

Hoosick Area Community Participation Work Group (CPWG) Meeting Summary – April 22, 2025

CPWG Member	Present	Excused	Absent
Marianne Zwicklbauer	X		
Eric Sheffer		X	
Mark Surdam	X		
Rob Allen	X		
Pat Dailey	X		
David Lukas			X
Jessica Haynes			X
Mathew Angell			X
Sean Nealon	X		
Chris Bettis	X		
Facilitator			
Nancy Pattarini, The Paige Group	X		
Carrie McMurray, The Paige Group	X		
Presenters			
Steve Forand, MS NYSDOH	X		

Note: The April 22, 2025, public meeting of the CPWG was held in person at the Hoosick Falls High School cafeteria, and a virtual link was shared via the CPWG Listserv prior to the meeting. A press release was issued to local media, and a meeting date reminder was also emailed to all community members who signed up on the CPWG Listserv. Meeting-related materials may be found on the Hoosick Area CPWG website 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 format and Q&A opportunities for community attendees, including protocol for online participation.
 - ii. The Facilitator provided an overview of the meeting agenda.
- II. Village of Hoosick Falls Update – Rob Allen, Village Liaison
 - a. The Village has been in negotiations with the responsible parties regarding long-term costs related to O&M of new water source infrastructure
 - b. An agreement is expected in the near future
- III. PFOA Health Concerns – Steve Forand, MS NYSDOH
 - a. Types of cancer linked to PFOA – Including (but not limited to) thyroid and breast cancer, are they tied to one another and/or village and/or town data and PFOA?
 - i. In 2024 EPA determined that PFOA is likely to be carcinogenic to humans
 1. Based on evidence specific to **testicular and kidney** cancers.
 2. Weaker evidence for cancer types including **bladder, breast, and prostate**, but a large amount of uncertainty remains.
 - ii. NASEM findings (2022)

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1. Sufficient evidence of an association – **kidney cancer**
 2. Suggestive evidence of association **breast and testicular cancer**
- b. Cancer rates in the surrounding area and connection (real or perceived) to old water source – At that time of contamination discovery, it was determined that there was not a cancer cluster in Hoosick Falls. Is that still the case and how is data collected to determine if there is a cancer cluster? Has the number of breast cancer cases been identified in Hoosick Falls?
 - i. The 2017 cancer report for the Hoosick Falls area identified:
 1. A statistically significant elevation in lung cancer cases
 2. A statistically significant deficit in thyroid cancer cases
 3. 57 cases of breast cancer observed compared to 65 expected
 4. Assessed cases diagnosed between 1995 and 2014
 - ii. A recent review of cancer surveillance data through 2020 did not show any new trends or show any additional elevations.
 1. Only lung cancer was elevated during the combined timeframe of 1995-2020
 - a. No strong evidence from the scientific literature suggesting a link between PFOA exposure and lung cancer
- c. How cancer rates are attributed - For example, if someone lived in Hoosick Falls, moved away and was then diagnosed with cancer, is the case attributed to Hoosick Falls?
 - i. Our cancer analyses are based on data from the NYS Cancer Registry, which collects information about all diagnoses of cancer in NYS.
 - ii. The information in the NYS Cancer Registry is based on the patient's residence at the **time of diagnosis**.
 - iii. An individual who moved away from Hoosick Falls and was then diagnosed would not be included.
 - iv. Conversely, an individual who recently moved to Hoosick Falls and was then diagnosed would be included.
- d. Other health concerns of PFOA – In 2016 when contamination was discovered, there was a study presented on cancer and its related to PFOA. It was old at that time, are there new studies that can be shared at the April meeting?
 - i. PFAS Multi-Site Health Study, National in Scope, Includes Hoosick Falls
 1. Joint effort of NYSDOH and SUNY Albany, funded by CDC/ATSDR
 2. Health outcomes
 - a. Cardiovascular diseases (dyslipidemia and hypertension)
 - b. Diabetes (Obesity and Metabolic Syndrome)
 - c. Thyroid disease
 - d. Childhood Antibody/Vaccine Response
 - e. Pregnancy Complications
 - f. Childhood Neurobehavioral Outcomes

