

**Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group (CPWG)  
Meeting Summary – November 18, 2020**

<b>CPWG Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Excused</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Marianne Zwicklbauer		X	
Emily Marpe	X		
Loreen Hackett		X	
Brian Keegan	X		
Barbara Lancour	X		
Brian Bushner	X		
Eric Sheffer		X	
Mark Surdam	X		
Rob Allen		X	
Pat Dailey	X		
David Lukas	X		
Michael Hickey	X		
<b>Facilitator</b>			
Nancy Pattarini, The Paige Group	X		
Carrie McMurray, The Paige Group	X		
<b>Presenters</b>			
Ian Beilby, NYSDEC	X		
Barbara Firebaugh, NYSDEC	X		
Dr. Erin Bell, University of Albany	X		

**Note:** The November 18, 2020 meeting of the CPWG was conducted via an online video/conference platform due to the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. A press release reminder of the meeting date was issued to local media. A meeting date reminder and log-in directions were emailed to all community members who have signed up on the CPWG Listserv. Meeting-related materials may be found on the Hoosick Area CPWG website [www.hoosickareacpwg.org](http://www.hoosickareacpwg.org) and on the NYSDEC website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108791.html>

**Discussion Summary:**

- I. Welcome – The Paige Group
  - a. Facilitator – The Paige Group
    - i. The Facilitator provided an overview of meeting agenda and protocol for online participation
    - ii. The Facilitator noted that the opportunity for comments from participating community members will be provided at the end of each presentation
  
- II. NYSDEC Update – Following are excerpts from the NYSDEC’s presentations
  - a. Remediation Activities
    - i. River Road – <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442008>
      1. Phase 3 site characterization subsurface investigation is complete
    - ii. Hoosick Falls Landfill – <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442007>
      1. DEC has provided comments on the draft remedial investigation workplan. A revised document will be submitted.

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2. IRM fieldwork schedule pending
- iii. Mechanic Street –  
<https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442050>
  1. Final site characterization report has been accepted and distributed
- iv. Interface Solutions –  
<https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442059>
  1. Supplementary Site Characterization Work Plan is approved
  2. Current onsite work consists primarily of soil and soil vapor sampling
- v. John Street – <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442049>
  1. Offsite Remedial Investigation activities currently underway, well sampling planned for December
  2. SVI mitigation is ongoing, and annual SVI monitoring sampling is planned for January
- vi. McCaffrey Street –  
<https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442046>
  1. Ecological and Human Health Risk Assessment Work Plan comments provided to the RP
  2. Meeting is expected to discuss comment resolutions and biota sampling plans
- vii. Liberty Street –  
<https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/index.html?rs=442048>
  1. Pre-Design Investigation well placement memo received, under review
- b. Water Study
  - i. Ian Beilby [Add title] stated that the final Water Study Report will be released by the end of this year
- c. Teflon Storage Containers
  - i. NYSDEC is currently developing a plan that will include a mechanism for notifying the community
  - ii. CPWG members anticipate a few hundred containers need to be collected
- d. CPWG Comments/Questions  
Key: C=Comment, Q= Question, A= Answer
  - i. C: Would like to suggest that the collection area for the container be secured at night.
  - ii. C: Would like to suggest photos of the storage container be included in the collection announcement to help community members identify what containers are being collected. NYSDEC may also want to consider offering an incentive to encourage residents to properly dispose of the containers at the collection event.
  - iii. Q: Was PFOA found at the Dodge Machine site?  
A: NYSDEC is currently working on gaining access to the site—which is directly under an existing structure—in order to complete its investigation. However, DEC does not anticipate finding significant PFAS/PFOA levels.
  - iv. Q: Was PFAS/PFOA found at the Interface site?  
A: While PFAS was used at the site, significant levels were not found. NYSDEC is currently investigating vapor at the site.

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- e. Public Comments/Questions
  - i. None

III. NYSDOH and University of Albany Update, Erin M. Bell, PhD Professor, Department Environmental Health Sciences, University at Albany, School of Public Health – Following are excerpts from NYSDOH’s and University of Albany’s presentation

- a. Overview of PFAS:
  - i. Types of PFAS
  - ii. Exposure pathways
  - iii. Measurable levels nationally
  - iv. PFAS and reproductive toxicity: Some animal and laboratory studies have shown that PFAS may be endocrine disruptors. This means that they may interact with hormone function and this has the potential to change health endpoints (because estrogen and testosterone concentrations have been impacted). Current epidemiology studies and the planned multi-site study will look at health markers that may be associated with endocrine disruptors.
  - v. PFAS and immunotoxicity: Some studies have observed that PFAS may inhibit T-cell proliferation, a key step in immunological response. Other studies have also observed that PFAS may change the distribution of other immune system chemicals called chemokines, and other makers of immune system development. Current and proposed epidemiology studies, including the multi-site study, plan to look at these important factors.
- b. Health Effects
  - i. PFAS are endocrine disruptors with anti-androgenic and estrogenic effects
    - 1. Child neurodevelopment
    - 2. Puberty
    - 3. Fertility, reproductive systems
    - 4. Hormonal-related cancers
  - ii. Based on Animal and Epidemiological Studies
    - 1. Child growth, learning and behavior
    - 2. Infant birthweight
    - 3. Testicular, kidney cancer
    - 4. Liver effects
    - 5. Immune effects
    - 6. Lower antibody production
    - 7. Thyroid
    - 8. Cholesterol
    - 9. Changes in hormone levels
- c. Overview of Upstate Kids Study
  - i. Goal: Determine if conception mode associated with children’s growth and development with particular attention to environmental influences
  - ii. Matched exposure cohort design
    - 1. Live births from 57 counties in New York State (exclusive NYC), 2008-2010

