COMMUNITY UPDATE

AUGUST 2022 Protecting Mahopac's Drinking Water

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 Mahopac. This Community Update provides information related to water supply well sampling and filter installation, public outreach, and an investigation into the source of groundwater contamination (map on page 4).

Join Us for an Availability Session

When: August 31, 2022 | 6-8 PM
Where: American Legion, 333 Bucks Hollow Road

An Availability Session is an informal meeting where interested citizens can talk with DEC and DOH, and learn about available information and resources.

As part of New York State's Emerging Contaminant Sampling Initiative to investigate groundwater for emerging contaminants at new and legacy State Superfund and Brownfield Cleanup Program sites, DEC identified per- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) contamination in groundwater and private water supply wells in an area around the Mahopac Business District Wells site, a State Superfund site in Putnam County. Specifically, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) were detected at concentrations above New York State's protective maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for public drinking water (10 parts per trillion). Water supply well sampling and – if needed based on results – alternate water supplies are available at no cost to property owners within the currently defined 'area of interest.' DEC is undertaking this work with DOH and local authorities.

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.

If you have not received a letter offering sampling, but your property is in the area of interest, please email *MahopacWaterSupply@gmail.com* to contact DEC's environmental engineering consultant.

Visit *https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/126017.html* for more information and updates.

Background

In 2020, as part of DEC's ongoing monitoring of the Mahopac Business District Wells Superfund site and statewide emerging contaminant investigations, PFOA and PFOS were detected in groundwater from monitoring wells near Routes 6/6N and Cherry Lane at concentrations that exceed the State's protective MCLs of 10 parts per trillion. A survey of the surrounding area revealed that many properties rely on private groundwater wells for their water supply. Although New York State does not regulate PFAS in private wells, MCLs for PFOA and PFOS (10 parts per trillion) are used as guidelines to recommend actions to reduce potential exposures to these contaminants in private wells.

Beginning in 2021, sampling of private wells was conducted in phases, starting with properties closest to the Mahopac Business District Wells site area. The area of interest has expanded (map on page 4) based on the sampling results. To date, 113 water supply wells have been tested. With the exception of one private water supply, each tested well has exhibited concentrations of PFOA and/or PFOS above the MCLs. Affected property owners were supplied with bottled water and point-of-entry treatment (POET) systems were offered to these property owners at no cost. DEC installed and is maintaining POET systems at 46 properties. Additional information about how POET systems effectively treat PFOA and PFOS is provided on the following page.

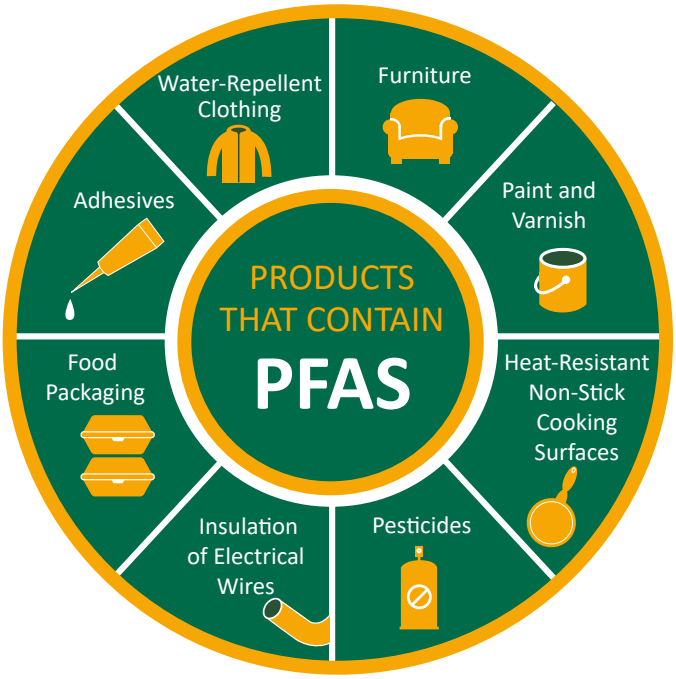
What Are PFAS?

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 see page 3.

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 did PFAS get in my water?

