PROTECTING DRINKING WATER IN THE JENKINSVILLE ASSESSMENT AREA

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) are providing this community update to share progress on the State's efforts to ensure the protection of drinking water in the Jenkinsville Assessment Area after groundwater sampling at the nearby Queensbury Landfill last year detected the emerging contaminants 1,4-dioxane and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

This community update provides an overview of DEC and DOH's recent actions to investigate potential drinking water impacts through resampling and the steps the State is taking to address groundwater contamination from the Queensbury Landfill and other potential waste disposal operations between State Route 149 and Mud Pond Road in the Town of Queensbury.

New York State is dedicated to ensuring that all area residents have access to clean drinking water. As part of this commitment, DEC and DOH are overseeing the sampling of private wells in the area and are providing an alternate water supply if levels are detected above public drinking water standards.

Based on recent results, DEC and DOH have determined that certain private wells in the vicinity of Azure Drive, Old Cronin Road, Mud Pond Road, Rainbow Trail and a portion of Jenkinsville Road, warrant resampling this fall.

Private Water Well Sampling

DEC and DOH identified private wells in the Jenkinsville area and began offering sampling in July 2020 for the contaminants detected above screening levels in the Queensbury Landfill monitoring wells, specifically 1,4-dioxane and PFAS. The State used a phased approach that targets the closest potentially affected wells to help determine the extent of private well contamination. This approach identified an Area of Interest, comprised of water supply sources that draw from groundwater.

The initial Area of Interest extended approximately ½ mile from the Queensbury Landfill to Ridge Road to the west, and to the south and southeast along Jenkinsville Road. The area was expanded in May 2021 and again in August 2021 to include properties further to the south along Sunnyside East and eastward toward Vaughn and Patten Mills Roads, in the direction of groundwater flow.

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With property owners' consent, DEC and DOH are testing nearby private wells. DOH uses public water supply drinking water standards as guidance when evaluating sampling data from private wells. To date, PFAS were not detected in any private wells above New York State's public drinking water standards. However, 1,4-dioxane was detected in some private wells at levels above the State's public drinking water standard. The highest levels detected to date do not pose a significant health risk. However, DOH always recommends actions to reduce exposure when drinking water standards are exceeded. Accordingly, DEC is

currently providing bottled water to residences whose results showed 1,4-dioxane levels at or above the State's standard.

INFORMATION ON 1,4-DIOXANE

In August 2020, New York State adopted the nation's first-ever public drinking water standard for 1,4-dioxane at 1 part per billion (ppb) for this previously unregulated contaminant in drinking water. 1,4-Dioxane is a synthetic industrial chemical commonly associated with chlorinated solvents and was widely used as a chemical stabilizer in other formulations. New information indicates that it is also a byproduct or contaminant in consumer products such as laundry detergent. 1,4-dioxane has been found in groundwater at locations associated with legacy industrial and hazardous waste sites throughout the United States.

Laboratory studies show that 1,4-dioxane caused cancer in animals exposed to high levels throughout their lifetimes. There is no evidence that 1,4-dioxane causes cancer in humans. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies 1,4-dioxane as "likely to be carcinogenic to humans" based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in animals and inadequate evidence of carcinogenicity in humans.

To date, DEC and DOH solicited owners of 122 private wells for testing. Based on property owner consent, the State has completed sampling at 103 private wells. In addition, 3 wells that supply water to but are not used for drinking water at the Ridge/Jenkinsville Park were sampled. Of the 103 homes where data was received (as of Oct. 1, 2021), bottled water is being provided to 19. If a resident was offered sampling and has not responded, and is interested in sampling, please reach out to the project contacts located on the final page of this document

DEC and DOH have determined that approximately 45 private wells in the vicinity of the 19 homes receiving bottled water, including Azure Drive, Old Cronin Road, Mud Pond Road, Rainbow Trail and a portion of Jenkinsville Road, warrant resampling this fall to confirm prior results and ensure that additional actions are not needed to address exposure. This resampling area is the only area that exhibited private well exceedances of the 1,4-dioxane standard in the original sampling. Residents in these areas will be contacted by DEC's contractor, Parsons, to arrange for resampling in the coming days.

