



November 5, 2019

Brad Hutton, MPH
Deputy Commissioner for Public Health
New York State Department of Health
ESP Corning Tower, Room 1415
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Brad,

In light of the events at the recent Drinking Water Quality Council (DWQC) meeting on Wednesday, October 16, the Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group (CPWG) feels it necessary to voice several concerns and ask for the Council's immediate attention to the need for more community participation and focus on health issues at its policy meetings.

As background, the Hoosick Area CPWG was established in March of 2019 as a community liaison with government agencies in regard to remediation of PFOA contamination sites. The CPWG helps ensure information is shared with the community in a timely manner, and provides feedback to the state on community health concern priorities, remediations activities, and the study of alternative water supply options. In this role, public health is of paramount concern.

Given that the Council's October 16 meeting was focused on the state's setting of MCLs on PFOA and PFOS in drinking water, we had expected the discussion to focus on considering and protecting public health concerns. Instead, the large collective of seemingly coordinated downstate water utilities and limited number of local community representatives in attendance did not allow for any serious consideration of health impacts. In fact, none of the large contingent of utilities that commented addressed health over cost.

As residents of the village and town who are extremely affected, this is a disturbing discrepancy. The CPWG is first and foremost concerned with the overall health and well-being of our families and community. It is our hope that while you deliberate the MCLs, health remains your primary reason for the proposed lowering of mcls. As we are certain you are fully aware in your years-long efforts in working with the community of Hoosick Falls, we feel we deserve a seat at this table to have our collective voices acknowledged in this process.

We also urge you to work toward more balanced representation at DWQC meetings. In addition to press releases, it would help to announce meeting dates and agendas via other, more direct means accessible to the area population. And given the DWQC requires attendees to pre-register, adequate advance notice is necessary to help ensure representation from our community and others in New York State.

Going forward, please include the CPWG by emailing hoosickfallscpwg@paigegroup.com, and if not already on your distribution list, also include the Hoosick Falls Village and Hoosick Town municipal offices. Since we are in the process of establishing the CPWG website and other means of corresponding with our organization, in the meantime please communicate via our email address above, which is being managed by our facilitators at The Paige Group.

Thank you for your time and allowing us this opportunity to comment. We look forward to our ongoing collaborations with both NYSDOH and NYSDEC in all areas pertaining to PFAS.

Sincerely,

Loreen Hackett, Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group Member

Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group Members:

- Rob Allen, Village Mayor
- Pat Dailey
- Catherine Dawson
- Loreen Hackett
- Michael Hickey
- Brian Keegan
- Barbara Lancour
- David Lukas
- Emily Marpe
- Eric Sheffer
- Mark Surdam, Town Supervisor
- Marianne Zwicklbauer

For more information on remediation activities, please visit:

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108791.html>

or <https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/investigations/hoosick/>