

Conclusions

- 1) Years after the discovery of PFOA in their drinking water, many residents of Hoosick Falls, Petersburg, and Bennington continue to have very legitimate concerns about the health effects of PFOA, and what they can do now that the contamination has occurred.
- 2) Utilizing the communities knowledge of its own health, this questionnaire identified previously unreported cases of cancer and illnesses associated with PFOA exposure in Hoosick Falls and Petersburg, NY and Bennington, VT.
- 3) With 443 unique responses that provided health information about individuals and members of their family, this questionnaire reported 31 instances of kidney cancer, 11 instances of testicular cancer, and over 230 instances of thyroid disease in Hoosick Falls, Petersburg, and Bennington.
- 4) This questionnaire shows the need for serious and sustained medical monitoring in the communities of Bennington, Hoosick Falls, and Petersburg. Residents should not have to pay for medical care related to their legitimate concerns about the long-term health impact of PFOA.

Recommendations

- 1) **Release the data.** DOH should complete their analysis of their own PFOA health survey, and release the results to the public. The results from the NYS DOH health survey filled out when over 1,700 residents had their blood tested for PFOA likely contains important information that residents are entitled – both individual data and aggregate data from the community – regarding the impacts of PFOA on their lives.
- 2) **Medical monitoring.** Work should begin now on the design and implementation of a long term medical monitoring program for the adults and children with proven levels of PFOA in their blood. Outside experts should be consulted, and the program should be designed and ready to be implemented within six months.
- 3) **Information sessions and guides.** The informational sessions run by DOH in the Hoosick Falls armory were very helpful to the residents who attended. An enhanced and coordinated PFOA communications strategy should be designed and implemented by both NY and VT DOH with input from concerned residents and local physicians. The goal is to widely distribute to the people and their physicians in the community what is currently known, and not known, about the health effects of drinking low concentrations of PFOA for an extended period of time, what the patient can do about it, and, as it related to the six illnesses linked to PFOA, what signs and symptoms physicians should watch out for now. This should not take longer than six weeks to develop.
- 4) **Continued blood testing.** PFOA blood testing should be made available at no charge to any resident concerned that they were, or may have been, exposed to PFOA through drinking water.
- 5) **Citizens Advisory Group.** EPA Region 1, VT DEC, EPA Region 2, and NYS DEC should establish a Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) to provide residents an opportunity to stay more easily informed and up to date on the myriad of issues surrounding the contamination of these communities.

Comparison with DOH Cancer Incidence Investigation

- 1) The DOH study only looked at the Village of Hoosick Falls. This questionnaire included the Village of Hoosick Falls, but also looked at other PFOA impacted communities in our region.
- 2) The DOH study only looked at cancer incidents. This questionnaire included six illnesses correlated to exposure to PFOA: kidney cancer, testicular cancer, thyroid disease, pregnancy induced hypertension, and Ulcerative Colitis.
- 3) The DOH study only looked at cancers diagnosed in residents of the Village of Hoosick Falls between 1995-2014. This questionnaire included any incidents of testicular cancer and kidney cancer within the Village of Hoosick Falls, including those from former residents of the Village of Hoosick Falls who moved away before they were diagnosed.
- 4) The DOH study relied on archival data in the NYS Cancer Registry to document incidents of cancer. By polling local residents, this questionnaire relied on the knowledge communities have of their own health.
- 5) In the Village of Hoosick Falls, this questionnaire recorded 17 cases of kidney cancer and 9 cases of testicular cancer. The NYS DOH study reported 12 cases of kidney cancer and 0 cases of testicular cancer in the Village of Hoosick Falls. In the years covered by the DOH study (1995-2014), this questionnaire recorded 4 testicular cancers in residents living in the Village of Hoosick Falls at the time of their diagnosis.
- 6) Regarding the DOH Cancer Incident Investigation, it is not known if the results would be the same if the DOH report included everyone who was exposed to PFOA in drinking water, and if the report took into account that cancer can take between five and 30 or more years after exposure to develop.