



Department of Health

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.
Executive Deputy Commissioner

April 19, 2019

Joseph Campbell, President
Yvonne Taylor, Vice President
Mary Anne Kowalski, Research Director
Seneca Lake Guardian
P.O. Box 333
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Re: Former Seneca Army Depot
Romulus, Seneca County

Dear Mr. Campbell, Ms. Taylor and Ms. Kowalski:


I am writing in response to your March 1, 2019 letter to New York State Commissioner of Health, Howard A. Zucker, M.D., J.D., concerning Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) at the former Seneca Army Depot site in Romulus, Seneca County. Evaluating the potential for exposure to PFAS and other emerging contaminants is a priority of the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at many sites within New York, including the former Seneca Army Depot site. Additionally, we share your desire to expedite environmental investigations of the nature and extent of PFAS at the former Seneca Army Depot site and we have made this request to the Department of the Army (Army) in the past.

Following the detection of PFAS at the former Seneca Army Depot site by the Army in 2017, the NYSDOH, Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and Seneca County Health Department completed community outreach and water well sampling at twenty-one private properties located near the site. Based on that sampling, additional action is needed at one property on the west side of the former Seneca Army Depot site and that has been communicated with the property owner. While the source of PFAS identified in several water samples has not been determined, it is suspected that both active and inactive fire training areas located on and off the site may have released PFAS to the environment. Additional environmental investigation is needed to better understand the potential sources of PFAS and whether there may be concern for future land use on and around the former Seneca Army Depot site.

The environmental investigation and long-term management of the former Seneca Army Depot site is being addressed through a Federal Facility Agreement between the Army, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and State of New York. As part of this agreement, the NYSDOH has recommended to the NYSDEC that additional actions be completed at the former Seneca Army Depot site to further define the nature and extent of PFAS contamination and to further assess potential human exposures to PFAS in area private drinking water wells. Discussions on PFAS contamination between the Agencies and the Army are ongoing. We will continue collaborating and requesting that actions are taken expeditiously.

I hope you find this information useful. If you have any other questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Justin Deming with the NYSDOH's Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation at (518) 402-7860.

Sincerely,



Gary Ginsberg, Ph.D.
Director

Center for Environmental Health

cc: J. Deming