PFAS are detected in drinking water near sites and facilities where these chemicals were manufactured, used, or disposed. PFAS can travel through soil into groundwater and into sources of drinking water. DEC is conducting an investigation to identify potential sources of PFAS contamination in the groundwater surrounding the Mahopac Business District Wells site. DEC's investigation began with an evaluation of property uses in the area and will include collection of soil and groundwater samples near potential sources. In addition, an investigation into the impact of PFAS on Lake Mahopac via fish tissue, surface water, and sediment sampling is underway.

Water Supply Well Sampling

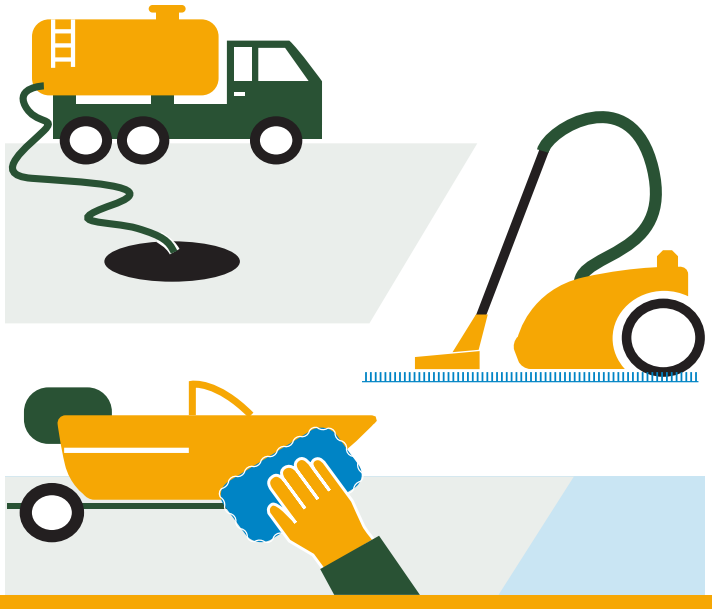
If your property is located in the area of interest and you would like your well sampled for PFAS, please contact the DEC hotline provided in the letter you received in the mail. Sampling will be coordinated with you and based on your schedule. Typically, drinking water samples will be collected from 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 the property owner's permission, DEC will install a POET system containing GAC. DEC will perform maintenance of the GAC filter, including 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.



Project Contacts

Department of Environmental Conservation

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

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

To determine if your property is in the area of interest and eligible for sampling, contact DEC's environmental engineering consultant at the Mahopac PFAS Information e-mail:
MahopacWellSampling@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:

