bedford Town Council
From: Rick Sawyer, Acting Town Manager
Date: June 24, 2016
Re: **PFC Drinking Water Contamination Update**

This is the first time in months that I am able to state that the PFC contamination issue has not expanded into another area of concern within the town of Bedford. Based on the May 19, 2016 US EPA long term Health Advisory of 70 ppt the State of NH set an emergency ambient groundwater quality standard of 70 ppt for PFOA, PFOS, or a combination of the two. This standard gives the DES the authority to direct remediation activities and require public water systems to comply. The emergency rule is in effect for 180 days during which public hearings will take place to adopt the rule permanently. DES is working to hold a public hearing either in Bedford or one of the surrounding towns on August 3, 2016 and another forum at Pease on August 10, 2016. Additional opportunities will be available for public to provide input verbally and in written form.

DES has received the first round of soil testing results from sensitive properties in Litchfield and Merrimack and all results are shown to be clean and it is my understanding that they will be making very positive statements about the safety of the crops grown in those soils and for children playing on the playgrounds.

DES has also announced that they have asked all public water suppliers to test for the presence of PFOA's and PFOS's which will give us a better understanding of the presence of these chemicals state wide.

A general **public information meeting** has been scheduled for anyone concerned from any community for Wednesday, June 29, 2016, at 7:00 PM at the James Masticola Upper Elementary School, 26 Baboosic Lake Road, Merrimack, NH.

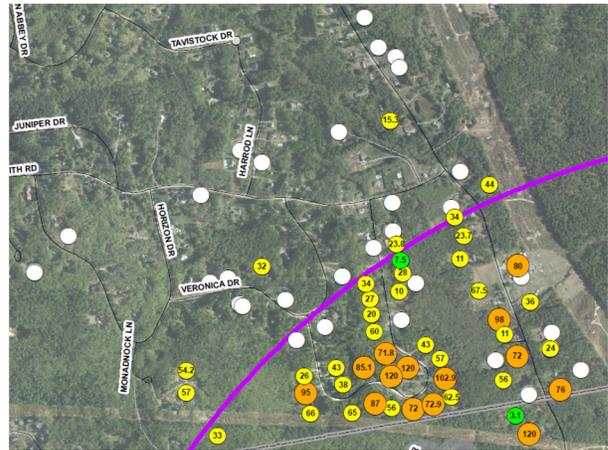
As the Council is aware we following three separate study areas:

- 1) **Public Water Supply Study Area** - Greenfield Farms/Cabot Preserve area which receives water from Pennichuck via the Merrimack Village Water District (MVD). The most recent test results available for this system was completed on June 2, 2016 and was 12 ppt of PFOA with no detect for PFOS. This marked a full month of results at or below 14 ppt as a result of MVD only utilizing wells 7 & 8. The most contaminated wells 4 & 5 remain offline and DES has ordered MVD not to use these wells until treatment is provided. DES has requested that Saint-Gobain pay for the treatment of wells 4 & 5 and to fund any necessary upgrades to the interconnection of the system with the Pennichuck Water Works system which will need to be used in firefighting emergencies and drought conditions.

	Cabot Preserve
Town:	Bedford
Source Water Desc.:	Water from MVD
Pop. Served:	940
6/2/2016	12/ND
5/16/16	11/ND
5/11/16	11/ND
5/3/16	14/ND
4/26/16	38/ND
4/20/16	52/6.2
4/13/16	52/8.1
4/6/16	52/ND
3/16/16	36/ND

2) **Saint-Gobain 1.5 Mile Private Well Study Area**

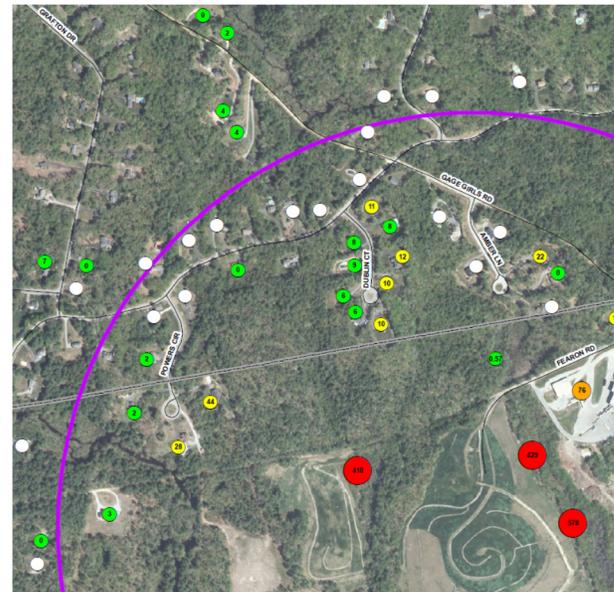
– We are eagerly awaiting test results for the private wells tests (white dots) taken in expanded study area beyond the 1.5 mile radius (blue line). Once the outer limits of the contamination area are determined DES can request Saint-Gobain fund the long term solution. With that said DES has scheduled a meeting for the 29th with the various water supply companies, design professionals, town engineers and administrators to discuss any preliminary issues such as wetland permits, capacity, etc. that are known for the needed water service extensions into the contaminated areas. Those residents on Back River Road south of Smith Road, Hemlock Drive, and Green Meadow Lane continue to receive bottled water through direct service to their home. An additional supply of water remains available at the Fire Station for any of the impacted residents who may run low while waiting for their delivery.



The Department of Health and Human Services has announced that they will offer PFC blood testing starting in mid-July in the private well testing area where wells in excess of 70 ppt have been found. These residents are encouraged to call 603-271-9461 to register.

3) **Merrimack Landfill ½ Mile Study Area**

– The results from this study area remain positive with the highest level detected in Bedford being 22 ppt and the majority being in the single digits ppt. DES believes that the extent of the contamination will be much more predictable given the fact that it was caused by disposal/dumping vs the airborne deposition seen around Saint-Gobain. Once the remainder of the test results are received I expect DES will focus their efforts to a long term groundwater treatment solution on the landfill property where 8 out of their 10 monitoring wells have tested with levels in excess of the 100 ppt. One well tested at 2,200 ppt.



We are still waiting for the test results for the Bedford landfill. We continue to provide announcements on the Town Website, Facebook Page, BCTV, and WBNH. DES has established a dedicated phone number for those impacted residents (603) 271-9461.

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