COMMUNITY UPDATE

Protecting Drinking Water in North Castle

OCTOBER 2022

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) are working to protect public health and the environment in North Castle. This Community Update provides information related to water supply well sampling, filter installation, public outreach, and an investigation into the source of groundwater contamination (see map on page 5).

Join Us for an Availability Session

When: October 27, 2022 | 6-8 PM

Where: American Legion, 35 Bedford Road, Armonk, NY

An Availability Session is an informal meeting where interested citizens can talk with DEC and DOH, and get information and resources related to this community issue.

As part of New York State's Emerging Contaminant Sampling Initiative to investigate groundwater for emerging contaminants at new and legacy sites, DEC collected samples for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 1,4-dioxane in groundwater and private drinking water supply wells around the Armonk Private Wells site, a State Superfund site in Westchester County.

DEC also conducted a preliminary assessment of PFAS and 1,4-dioxane at the Westchester Garden Center/Labriola Landfill (WGC Labriola Landfill) as part of New York State's Inactive Landfill Initiative. WGC Labriola Landfill is approximately one mile northwest of the Armonk Private Wells site.

These two sites and the surrounding area are the subject of this Community Update and the upcoming public availability session. The meeting date, time and location are provided above.

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) were detected in groundwater and drinking water supply wells at levels above New York State's maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for public drinking water (10 parts per trillion [ppt]). New York State does not regulate PFAS in private wells, however, the State's drinking water standards for PFOA and PFOS in public water supplies are used as guidelines to recommend actions to reduce exposures in private wells. Water supply well sampling and alternate water supplies (if needed based upon sampling results) are available at no cost to property owners within the currently defined areas of interest.

If your property is located in the area of interest and you would like your private water supply well sampled for PFAS, please contact the DEC hotline provided in the letter you received in the mail.

These efforts are being carried out by DEC, in partnership with DOH, local authorities, and environmental engineering consultants.

If you haven't received a sample offer letter and think your property may be in the area of interest please email NorthCastleWellSampling@gmail.com to reach DEC's environmental engineering consultant.

Additional information and updates can be found at https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/126339.html.

Background

Westchester Garden Center-Labriola Landfill Investigation

The WGC Labriola Landfill (DEC site #360218) is a 7-acre site located approximately 0.4 miles south of the Wampus Lake Reservoir in the town of North Castle in Westchester County. The site is located within a residential neighborhood and is bounded by Wampus Lakes Drive to the south and northwest and the Westchester Garden Center to the northeast. The approximately 3.5-acre inactive landfill encompasses the south-central portion of the site.

In 2019, as part of the State's Inactive Landfill Initiative, emerging contaminant sampling was completed at the landfill. PFOA and PFOS were detected at concentrations that exceeded 10 parts per trillion.

A survey of the surrounding area revealed that many properties rely on private groundwater wells for their drinking water. Beginning in 2020, sampling of private wells was conducted in phases, starting with properties closest to the WGC Labriola Landfill. The area of interest has since expanded (map on page 5) based on the sampling results.

To date, 121 water supply wells near the site have been sampled. Of the 121 wells sampled, 71 drinking water wells showed levels of PFOA and/or PFOS above 10 parts per trillion. Affected property owners were offered alternate water supplies (bottled water and point-of-entry treatment [POET] systems) at no cost. To date, DEC has installed and is maintaining POET systems at 54 properties. Ten additional POET systems are scheduled to be installed.

DEC designated the landfill as a potential inactive hazardous waste disposal site requiring the completion of a Site Characterization (SC). The SC allows DEC to determine whether the site presents a significant threat to public health or the environment. Documents pertaining to this site are available in DECInfo Locator (https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/360218/).

Armonk Private Wells Site

The Armonk Private Wells Superfund site (DEC site #360005) is near Maple Avenue, Main Street, and Bedford Road, approximately one mile southeast of the WGC Labriola Landfill. In 2018, as part of DEC's ongoing monitoring of the Armonk Private Wells Superfund site and statewide emerging contaminant investigations, PFOA and PFOS were detected in groundwater from monitoring wells within the 3.2-acre site. PFOA and PFOS levels exceeded 10 parts per trillion.

A survey of the surrounding area revealed that many properties rely on private groundwater wells for their drinking water. Beginning in 2019, sampling of private wells was conducted in phases, starting with properties closest to the Armonk Private Wells Superfund site. The area of interest has expanded (map on page 5) based on the sampling results.

