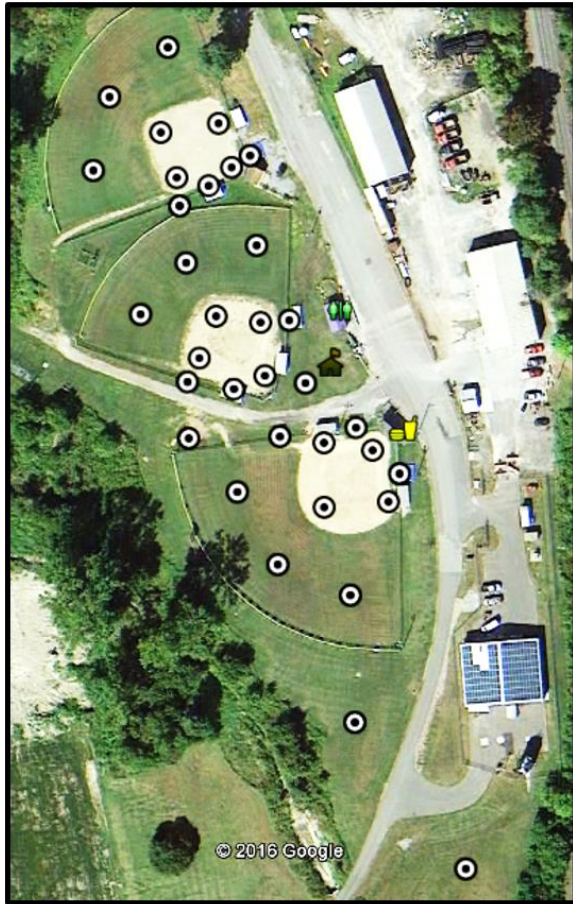




# Hoosick Falls Update: EPA Soil Sampling at Ballfields

Community Update No. 1

February 2016



EPA February 2016 Soil Sampling Locations

Testing by the New York State Department of Health and the Village of Hoosick Falls, New York, has revealed that groundwater and drinking water in the Village of Hoosick Falls is contaminated with perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been gathering information regarding the Hoosick Falls PFOA contamination in conjunction with the Village of Hoosick Falls, the county health department and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

## WHY IS THE EPA SAMPLING THE BALLFIELDS?

As part of its work to address PFOA in the Village of Hoosick Falls, the EPA is looking into two potential issues. The Agency will look at whether past releases of PFOA into the air from local facilities may have contaminated the soil on the village’s ballfields based on their proximity to a potential source. The EPA will also sample to determine if this area was used for disposal in the past.

### WHAT IS PFOA?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) belongs to a group of chemicals used to make household and commercial products that resist heat and chemical reactions and repel oil, stains, grease and water. PFOA was widely found in non-stick pots and pans, carpets and fire-fighting foam.

### WHY IS PFOA A PROBLEM?

PFOA does not break down easily and therefore is very persistent in the environment. Its toxicity and persistence in the environment pose potential adverse effects to human health and the environment.

To make its assessment of the ballfields, the EPA will take samples at varying depths ranging from the surface of the soil down to the water table, which is reported to be about 18 feet below the surface. The samples will be analyzed for PFOA and related chemicals, as well as for a suite of pollutants including volatile and semi-volatile organic compounds, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and metals. The sampling results will be compared to values that EPA has established to determine if cleanup work is necessary.

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## **IN WHICH AREAS OF THE BALLFIELDS WILL THE SOIL BE SAMPLED?**

The EPA will be sampling multiple locations in and around the ballfields where people, especially children, are most likely to be exposed to the soil. This includes seven locations on each ballfield, the dugouts, bleachers, spectator areas, batting cages and pavilion area, and the two open fields along Waterworks Road near the water treatment plant. The upper foot of soil will be sampled at two intervals: the first three inches, and from three inches to a foot below the surface. Several deeper soil samples going down to the water table will also be collected.

## **WHEN WILL THE RESULTS BE AVAILABLE?**

The laboratory results are expected to come back in late March or early April 2016. The results will be announced and will be available to the public prior to the start of the pre-season for baseball and softball. The EPA plans to hold a public session to explain the results and answer any questions.

## **NEXT STEPS**

If PFOA, hazardous substances, or other contaminants are present in the soil at the ballfields, the EPA will analyze the results and determine whether any cleanup work is necessary to protect the people who use the ballfields.

## **ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION**

The EPA, NYSDEC and NYSDOH will be planning and conducting soil, groundwater and surface water sampling in other areas of Hoosick Falls, and will continue to provide updates on the status of the investigation.

As the investigation progresses, EPA will also establish an Information Repository at a local library where the public can review and copy records related to EPA's work in Hoosick Falls.

**If you would like information about the site please contact:**

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**Visit the EPA's website at:**

<http://www.epa.gov/aboutepa/hoosick-falls-water-contamination>