Queensbury Landfill Investigation

DEC is working to identify all potential sources of the 1,4-dioxane and PFAS contamination. The following updates provide the latest information on the potential source investigation and progress of ongoing work in the area.

The Queensbury Landfill was a municipally owned and operated solid waste disposal site in operation from the late 1940s through 1993. A portion of the property currently operates as the Town of Queensbury Transfer Station.

DEC's Division of Materials Management (DMM) performed groundwater sampling at the Queensbury Landfill site in January 2020 under the State's Inactive Landfill Initiative and found detections of 1,4-dioxane and PFAS, specifically perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) above screening levels. Sampling from five existing landfill monitoring wells indicated maximum concentrations of 210 parts per trillion (ppt) PFOA. The maximum concentration at the landfill of 1,4-dioxane was detected at 6 parts per billion (ppb). While the groundwater at the landfill is not used for drinking, these findings led to a recommendation by DOH to sample off-site private drinking water supplies to evaluate potential exposures.

In March 2021, DEC designated the landfill as a potential inactive hazardous waste disposal site and is moving forward to begin a Site Characterization under the State Superfund Program. This will determine whether the landfill is the most likely source of the

contamination found in downgradient private wells in the Jenkinsville Assessment Area and the degree to which it potentially threatens human health and/or the environment. In July 2021 the DEC retained TRC Engineers, Inc., an environmental engineering firm, to develop and implement the Site Characterization scope of work.

The Site Characterization will include installation and sampling of additional groundwater monitoring wells, collection of samples from any visible seeps, and collection of surface water and sediment samples, along with a review of historical documents to determine types of waste placed in the landfill. A site reconnaissance visit of the site and surrounding properties was conducted in September 2021 to evaluate conditions and possible access areas for equipment near the site.

A Site Characterization work plan outlining proposed field sampling activities is anticipated to be finalized by the end of October with the start of sampling soon thereafter. Documents about this site are available in the link on the first page through DECinfo Locator.

Other Jenkinsville Area Landfills

Several other landfills in the area were recently investigated to determine the extent to which they may be contributing to the groundwater contamination in the Jenkinsville Road area. The Finch Paper Landfill, the Ciba-Geigy Landfill, and the McLaughlin Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Landfill are located close to the Queensbury Landfill and are all potentially upgradient of the impacted private wells. DEC sampled existing monitoring wells at these landfills between April and June 2021.

Based on a review of the data, no obvious sources of 1,4-dioxane or PFAS were identified, therefore, these other Jenkinsville area landfills are not considered to be contributing to the contamination found in the private wells sampled. Although no additional actions at these other landfills are contemplated at this time, the Site Characterization will better inform DEC and DOH as to whether any more investigations are needed.

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

DECINFO LOCATOR

https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/557005/

AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY FACT SHEETS

https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/factsheets.html /

PFAS AND 1,4-DIOXANE INTERSTATE TECHNOLOGY AND REGULATORY COUNCIL (ITRC) FACT SHEETS

PFAS:
https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/fact-sheets/

1,4-Dioxane:
https://14d-1.itrcweb.org/fact-sheets/

State Superfund Process

The first step under the State Superfund Program is a Site Characterization to determine if hazardous waste is present and whether the site poses a significant threat to public health or the environment. Based on these findings, DEC may initiate a Remedial Investigation (a more detailed investigation) to determine the full extent of contamination and develop a plan for interim cleanup actions, if appropriate, or to support a plan to clean up the site.

Next Steps

DEC and DOH will continue to evaluate the need for and oversee any additional private well sampling, including taking actions to address exposures. DEC will continue to work with the owners of all the landfills in the area and oversee ongoing landfill post-closure management and oversee additional investigations as appropriate. However, the current continued focus of investigation will be on the Queensbury Landfill as the primary

potential source of groundwater contamination affecting private drinking water supplies in the area.

DEC anticipates commencing field activities as part of the Site Characterization work this fall. DEC and DOH will continue to keep the community informed throughout the process.

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