



Performance Plastics

The issues being addressed today by the Senate and Assembly Standing Committees on Health and Environmental Conservation are of great importance to Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics. We are committed to being proactive about the environment as a whole, the communities in which we are present, and our core company value of sustainability. To that end, as soon as we learned about the presence of PFOA in the water in Hoosick Falls, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics committed itself to its number one goal -- ensuring access to drinking water that meets or exceeds local and national advisory levels. We made this commitment even before we initiated the investigation into the source or sources of PFOA impacting the Village water. This is because we care about our employees and the Hoosick Falls community.

We have been working closely with the Village of Hoosick Falls on this issue ever since we were advised that PFOA had been detected in the Village's municipal water supply in mid-December 2014. On December 30, 2014, we reported the presence of PFOA in the Village's water supply to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

We continued with this approach as we and the Village learned more information. Starting as early as January 2015, after contacting EPA, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics also contacted the New York Department of Environmental Conservation to notify them of the Village test results, and met with the Village to discuss the results and plans going forward. We and the Village formed a working group that included representatives from: The Rensselaer County Department of Health; New York State Department of Health; and staff from the offices of State Senator Kathleen Marchione, Congressman Chris Gibson, and Senator Charles Schumer. During the period of February through April 2015, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics conducted a hydrogeological and geological study of its McCaffrey Street site to make certain determinations about water flow. Various meetings were being held among Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics, the Village of Hoosick Falls, and representatives from the aforementioned elected officials. We worked with the Village and our engineering consulting firm to assess the best method to remove PFOA from the water. In the months that followed we conducted groundwater and soil testing at McCaffrey Street (late August 2015 through early October 2015), communicated with the Village and its residents, and worked with the various stakeholders. We announced the testing prior to the results and shared all of our site test results with the Village and the New York Department of Health in October 2015.



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In October 2015, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics offered to fund bottled water for all residents, as well as pay for the design and installation of temporary and long-term granular activated carbon filtration systems. In November 2015, EPA Region 2 recommended that Hoosick Falls residents use an alternate source of drinking water following results of tests taken in October. Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics immediately made good on its prior offer and agreed to pay for bottled water for the Village. Later that month, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics also met with the DOH to discuss a granular activated carbon filtration for the municipal water supply. Then, in December 2015, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics met with officials from the Rensselaer County DOH to confirm the viability of point-of-entry treatment systems (“POETs”) for those not connected to the municipal water supply and began to fund the installation of POETs for homes, as well as Village institutions, schools and businesses. In January through February 2016, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics again met with various stakeholders, the details of which are available on our microsite (www.hoosickwater.com). And in February 2016, the temporary granular activated carbon filter was installed for the municipal water supply in Hoosick Falls.

The temporary water filtration system has been highly effective. In March 2016, the New York Department of Health informed Village officials that, due to the water filtration system, the municipal water of Hoosick Falls does not contain detectable levels of PFOA. To build on these important steps, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics voluntarily agreed to fund a higher capacity, long-term filtration system and has worked closely with state officials to obtain the necessary approval to implement this plan. Detailed engineering and design work was required to ensure that this higher capacity system would work together with the other filtration system that was already installed on the municipal water system prior to the PFOA issue. The new system is expected to be operational by the end of this year. Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics has taken all of these steps even before any determination has been made about the sources of PFOA.

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics has been part of the Hoosick Falls community for more than 17 years. As the largest employer in the Village, with approximately 200 employees, we are and remain committed to the Hoosick Falls community. This area has welcomed many small manufacturing operations, including many innovators in Teflon applications, like Oak Industries Inc., Allied-Signal Inc., Taconic Plastics Ltd., and Dodge Industries Inc. The area’s long industrial history has included widespread use of materials containing PFOA, decades before Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics even arrived. Manufacturing



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in general in Hoosick Falls is not what it used to be, and many of these operations have sold, shut down, downsized, or moved away. But when others sold or shut down, we stayed, and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics intends to remain an important member of the overall Hoosick Falls community. The high technology products manufactured by our employees in Hoosick Falls compete on a global basis and they are proud of the quality of our products and the impact they have on enhancing the industries we serve. We are invested in this community in many ways, and it is in our collective best interests to see Hoosick Falls flourish.

From an environmental standpoint, we set extremely rigorous standards for ourselves in connection with things like energy and water conservation, as just two examples. Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics strives, globally, to be a leader in sustainability and in the environment. We have several initiatives at the company to give meaning to these goals, and endeavor to be “the reference in the world in sustainable habitats.” This is a collective and continuous effort as we all work to improve our environment. In addition, we adhere to applicable laws and follow industry best practices when it comes to the management and disposal of materials used in our various facilities.

Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics is a processor of PTFE. It purchases PTFE from other companies. Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics has never made PFOA, a raw material used by other companies to manufacture PTFE, so it has, of course, reasonably relied on its suppliers and on regulators for information and best practices for the use of PFOA. Until this year, PFOA was not a regulated chemical by New York State, and it has never been regulated by the EPA. In our industry, like many others, we must be able to rely on the standards and guidance provided by government agencies tasked with reviewing and regulating chemicals. Getting clear and consistent guidance is paramount.

So, the issue at hand for us is how best to work with local, state, and federal officials to address the issue of the water in a way that is quick, thorough, and guided by the best information possible. And rather than simply talking, we have been doing. Our first priority was to ensure that the people of the Village of Hoosick Falls had drinking water that meets or exceeds current advisories set by EPA and the State of New York, which we have dedicated significant resources to accomplish. Then, secondly, to investigate the source or sources of the PFOA. This requires the collective efforts of the NY DEC and the other possible responsible parties and is just getting underway. In doing so, we aim to be transparent about our efforts and progress and to keep the community informed by implementing access



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to information. Our dedicated, publicly available microsite is a good example.

Let us agree that our reliance on the federal, state and local governments is a key part of the process, but that collaboration and input from residents, businesses and other partners is equally vital to our success in this together. We look forward to continuing to work with the community and various stakeholders to overcome these challenges and make Hoosick Falls a better place for all of us.

In closing, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics would like to thank members of the New York State Senate and Assembly for holding these important public hearings; agency partners at DEC, DOH and EPA for their dedicated efforts in responding to the water quality issues at hand; and, above all, the residents of Hoosick Falls for their perseverance and patience.