Headlines

Note: The current and by many accounts outdated federal and NH advisory standard for PFC (PFOA+PFOS) in public drinking water is 70 parts per trillion (ppt). with Vermont now as low as 20 ppt. ee a table of state PFC limits click here**.** PFC are a long-lasting contaminant of emerging concern.

1. PFC levels of 10 ppt and 6 ppt, respectively have been detected by recent tests in Rye Water District (RWD) and Aquarion public water supply by the suppliers and by private citizen testing.

2. The Rye Water District Garland Well, whose water is mixed with other wells, had a reading of 21 ppt in its most recent test for PFCs.

3. August testing of some of the monitoring wells at the old Grove Road Landfill (1000 feet from the Garland Well) continued to show PFC above the federal advisory level at 88 to 100 ppt. Test results from July 2017 were up to 151 ppt for PFCs in wells around the dump.

4. PFCs were also detected in monitoring wells around the Breakfast Hill Road Landfill located at the corner of Lafayette Road and Breakfast Hill Road. As a result, the DES and EPA have told the town of Rye that the town is responsible for continued monitoring of PFCs in several residential wells in Rye.

5. The Breakfast Hill Road Landfill took in ash from the Pease Waste to Energy program for a period of time after the Coakley Landfill dump was shut down due to ash contaminating the surface water around the dump. It is possible ash was also dumped at the Grove Road Landfill however, no record has been found. However, historical records document burning of materials at the Grove Road landfill and complaints from neighbors about ash in their yards.

6. The Planning Board is considering changes to the Aquifer and Wellhead Protection Ordinance to include the “missing” Aquarion Well 5A on Central Road (thanks to a resident continually pushing this).

7. Aquarion, being acquired by Eversource, has closed one of its wells in N. Hampton after a test indicated 24 ppt PFOA and PFOS and a total of 87 ppt for all PFCs. Aquarion has proposed developing a major new well (MW-22) to the Public Utilities Commission. However, many

technical issues and concerns have been raised relating to the potential development of this well including the danger of contaminating the aquifer with saltwater and chemicals.

8. The Governor's Task Force Sub Committee on the Coakley Landfill briefed the public on August 23, 2017 at the Rye Public Library. Task Force August 23d presentation click here and watch the recording click here including information on bedrock geology, testing around Coakley and latest science on health effects of PFC's

Rye Civic League Article and Resources

PFC's and Public Water Supply September 2017
PFOA+PFOS testing by Rye water suppliers Aquarion for Jenness Beach and Rye Beach, and the Rye Water District, as well as citizens' private testing of both systems, indicates levels of 5.5 to 21 ppt in the public water supply for this containment of "emerging concern".

See July Rye Water District water testing: click here:
See Aquarion July testing: click here

The latest July 2017 test of the Garland Well shows a combined PFOA and PFOS level of 21 ppt and 5 ppt of PFHxS (the PFC with the longest half-life in the human body), whereas in Jan 2017 it was 14-16 ppt***. Note: Garland is RWD most productive well and its water is mixed with the other wells***.

Two test rounds in the last few months of monitoring wells near the old Grove Road Landfill, located up gradient approx. 1000 feet from the Rye Water District Garland Well, show levels of 50-150 ppt in some wells (MW-6 and MW-101) on the downhill side of the old landfill closest to the Garland Well.

Map illustrating relative location of monitoring well MW-6 to Garland Well: click here

Latest Grove Road Landfill monitoring well test results: click here

The latest sampling of the Rye Breakfast Hill landfill monitoring wells show results for the five wells ranging trom 9 to 82 ppt. click here

PFCs have been detected at very high levels in surface water in Berry's Brook, which is stocked with 5,000 fish per year for recreational fishing. A discussion can be found here click here. PFCs were also detected in Berry's Brook in several locations in Rye and Portsmouth.

Warning signs were put up in Greenland along the Green Trail by the Coakley Landfill Group to warn residents that PFCs were detected in Berry's Brook.

Aquarion has closed it Well 6 in Hampton, one of its approximately 20 wells, after detecting 24 ppt of PFOA and PFOS in the well and a total of 87 ppt of all PFCs, an increase of over 4 times in a year. Other wells adjacent to this well also increased 2 to 3 fold in PFC concentrations over last year. Aquarion mixes water from its various well and the most recent tests of the distribution tanks in Hampton and on Mill Road show 5-7 ppt.

Rye customers receive water from the Aquarion distribution system but also Well 5A on Central Road in Rye. Its July test shows 5.5 ppt a value which was confirmed by a resident's private testing.

The Rye Planning Board based on citizen requests is considering updating the Aquifer and Wellhead Protection Ordinance as the Aquarion public water supply Well 5A is not currently called out or mapped for protective radius as a public water supply source. Multiple homes, including 3 recently built which have septic systems are in the 400 foot state well sanitary protective radius (radius is defined by amount of water pumped) with many more in the larger protective 1,100 foot radius indicated on DES maps. Link to Aquarion map of their system as presented to PUC for Well 22. Click here

For state requirements in a protective sanitary radius see this NHDES Fact Sheet click here

RCL background article on Well 5A including satellite map of 400' sanitary protective radius. click here

Aquarion system map showing location of Well 5A and its state protective radius. click here

Aquarion representatives attended the August 22nd, 2017 meeting of the Rules and Regulations Committee to discuss Well 5A and more generally their water supply system.
Stream of meeting: click here

Video Streaming of Governor's Task Force-Coakley Landfill Subcommittee Meeting August 23, 2017 here
Task Force August 23d presentation here here
Water discussion and update from Task Force members State Rep Mindi Messmer and former State Senator Nancy Stiles.

- Presentation includes latest scientific data on local bedrock geology and health effects of PFC's
- Rockingham County has the highest rate of breast cancer in the US
- A new cluster of pediatric brain cancers at 4x expected rate in 5 area towns including Rye has been identified by the state.
- Discussion of recent testing results indicating rising levels of PFC in many test wells
- Aquarion is being acquired by Eversource and is before the NH Public Ultiities Commission with a proposal for a major new well in North Hampton
- Rep. Messmer, who receives Rye District Water, is receiving bottled water from Monadnock and will be installing a whole house filter and a kitchen tap reverse osmosis system, this last the only known effective way to remove PFC.
- According to Mike Wimsatt of NHDES, Monadnock was tested several times by DES and results for PFCs were non-detect.
- Water test results for tap water collected from 3 homes in Rye which receive Rye Water District water tested at approximately 10 ppt in August 2017. In December, PFCs were not detected in any of the samples.

Regulatory Information from other states on PFCs

Comparative table of state PFC limits Click Here

1. Vermont
2. New Jersey
3. Minnesota
4. Delaware River Keeper petition to PA

EPA Information on PFOS and PFOA https://www.epa.gov/pfas

ATSDR information on PFCs and your health here
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfc/index.html.

C8 Science Panel Study on health effects from PFCs here
http://www.c8sciencepanel.org/prob_link.html

What are PFC and in what products are they used: Teflon coatings, Scotch Guard, fire-fighting foams, waterproofing, etc..
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hac/pha/decatur/Blood PFC Testing and Health Information.pdf

NHDES Guide: In-Home Water Filtration Options for PFCs in Household Drinking Water here
https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/documents/pfoa-inhome-treatment-20160518.pdf