

Update Emerging Contaminants

Community Advisory Council
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Emerging Contaminants - Topics

1. Status of proposed drinking water standards
2. Status of the private well sampling effort

Drinking Water Standards

- Current standards or advisory levels
 - EPA Lifetime Health Advisory Level of 70 ng/L (parts per trillion) for combined concentrations of two PFAS compounds:
 - PFOS = Perfluorooctane sulfonate
 - PFOA = Perfluorooctanoic acid
 - NYS Unspecified Organic Contaminant standard of 50 µg/L (parts per billion)
- December 2018 – NYS Drinking Water Quality Council recommended individual drinking water standards for:
 - PFOS = 10 ng/L
 - PFOA = 10 ng/L
 - 1,4-dioxane = 1 µg/L
- NYS Health Commissioner approved the recommendations
 - Proposed standards were published in NYS Register on July 24, 2019
 - 60-day public comment period
 - Finalize/Publish standards – anticipated by January 2020
 - Implementation process?

Testing of Private Wells

- BNL and Suffolk County established a “Technical Services Agreement” to sample private supply wells that may be present on 97 properties.
 - Suffolk County list was expanded to **a total of 110** properties, including **five** properties that are part of the existing routine monitoring program
 - 21 properties were found to be connected to public water
 - 9 properties were found to be vacant, unoccupied, or no domestic well is present (3 properties have irrigation wells)
 - Notifications to property owners started May 3 (mailed and hand delivered)
 - Started to sample wells on May 6
 - Second round of notifications began July 22
- To date:
 - 54 properties have been sampled (**56 wells**)
 - 26 properties have not been sampled
 - 1 scheduled for sampling
 - 9 property owners have declined the offer
 - 16 non-responses

Sampling, Analysis and Reporting Process

- Samples are collected by SCDHS sanitarians
 - Untreated water samples
 - Treated water samples (if a treatment system was installed)
- Samples for PFAS analysis are sent to BNL's contract laboratory Eurofins-TestAmerica (NYS Certified)
 - Samples are tested for six PFAS chemicals using EPA Method 537.1
 - PFOA, PFOS, PFBS, PFNA, PFHpA and PFHxS
 - Detection limit is ~2 ng/L
 - Results are sent to BNL and SCDHS
- Samples for 1,4-dioxane analysis are delivered to the Suffolk County Public & Environmental Health Laboratory
 - Samples are tested for 1,4-dioxane using EPA Method 522
 - Detection limit is 0.1 µg/L
 - Results are sent to SCDHS, then provided to BNL
- SCDHS reports the results to the homeowners

Next Steps

- BNL is planning additional groundwater characterization to better define extent of PFAS contamination, focusing on the areas downgradient of the current firehouse and former firehouse
- SCDHS will continue outreach efforts to property owners that have not responded to the offer to sample their wells