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CATEGORY OF ASSOCIATION

HEALTH OUTCOMES WITH INCREASED RISK ASSOCIATE WITH PFAS EXPOSURE





 <p>Sufficient evidence of an association Based on strong evidence, there is high confidence that there is an association between exposure to PFAS and the health outcome. It is unlikely that the association is due to chance or bias.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased antibody response (in adults and children) • Dyslipidemia (in adults and children) • Decreased infant and fetal growth • Increased risk of kidney cancer (in adults)
 <p>Limited suggestive evidence of an association Based on limited evidence, there is moderate confidence that there is an association between exposure to PFAS and the health outcome. It is possible that the association is due to chance or bias.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased risk of breast cancer (in adults) • Liver enzyme alterations (in adults and children) • Increased risk of pregnancy-induced hypertension (gestational hypertension and preeclampsia) • Increased risk of testicular cancer (in adults) • Thyroid disease and dysfunction (in adults) • Increased risk of ulcerative colitis (in adults)
 <p>Inadequate or Insufficient Evidence to Determine an Association Based on inconsistent evidence, a lack of evidence, or evidence of insufficient quality, there is moderate confidence that there is an association between exposure to PFAS and the health outcome. No conclusion can be made about a potential association.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immune effects other than reduced antibody response, and ulcerative colitis; Cardiovascular outcomes other than dyslipidemia; • Developmental outcomes other than small reductions in birthweight • Cancers other than kidney, breast, and testicular; Reproductive effects other than hypertensive disorders of pregnancy; Endocrine disorders other than thyroid hormone levels; Hepatic effects other than liver enzyme levels; Respiratory effects; Hematological effects • Musculoskeletal effects, such as effects on bone mineral density; Renal effects, such as renal disease; Neurological effects
 <p>Limited Suggestive Evidence of No Association Based on at least limited evidence, there is at least moderate confidence that there is NO association between PFAS and the health outcome.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No outcomes were identified.

Table is from the NASEM 2022 report - Guidance on PFAS Exposure, Testing, and Clinical Follow-Up

- Note: Inadequate/insufficient evidence doesn't mean there is not an association. It just means there is not enough evidence or enough study to determine one way or another

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Table 4. Observed and Expected Numbers of Cancer Cases, Village of Hoosick Falls January 1995 – December 2014⁴		
Cancer Type	Observed	Expected
Oral Cavity / Pharynx	11	9
Esophagus	--	5
Stomach	12	7
Colorectal	57	48
Liver / Intrahepatic Bile Duct	8	4
Pancreas	8	12
Larynx	--	3
Lung / Bronchus**	91	65
Females Only:		
Female Breast	57	65
Cervix Uteri	--	3
Corpus Uterus	16	14
Ovary	8	7
Males Only:		
Prostate	61	56
Testis	0	2
Urinary Bladder (including <i>in situ</i>)	22	26
Kidney / Renal Pelvis	12	13
Brain / Other Nervous System	--	6
Thyroid##	--	10
Hodgkin Lymphoma	--	2
Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma	19	19
Multiple Myeloma	--	6
Leukemia(s)	14	14
Melanoma	20	16
All Other Types	44	39
All Types (Total)	480	453

KEY

--Less than 6

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e. Questions/Comments

- i. Q: Why did the data review start with 1995? There are families/individuals before 1995 that won't be accounted for.
A: The data is from the NYS Cancer Registry. NYSDOH will look into data prior to 1995 and the possibility of additional study.
- ii. Q: Where can we find the data presented for more detail?
A: Data is not released when the number of participants is fewer than 16, per the policy of the Cancer Bureau.
- iii. Q: Is the lung cancer data available?
A: Yes, the data is available through the CDC.
- iv. Q: What was the total number of those diagnosed with thyroid cancer or disease?
A: The number diagnosed with cancer was lower than expected. Thyroid disease is being studied in the multi-community health study.
- v. Q: What constitutes a cancer cluster?
A: Software is used to identify total number over a period of time in a geographic area to determine if there are any spikes of cases in a specific time period within the total time period being studied.
- vi. Q: Did the responsible parties conduct any health studies over the years?
A: The facilitators will take this back to the appropriate entity.

IV. Other Hoosick Area CPWG Business

- a. Meeting Summaries posted on www.hoosickareacpwg.org
- b. 2025 Public Meeting Schedule
 - i. Tuesday, June 24, 2025
 - ii. Tuesday, August 26, 2025
 - iii. Tuesday, October 28, 2025
 - iv. Tuesday, December 16, 2025