

Kevin C. Hansan
Supervisor

Nicole Engel
Chief of Staff



Tel: 914-764-5511
Fax: 914-764-0102

Town Council
Alison Boak
Diane Briggs, *Deputy Supervisor*
Daniel S. Paschkes
Namasha Schelling

April 19, 2024

Dear Residents,

Recently, the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) detected contamination from per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - commonly referred to as 'forever chemicals' - in several drinking water wells in Pound Ridge, with levels greater than New York State standards for two common PFAS compounds, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS). The Town promptly engaged with both the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) to initiate actions to determine the source of the PFAS in our groundwater. NYSDEC is currently analyzing the data provided by WCDOH and plans to conduct further testing of groundwater in the Scotts Corners area in the coming months to help pinpoint the contamination source. Given the lack of industrial or commercial businesses in Pound Ridge, the preliminary investigation suggests everyday use of septic systems in the area as the likely source of PFAS.

New York State has had enforceable public drinking water standards for two common PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS, since 2020. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also has recently issued the first-ever national, legally enforceable public drinking water standards for PFOA, PFOS and other PFAS, which will be enforceable in 2029. Certain PFAS are linked to serious health risks including cancer, liver and heart disease, and developmental harm to infants and children. The EPA regulation aims to reduce PFAS exposure for roughly 100 million Americans, potentially preventing thousands of deaths and reducing numerous serious illnesses.

For communities like Pound Ridge, complying with drinking water regulations could impose significant remediation costs to businesses, which supply drinking water to the public. WCDOH, in conjunction with NYSDOH, require public water suppliers to take steps to lower the levels to meet the New York State standards. Fortunately, filtration systems to reduce PFAS in groundwater are available and can be installed to address this contamination concern.

The Town's Water / Wastewater Task Force, which has been proactively studying the necessity of updating our water infrastructure in the business district, will now prioritize the establishment of a public water district in Scotts Corners followed by a sewer district. This initiative aims to replace the aging septic systems currently serving our business district and mitigate PFAS contamination.

While New York State does not regulate PFAS in private wells, the NYSDOH encourages private well owners to test their water regularly for contaminants and maintain their wells. PFAS testing involves specialized procedures and must be conducted by trained personnel and certified laboratories. Residents with concerns about PFAS testing or treatment options can contact the NYSDOH's Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation at 518-402-7860 or via email at beei@health.ny.gov. For further details, visit:

- NYSDOH Private Wells Webpage: www.health.ny.gov/privatewells
- NYSDEC/NYSDOH Reducing PFAS in Private Wells Fact Sheet: https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/pfasprivatewellsfs.pdf

It is important to note that while PFAS contamination is a concern across the county and statewide, exceeding the maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) set for public water systems does not imply an immediate health risk but necessitates actions to reduce these levels progressively.

Pound Ridge will continue to provide updates and guidance on our website as more information becomes available from the EPA, NYSDEC, and NYSDOH. For additional health related inquiries, you may reach out to NYSDOH at beei@health.ny.gov or call 518-402-7860. For additional PFAS Investigation related questions, you may reach out to anthony.bollasina@dec.ny.gov of the NYSDEC.

Sincerely,



Kevin C. Hansan
Supervisor