

Newburgh Area: DEC Timeline of Activities

2015

May:

- City of Newburgh issues their 2014 Annual Water Quality Report with PFOS contamination identified in Washington Lake.

2016

February:

- Governor Cuomo forms the Water Quality Rapid Response Team.

March:

- DEC commences sampling efforts to identify potential source(s) of contamination

April:

- DOH and DEC continue sampling in watershed
- DEC confirms that Brown's Pond is PFOS-free
- DOH commences optimization work on the current water system and confirms that an aqueduct connection and pump station are viable alternative water sources.

May:

- DOH and DEC continue ongoing sampling in watershed and engagement with Newburgh City government.
- DEC determines that Stewart Air National Guard Base is contributing to high concentrations of PFOS in the watershed via storm water outfalls.
- May 2: City begins using Brown's Pond as PFOS-free drinking water source
- May 2: City Manager declares State of Emergency, which is rescinded the next day.
- May 19: EPA establishes a lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts-per-trillion (ppt) for PFOS, PFOA individually, or both substances combined.

June:

- DEC and DOH identify funding sources and contracts for NYC water payments, GAC system, and Brown's Pond pipe/valve infrastructure upgrades.
- NYSDOT commences investigation.
- June 7: City switches from Brown's Pond to Catskill Aqueduct.
- June 8: DEC, DOH, and City begin Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system design
- June 20: DOH and DEC attend and present status of State actions at public meeting in City of Newburgh with City officials, EPA Administrator Enck and Riverkeeper.
- June 22: DOT contractor initiates sampling at Stewart Air National Guard Base under DEC staff oversight.

July:

- DOT continues to sample at Stewart ANG and Stewart International Airport, design work continues on GAC system and Catskill Aqueduct connection.
- July 26: DEC advertises for public bid, construction contract for 1.2 million-gallon Contact Tank.
- July 29: DOT samples soil at Stewart International Airport.
- July 30: DEC and DOH staff begin to sample private supply wells.

August:

- DEC lists Stewart Air National Guard (ANG) Base as Class 2 state Superfund site, names Stewart International Airport as P-site.
- August 8: Newburgh and DEC enter into contract for reimbursement of costs for purchase of water from the New York City Catskill Aqueduct.
- August 12: DEC lists the Stewart Air National Guard base as Class 2 state Superfund site, names Stewart International Airport as P site. Demand letter sent to the Department of Defense to perform remedial investigations and develop remedial plans.
- August 15: DEC advertises for public bid, GAC Contactor Vessel manufacturing contract.

September:

- Lake Washington Drawdown pumping begins.
- Construction on GAC system begins, drawdown of Lake Washington begins, second public meeting held.
- September 14: DEC advances City \$2.4 million for cost of DEP water from Catskill Aqueduct.
- September 15: MOU between City and DEC for GAC construction and funding commitment executed.
- September 19: Construction of 1.2 million-gallon Contact Tank begins, second public meeting held.
- September 20: Lake Washington Drawdown pumping begins.
- September 29: Fish sampling in Newburgh area begins.

October:

- October 14: DOT investigation reports for work done on ANG and Stewart International Airport released.
- October 16: DEC begins construction of Catskill Aqueduct Tap improvement.
- October 17: DOH announces start of biomonitoring program, including blood testing beginning November 1.
- October 18: DOH results from Town of New Windsor private well testing released to homeowners, bottled water provided.
- October 19: DEC advertises GAC Treatment System construction contract for public bid.
- October 25: DEC and DOH attend third City of Newburgh public meeting to update the community on the investigation, construction activities and biomonitoring.

November:

- DOT conducts additional investigation, DEC samples Beaver Dam Lake watershed, DOH begins sampling Beaver Dam Lake private wells, biomonitoring (blood testing) begins.
- DEC began providing bottled water to impacted residents and evaluating homes for Point of Entry Treatment (POET) systems.
- November 3: DOH begins sampling private wells in the Beaver Dam Lake area
- November 9: DEC Samples Beaver Dam Lake watershed

- November 15: DOH results from Beaver Dam Lake private well testing released to homeowners,
- bottled water provided.

December:

- DOH continues sampling Beaver Dam Lake private wells, biomonitoring (blood testing) continues.
- Catskill Aqueduct connection completed, DOH continues sampling Beaver Dam Lake private wells, biomonitoring (blood testing) continues.
- December 1: DEC and DOH meet with US National Guard Bureau to determine the scope of their investigation DEC demands off-site investigation and cessation of contaminant discharges from Recreation Pond.
- December 5: DEC and DOH attend fourth City of Newburgh public meeting to update the community on the investigation, construction activities and biomonitoring.
- December 28: DEC places Catskill Aqueduct Tap piped connection to Brown's Pond Pump Station in service.

