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ALBANY OFFICE
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 508
ALBANY, NY 12247
(518) 455-2381
DISTRICT OFFICE
1580 COLUMBIA TURNPIKE
BLDG. 2, STE. 1
CASTLETON-ON-HUDSON, NY 12033
(518) 371-2751
EMAIL: JORDAN@NYSENATE.GOV
WEBSITE: JORDAN.NYSENATE.GOV

October 6, 2021

The Honorable Basil Seggos
Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental
Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233

Dr. Howard Zucker
Commissioner, NYS Department of Health
Empire State Plaza, Corning Tower
Albany, New York 12237

Dear Commissioner Seggos and Commissioner Zucker:

I write advocating for the DEC and DOH to undertake immediate, proactive, comprehensive steps to safeguard the drinking water for, and health and safety of, Poestenkill families in the wake of discovered PFOAs.

Specifically, I officially request that the DEC dig monitoring wells around the Algonquin Middle School to find the source of the PFOA/PFOS contamination. I also request that DEC and DOH coordinate the immediate testing of private wells at no cost to area homeowners. In making these requests as State

Senator for the 43rd District, I add my voice to the requests already made by Poestenkill Town Board Member Eric Wohlleber, and former EPA Regional Administrator, and Poestenkill resident Judith Enck, respectively.

As you are aware, PFOA was detected in drinking water, at levels in violation of New York State Drinking Water standards, at the Algonquin Middle School in the Town of Poestenkill in January 2021. The finding of this contamination is incredibly serious and must be responded to with the full resources and focus of state government, beginning with the agencies you lead. Coming just a few years removed from the PFOA contamination crisis that impacted the water supply in the neighboring Village of Hoosick Falls and the Town of Hoosick – and the strong, sustained public outcry against the state and federal government’s slow initial response – it is imperative that this issue be addressed proactively and with 100 percent transparency.

The DEC needs to take every necessary step and utilize its considerable resources to identify, as expeditiously as possible, the source of the reported PFOA contamination. I share growing community concerns over the fact that PFOA in the Algonquin School was identified in January 2021, and nine months later, the DEC still has not drilled monitoring wells in logical locations in the Town to correctly identify the source of contamination. A small number of residential drinking water wells is not a surrogate for actual monitoring wells.

It was shared with me that just ten private residential wells were tested in August, and another ten were tested two weeks ago. The state testing a mere 20 wells in the span of two months for locally identified PFOA contamination is simply not enough. This important process needs to move forward in an expedited

and expanded fashion.

It also was shared with me that there is an unlined municipal landfill not far from the Algonquin School and groundwater near the landfill has not been tested concerning this problem.

Accordingly, the DEC should drill test wells at or near the landfill. Additionally, Dynamic Systems, Inc., in Poestenkill should be tested and evaluated as a potential source of PFOA. The company in question does materials testing, process simulations, and a range of other activities and may have worked with PFAS chemicals specifically coated with PFOA. The operation is located on a flood plain, near wetlands, and close to Newfoundland Creek.

The DEC should know if the company was formally asked to respond to its 2017 survey asking companies to voluntarily disclose if they have used, or are using, PFAS chemicals. If the company has released PFOA into the environment, the DEC should undertake a cost recovery action to cover agency expenses related to this particular concern. Furthermore, in the interest of safeguarding public health, the DEC and DOH should sample private wells in the affected area and do so at no financial cost to Poestenkill residents.

Thank you for your prompt attention to my requests made on behalf of the Town of Poestenkill families to help ensure their health and safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daphne V. Jordan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Daphne Jordan
State Senator, 43rd District