



Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group
c/o The Paige Group
hoosickfallscpwg@paigegroup.com

01/04/21

dwqc@health.ny.gov

Members of the NYS Water Quality Council,

We, the co-chairs of the Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group, would like to respectfully submit some comments and suggestions related to the Water Quality Council meeting on 12/08/20.

As part of the work on our site study in Hoosick Falls and Newburgh with the University of Albany and NYSDOH, we've been sharing dozens of studies each month for compilation of a health data table for our communities. In the two presentations given to the WQC on PFBS during the 12/08/20 meeting, it is our belief they were disturbingly downplayed, thereby not giving the panel all of the applicable data in which to make fully informed decisions.

For example, PFBS levels have been shown to be on the rise. While PFBS may have a shorter half life (which was the only highlight in one presentation), recent studies show they quickly accumulate in the lungs and another study highlights PFBA of particular concern for severe COVID-19 cases. None of this was mentioned.

Given we are gathering and reviewing health studies on a continuing basis, we would like to suggest that we be given the opportunity to comment and/or share applicable data with the WQC regarding meeting presentations. This information is public, available and particularly beneficial for future regulatory decisions.

In addition, the public comment portion of the meeting was simply disastrous. We sincerely hope you re-evaluate that entire portion, particularly limiting comments in any form without prior notice. The instructional email should also include an email address for the WQC. We had to get it from our NYSDOH rep.

We would also like to request that the WQC look into recent reports of PFAS quantities in bottled water. While we realize that the FDA has regulatory authority over bottled water, recent reports indicate PFAS quantities in most (43 of the 47 bottled waters Consumer Reports tested had detectable levels of PFAS). This is also considered 'drinking water' and with the lower mcls now in effect, communities who are over limits are often provided bottled water, which may not be beneficial or a safeguard public health with unknown quantities of PFAS still being ingested.

Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely,

Brian Bushner, Hoosick Area CPWG Co-Chair
Loreen Hackett, Hoosick Area CPWG Co-Chair

cc. Justin Deming, NYSDOH

For more information on remediation activities, please visit:
www.hoosickareacpwg.org

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, remediation activities, and the study of alternative water supply options.