To date, 224 water supply wells near the site have been sampled. Of the 224 wells sampled, 115 drinking water wells had levels of PFOA and/or PFOS above 10 parts per trillion. Affected property owners were offered alternate water supplies (bottled water and POET systems) at no cost. To date, DEC has installed and is maintaining POET systems at 78 properties. In addition, 25 POET systems are scheduled to be installed. Additional information about how POET systems effectively treat PFOA and PFOS is provided on page 4.

Documents pertaining to this site are available in DECInfo Locator (https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/360005/).

What Are PFAS?

PFAS including PFOA and PFOS are a group of manufactured chemical compounds that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1950s. PFAS are widely used, long-lasting chemicals that break down slowly over time. These compounds have been used in a range of products, including cosmetics; water, grease, and oil-resistant products; and some fire-fighting foams. For more information on the history and use of PFAS visit the websites listed in the resources section of this newsletter.

Health Effects of PFAS

Most of the available information on the health effects associated with PFAS, like many chemicals, comes from studies of high-level exposure in animals. Less is known about the chances of human health effects occurring from lower levels of PFAS exposure, such as from drinking water. As a result, finding lower levels of chemicals in drinking water prompts DOH and DEC to make recommendations that people take steps to reduce exposures. Learn more about NYS PFAS and health studies at *www.health.ny.gov/chemicalsandhealth.*

How does PFAS get in drinking water?

PFAS are detected in drinking water near where these chemicals were manufactured, used, or disposed. PFAS can travel through soil into groundwater and sources of drinking water. DEC is conducting an investigation to identify potential sources of the PFAS contamination in the groundwater surrounding the WGC Labriola Landfill and Armonk Private Wells sites. This began with an evaluation of property uses in the area and will be followed by collection of surface water, sediment, soil and groundwater samples near potential sources.

Water Supply Well Sampling

If your property is in the area of interest and you would like your well tested for PFAS, please contact the DEC hotline provided in the letter you received in the mail. Sampling will be coordinated with you and based on your schedule. Typically, drinking water samples will be collected from your kitchen tap in two small bottles and submitted to a certified laboratory for PFAS analysis. You will receive the results of testing in approximately 1 month.

Point of Entry Treatment System and Maintenance Sampling

How is PFAS Removed from Drinking Water?

Filtration is a common process used to treat and remove contaminants from drinking water. Not all filters are effective at removing PFAS. Use of activated carbon, which is commonly referred to as GAC (Granular Activated Carbon), is a well-established approach for purifying water and removing PFAS. PFAS are trapped in tiny "holes" or pores within activated carbon particles by a process called adsorption. If private wells in the area of interest have sampling results above 10 parts per trillion for PFOA or PFOS, with permission from the property owner, a POET system containing GAC will be installed by DEC's environmental engineering consultant. Maintenance of the GAC filter is also performed by the engineering consultant and includes pre- and post-filter sampling and filter change-out, as necessary. A typical activated carbon filtration system, paid for, installed, and maintained by DEC, is shown in the photo above.

Resources:

Community Update Website:

https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/126339.html

Technical Resources for Addressing Environmental Releases of PFAS:

pfas-1.itrcweb.org/

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS):

https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108831.html

Chemicals and Health: New York State PFAS, Exposure and Health Projects:

www.health.ny.gov/chemicalsandhealth

Project Contacts

Department of Environmental Conservation

For questions related to the sites, surface water, groundwater and drinking water sampling, and PFAS source evaluation:

WGC Labriola Landfill
Brittany O'Brien-Drake, Project Manager
(518) 402-9672 | *Brittany.OBrien-Drake@dec.ny.gov*

Region 3 Division of Materials Management (landfills)
Ella Cattabiani
(845) 633-5453 | *Ella.Cattabiani@dec.ny.gov*

Armonk Private Wells
Jasmine Stefansky, Project Manager
(518) 402-9575 | *Jasmine.Stefansky@dec.ny.gov*

To determine if your property is located within the area of interest, and therefore eligible for sampling, contact DEC's environmental engineering consultant:
NorthCastleWellSampling@gmail.com

For questions related to the provision of an alternate water supply (i.e., bottled water, POET systems, or public water supply connections):

David Chiusano, Project Manager
(518) 402-9813 | *David.Chiusano@dec.ny.gov*

Department of Health

For health-related questions:

WGC Labriola Landfill
Fay S. Navratil, Project Manager
(518) 402-7884 | *Fay.Navratil@health.ny.gov*