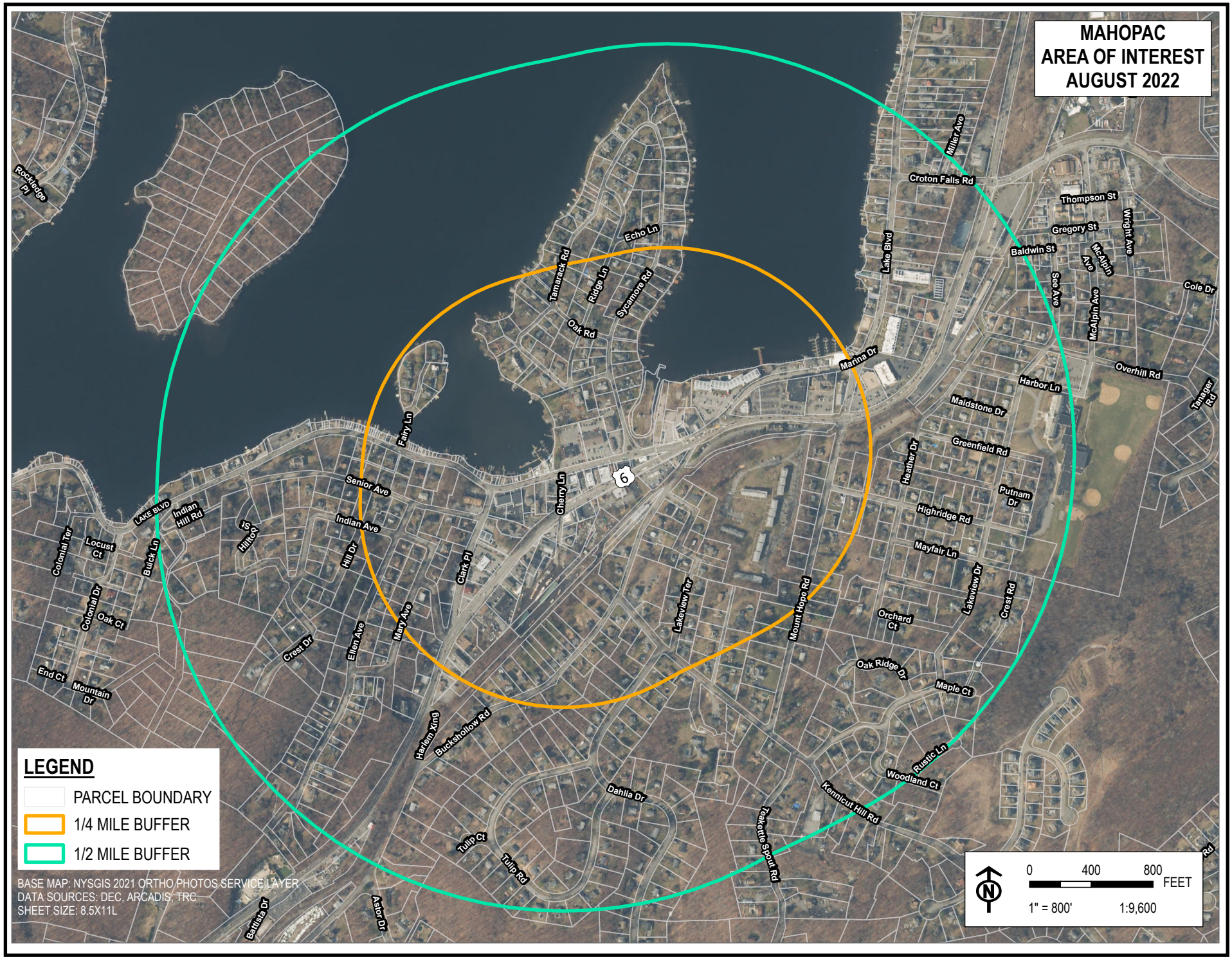
Stephen Lawrence, Project Manager
(518) 402-0450 | *beei@health.ny.gov*

Sign up to receive updates by email:

www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

Resources:

- *https://MahopacDrinkingWater.com*
- *https://pfas-1.itrcweb.org/*
- *https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/108831.html*
- *www.health.ny.gov/chemicalsandhealth*


MAHOPAC
AREA OF INTEREST
AUGUST 2022
LEGEND
PARCEL BOUNDARY
1/4 MILE BUFFER
1/2 MILE BUFFER
BASE MAP: NYSGIS 2021 ORTHO PHOTOS SERVICE LAYER
DATA SOURCES: DEC, ARCADIS, TRC
SHEET SIZE: 8.5X11L
0
400
800
FEET
1" = 800'
1:9,600
Rockledge Pl
Miller Ave
Croton Falls Rd
Thompson St
Gregory St
Wright Ave
Baldwin St
McAlpin Ave
Lake Blvd
See Ave
Cole Dr
Echo Ln
Tamarack Rd
Ridge Ln
Sycamore Rd
Oak Rd
Marina Dr
Overhill Rd
Harbor Ln
Tanager Rd
Maidstone Dr
Greenfield Rd
Heather Dr
Putnam Dr
Highridge Rd
Mayfair Ln
Lakeview Dr
Crest Rd
Orchard Ct
Oak Ridge Dr
Maple Ct
Rustic Ln
Woodland Ct
Kennicut Hill Rd
Teakettle Spout Rd
Dahlia Dr
Tulip Ct
Tulip Rd
Fairy Ln
Senior Ave
Cherry Ln
6
Lake Blvd
Indian Hill Rd
Indian Ave
Hillcrest
Hill Dr
Clark Pl
Lakeview Ter
Mount Hope Rd
Colonial Ter
Locust Ct
Buck Ln
Colonial Dr
Oak Ct
End Ct
Mountain Dr
Crest Dr
Ellen Ave
Mary Ave
Harlem Xing
Bucksbollow Rd
Battista Dr
Astor Dr