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2. Infants selected on basis of infertility treatment status on birth certificates; frequency-matching on residence of birth (ratio 3:1) – Regional Perinatal Network areas
3. All multiples eligible for recruitment
- iii. Enrolled infants/mothers (n = 5,034)
  1. 3,905 singletons
  2. 2,132 twins
- iv. PFAS measured in newborn bloodspots (3,079 children born in NYS, 2008-2010 – detectable levels 99%)
  1. PFOA – 1.08
  2. PFOS – 1.69
- v. Everyday carriers (EDCs) measured in newborn bloodspots and early development
  1. No evidence of association with screening results for neurodevelopment through age three
    - a. Observations did not differ when considering infant sex or gestational age
  2. EDCs and behavior at age 7-10
    - a. PFOS associated with increased odds of behavioral difficulties
      - i. OR = 2.56 (1.34-4.91) for highest quartile compared to lowest (2.47 ng/ml compared to 1.14 ng/ml)
    - b. PFOA associated with decreased prosocial skills (OR = 1.36 95% CI 1.05-1.76)
  3. Questions important in time of COVID that we are now looking at in the Upstate Kids study:
    - a. PFOS/PFOA and cytokines, immunoglobulins
    - b. PFOS/PFOA and asthma
- vi. Multi-community study update
  1. Overview
    - a. 1,000 adults and 300 children in Newburgh and Hoosick Falls will be invited to participate if they meet eligibility requirements.
    - b. If eligible, adults and children will attend a one-time clinic visit. They will give a blood sample, a urine sample, and answer a health questionnaire.
    - c. Children will also complete cognitive and behavioral screenings.
    - d. All participants will receive a results report and reimbursement for each portion of the clinic visit they complete.
  2. Health outcomes
    - a. Reproductive outcomes related to pregnancy
    - b. Neurodevelopmental outcomes in children
    - c. Immune response including prevalence of hypersensitivity-related outcomes and inflammation
    - d. Measures of thyroid function
    - e. Glycemic parameters – blood sugar

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- f. Liver function
- g. Kidney function
- h. Lipids
- i. Coronary artery disease and hypertension (including hypertensive disorders of pregnancy)
- j. Autoimmune diseases
- k. Differences in sex hormones, growth and sexual maturation in children
- l. Osteoarthritis
- m. Osteoporosis
- 3. Community engagement
  - a. Community requests
    - i. Breastfeeding guidance
    - ii. Literature table and discussions
    - iii. Monthly update to the website
    - iv. Community presentations
    - v. Volunteer opportunities
  - b. Community Advisory Panel
  - c. One for each participating community (Newburgh, Hoosick Falls, NY; CA communities near UC Irvine Medical Center; El Paso County, CO; Hyannis and Ayer, MA; Parchment/Cooper Township and North Kent County, MI; Gloucester County, NJ; Montgomery and Bucks Counties, PA)
  - d. 3-4 meetings per year (some combined)
  - e. 8-10 people per panel, representing all constituents
  - f. Provide advice/feedback for health study
- 4. Timeline
  - a. Meetings with community members throughout the remainder of 2020 and 2021 to plan for the health study, answer community questions and gather feedback
  - b. New recruitment timelines (COVID-dependent):  
Invitations to participate to begin late spring 2021 with data collection to begin in summer 2021
  - c. Additional projects are planned for each community as part of the study
    - i. Exposure reconstruction (newborn bloodspots)
    - ii. Using biomonitoring samples
- 5. Additional components
  - a. Exposure assessment
    - i. Newborn bloodspots
      - A. Permission to sample stored newborn bloodspots for babies born in NYS over a twenty-year period
      - B. Complete questionnaire
      - C. Goal: Add to what we know about exposure and better examine PFAS-exposure health outcomes
      - D. Timeline: Spring 2021

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- ii. Biomonitoring samples
  - A. Examine changes over time and health endpoints
- 6. Use of findings
  - a. Increase understanding of how drinking PFAS-contaminated water affects human health
  - b. Participants will receive a report showing their PFAS blood level and results of clinical tests
  - c. Provide advice and assistance to medical professionals in each community to help with interpreting results
  - d. Provide a summary of the aggregate study findings to each community
- 7. Study website – [www.albany.edu/sph/pfas](http://www.albany.edu/sph/pfas)
  - a. Events and workshops posts
  - b. Timeline updates
  - c. Community presentations
  - d. Literature review table
  - e. Contact info
- d. CPWG Comments/Questions
  - i. Q: Is it known how PFAS/PFOA will affect a COVID-19 vaccine?  
A: The study will include antibody response and other markers and has made a request to the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry (ATSDR), a division of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), that COVID-19 be addressed in the study. In the meantime, we will take a look at literature on this topic and provide any known information on this topic to the CPWG.
  - ii. Q: Is there an alignment or association between PFAS/PFOA and a person's blood type?  
A: We will look at existing literature and provide any known information on this topic to the CPWG.
  - iii. Q: Are individuals in Petersburg participating in the study?  
A: There are some in Petersburg on private wells and we intend to invite them to participate.
- e. Public Comments/Questions
  - i. None

**IV. Other Hoosick Area CPWG Business**

- a. Action Items
  - i. The Facilitator will share with the CPWG a suggested process for establishing co-chairs
- b. Meeting Summaries
  - i. Posted on [hoosickareacpwg.org](http://hoosickareacpwg.org)
- c. Meeting Schedule – Meeting Location/Format TBD
  - i. 12/16/20
  - ii. 1/27/21
  - iii. 2/24/21