



Department of Health

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Executive Deputy Commissioner

February 19, 2016

Supervisor Robert C. Jaeger
Town of Berlin
PO Box 307
Berlin, New York 12022

Re: Berlin Water District
Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) Sampling
(T) Berlin, Rensselaer County

Dear Supervisor Jaeger:

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) received notice from Tonoga, Inc. d/b/a Taconic (Taconic), identifying the presence of PFOA in groundwater at, and near, the Taconic facility in Petersburg, NY. After receiving notice, the NYS Department of Health (DOH) met at the Taconic facility with officials from the County, DEC, and representatives from Taconic. The purpose of the visit was to review groundwater sampling results collected by Taconic.

As part of its review of the PFOA contamination at Taconic, on February 13, 2016, the DOH collected samples at the Berlin Water District #2. Samples were collected from the north, south, and west wells representing untreated water. An additional sample was collected from a location within the distribution system representing finished water. The DOH's Wadsworth Center analyzed the samples for PFOA.

This letter confirms the preliminary results of this sampling. PFOA was detected in the water samples collected from the north, south, and west wells at concentrations of 10.3, 13.8, and 9.94 parts per trillion (ppt) respectively. PFOA was detected in the finish water sample at a concentration of 9.51 ppt. The most recent US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) advisory level for PFOA in drinking water is 400 ppt, while EPA Region 2 has indicated that Hoosick residents should not drink water at 100 ppt.

Taconic is the closest potential source of PFOA. We are continuing to investigate the potential sources of the PFOA. Should you have questions, please contact me at (518) 402-7510.

Sincerely,

Robert Swider
Regional Environmental Health Director
Center for Environmental Health

ec: J. A. Winn – Water District Supervisor
K. Toth - Taconic
K. Anders / e-File
R. Elder – RCHD
R. Cozzy – NYSDEC Central Office
J. Quinn – NYSDEC Region 4
J. DiMartino – USEPA Region 2