Armonk Private Wells
Sara Bogardus, Project Manager
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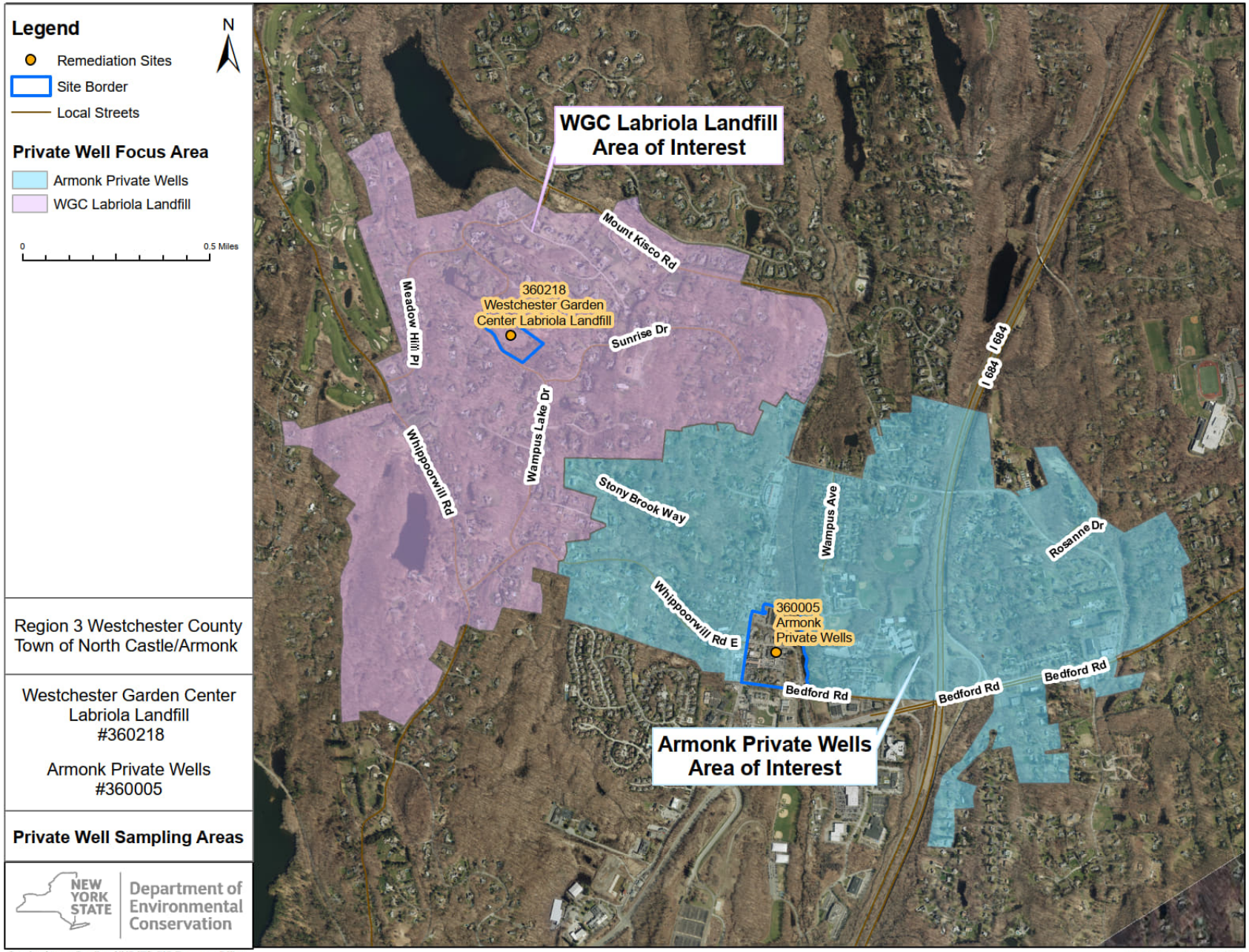
Melissa Doroski, Project Manager
(518) 402-7857 | *Melissa.Doroski@health.ny.gov*

Sign up to receive updates by email:
www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html


Legend
N
Remediation Sites
Site Border
Local Streets
Private Well Focus Area
Armonk Private Wells
WGC Labriola Landfill
0
0.5 Miles
WGC Labriola Landfill
Area of Interest
Mount Kisco Rd
360218
Westchester Garden
Center Labriola Landfill
Meadow Hill Pl
Sunrise Dr
Wampus Lake Dr
Whippoorwill Rd
I 684
I 684
Stony Brook Way
Wampus Ave
Rosanne Dr
Whippoorwill Rd E
360005
Armonk
Private Wells
Bedford Rd
Bedford Rd
Bedford Rd
Armonk Private Wells
Area of Interest
Region 3 Westchester County
Town of North Castle/Armonk
Westchester Garden Center
Labriola Landfill
#360218
Armonk Private Wells
#360005
Private Well Sampling Areas
NEW YORK STATE
Department of Environmental Conservation
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