2017

January:

- DEC initiates installation of POET systems at impacted residents in the Beaver Dam Lake area.
- January 26: DEC announces funding for public water supply extensions and hookup of residences with contaminated wells to municipal water supplies.
- DEC initiates connection of impacted residents to existing public water supply lines in the Towns of New Windsor and Newburgh.

February:

- DEC collects additional surface water samples at Rec Pond and Silver Stream.

March:

- DEC investigates ANG base fire station, locating the highest PFAS concentrations observed thus far (total Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substance [PFAS] of 640,000 ppt in standing water within a floor drain)
- DEC collects additional surface water samples in the Beaver Dam Lake watershed were collected.
- DEC and DOH reviews and provides comments to the ANG Site Inspection Work Plan

April:

- DEC conducts additional surface water investigation in and around Brown's Pond and tributaries.

May:

- DEC restarts Washington Lake draw-down operations to protect the Washington Lake dam.

July:

- 18 GAC contactors delivered to the GAC treatment system site for installation in the newly constructed facility.
- DEC concludes Washington Lake draw-down operations having achieved the desired safe freeboard for the dam spillway.

August:

- DEC performs full analysis of Washington Lake sediment and surface water for PFAS, 1,4-Dioxane, VOCs, SVOCs, PCBs, Pesticides and Metals.

September:

- DOT begins collecting pre-design data at Rec Pond. DoD begins their initial site investigation of Stewart ANGB.

October:

- Washington Lake GAC Treatment system building completed

November:

- 720,000 pounds of GAC delivered to the GAC treatment facility and installed in the GAC contactors.
- November 27: DEC personnel present GAC treatment system construction update at City Council meeting.

December:

- Waterline extension work initiated in the Town of New Windsor

2018**January:**

- DEC begins shake-down of GAC treatment system using Catskill Aqueduct water.
- January 8: DEC and DOH Deputy Directors attend City of Newburgh Council meeting to inform the Council and public of achievements to date and future plans.

February:

- DEC in consultation with county and state DOH prepares GAC treatment system demonstration test protocol.
- February 5: DEC and DOH host a public Availability Session at the City of Newburgh Activities Center.
- DEC begins connecting impacted residents in the Town of New Windsor to recently extended public water supply line.

March:

- DEC in consultation plans to perform GAC treatment system demonstration using Washington Lake Water.

August:

- DEC and DOH reviews and provides comments to the ANG Site Inspection Report

November:

- DEC agrees to design, construct, monitor and temporarily operate and manage a GAC System for the Town of New Windsor's Kroll Public Water Supply Well (provides 13% contribution to their existing drinking water distribution system), that was shut down by the Town in February 2017
- DEC enters into a Cooperative Agreement with the Town of New Windsor

2019

January:

- DEC and DOH review and provide comments to the ANG Site Inspection Report Addendum

May:

- Town of New Windsor shuts down operation of the Butterhill Potable Water Supply Wellfield due to levels of PFOS and PFOA found in New Windsor's water by tests done by NYSDOH.
- DEC and DOH reviews and provides comments to the ANG Expanded Site Inspection Work Plan

July:

- DEC agrees to design, construct, monitor and temporarily operate and manage a GAC System for the Town of New Windsor's Butterhill Public Water Supply Wellfield. Draft Cooperative Agreement negotiations between the Town and DEC begin
- DEC reviews and provides comments to the PFOS and PFOA Mitigation Plan (Interim Stormwater Treatment Systems for Recreation Pond) and further discusses this topic during a DEC and ANG in-person conference.

August:

- DEC activates the Kroll Well GAC Treatment System.
- Town makes initial verbal request to DEC to recover their expenditures associated with the ongoing PFAS issue in their public water supply. Incurred costs at that time were estimated at \$755,000 (Lake Street and Water Street Interconnections (i.e. pump rental/purchase, piping, and electrical costs, Purchase of Catskill Aqueduct/ Town of Newburgh/and City of Newburgh Water, Riley Road Filter Plant Operations, and Town Engineering Costs).

September:

- Town submits formal email outlining their request to recover costs from DEC for their PFAS related expenditures.

November:

- DEC activates the Butterhill Wellfield GAC Treatment System.

December:

- DEC conducts inspection of the Interim Stormwater Treatment System at Recreation Pond

2020

January:

- January 16th: DEC conducts in person meeting with Town elected officials, engineer, environmental consultants, and special environmental counsel representatives to discuss issues raised by the Town. DEC informed Town of the State's desire to conduct additional environmental investigations to determine whether there are PFAS contamination sources other than Stewart Air National Guard Base and Stewart Airport that might also be contaminating Butterhill Wells, and other groundwater supplies in the region.

February:

- DEC and PANYNJ conduct technical meeting to discuss the first investigation phase at the Stewart International Airport.

July:

- DEC and NYSDOH reviews and provides comments to the ANG Expanded Site Inspection Report
- DEC reviews and provides comments to the now re-configured Interim Stormwater Treatment Systems summary reports and conducts an inspection of the re-configured system.