



Department of
Environmental
Conservation



Department
of Health

Where to Find Information:

Project documents are available at the following location(s) to help the public stay informed:

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For additional information on the New York State Superfund and Petroleum Remediation Programs, visit:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8450.html

FACT SHEET

City of Newburgh

Washington Lake Filtration Plant PFOS Treatment &
Catskill Aqueduct Tap Connection

Site No. 336022

August 2016

NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

City of Newburgh

The City of Newburgh's primary drinking water supply is Lake Washington, located in the Towns of New Windsor and Newburgh about one-half mile southwest of the City's water filtration plant, which is also situated in these townships. The City has two back-up water supply options: Brown's Pond and the New York City Catskill Aqueduct located in the Town of New Windsor.

As part the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Program, the City of Newburgh and other water suppliers serving more than 10,000 people were required to test for several emerging contaminants, including perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). From December 2013 to October 2014, the City of Newburgh collected four samples which had detections of PFOS ranging between 140 and 170 parts per trillion (ppt) and reported these results to EPA. Although all samples were below the EPA's provisional short-term health advisory of 200 ppt in place until recently, the State assisted the City to perform further investigation. The New York State Department of Health (DOH) conducted sampling of Newburgh's water system and confirmed the presence of PFOS in March 2016. At that time, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) also began to investigate potential sources of this contamination. In May 2016, EPA set the new lifetime drinking water health advisory level of 70 ppt.

On August 12, 2016, DEC determined that the Stewart Air National Guard Base is a State Superfund site. Through this determination, DEC has identified the U.S. Department of Defense as a potentially responsible party for the PFOS contamination detected in the area and in the City of Newburgh's public drinking water supply. DEC will use its full authority under the State Superfund law to ensure expedited site clean-up. Although PFOS remains unregulated at the federal level, DEC added PFOS to the State list of hazardous substances on April 25, 2016, triggering the ability to utilize the State Superfund program.

As part of the ongoing actions of the Governor's Water Quality Rapid Response Task Force, both DEC and DOH have been working collaboratively with the City and Orange County to ensure clean drinking water for City of Newburgh residents. DEC and DOH assisted the City in transitioning to the Brown's Pond water supply on May 2nd and to the New York City Catskill Aqueduct on June 7th, both of which have tested non-detect for PFOS.

The State will fully fund the cost of withdrawing water from the Catskill Aqueduct and also plans to upgrade pipes, valves, and other components of existing connections to Brown's Pond and the Catskill Aqueduct to ensure that Newburgh can more efficiently draw from these backup sources now and in the future. Moreover, the State will fully fund the design and installation of a permanent water filtration system for Lake Washington to remove PFOS from the drinking water. The State has hired ARCADIS to design and construct the new Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system, which is expected to be complete by October 2017. Ultimately, the State will seek reimbursement for these costs from the responsible parties, including the Department of Defense. Planned construction activities are outlined in more detail below.

Emergency Connection to the NYC Catskill Aqueduct

The City of Newburgh Water Supply System is currently using a siphon connected to the New York City Catskill Aqueduct to supply water for its users. Currently, approximately 5,000 gallons per minute are being withdrawn through an existing pipe to a small stream where the water is then drawn through an intake grate to a pump station connected to Newburgh's water treatment plant. Although this configuration is currently working, the conveyance of water is not efficient and may pose significant operational challenges during the winter weather. Therefore, the State will construct a piped connection between the Catskill Aqueduct and the City of Newburgh's pump station. This will protect against freezing in winter and also enhance the water transfer efficiency at the pump station. This work is expected to be complete prior to the onset of cold weather this fall.

Permanent Water Filtration System

The State is funding the design and construction of a permanent Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) treatment system to filter PFOS out of the City of Newburgh's public water supply. A series of filters (tanks) containing GAC, a proven technology to remove PFOS from water, will be installed. DEC is coordinating with State and County DOH on the design, construction, and startup of this system, which is scheduled to be operational by October 2017. While the new filtration system is designed and constructed, the State is providing funding for the City to obtain clean water from the Catskill Aqueduct.

The first step of construction activities will be to install a new 1.2 million gallon aboveground storage tank to replace an aging underground contact tank. The rough dimensions of this new tank are 82 feet in diameter, with a height of approximately 35 feet. This initial work will involve limited tree removal, excavation and rock removal, preparation of a base to place the tank on, installation of the new above ground storage tank, and electrical and piping work to connect to the existing system. This work is anticipated to be performed between September 2016 and January 2017.

Following installation of the new aboveground storage tank, DEC will award contracts to demolish the existing underground contact tank and install the GAC system. The GAC system will be housed in a prefabricated building with rough dimensions of 60 feet wide, 120 feet long and a height of approximately 30 feet. This work is anticipated to be performed between February and October 2017. On-site work is anticipated to be performed 12 hours per day Monday through Saturday in order to complete all work prior to New York City's scheduled shut-down of the Catskill Aqueduct for repairs and improvements in October 2017.

Receive Site Fact Sheets by Email

Have site information such as this fact sheet sent right to your email inbox. DEC invites you to sign up with one or more contaminated sites county email listservs available at the following web page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html>. It's quick, it's free, and it will help keep you *better informed*.

As a listserv member, you will periodically receive site-related information/announcements for all contaminated sites in the county(ies) you select. **Note:** Please disregard if you already have signed up and received this fact sheet electronically.