

Public announcement:

The Town of New Windsor has always put the interests, the safety, and the well-being of its residents first. That has always, and will always, be the single most important factor in any decision made by me and the other members of the Town Board.

With that guiding principle in mind, we are shutting down the Butterhill Wells and Treatment Plant because we have become the latest victim of the contamination of the public water supply caused by the use of firefighting foam at Stewart International Airport.

When we discovered this water supply, it was tested and found to be safe, with no detectable levels of PFOA or PFOS. We then developed these wells and treatment facility in collaboration with the Department of Health, the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, who gave us \$12 million dollars to help build it.

Additional testing was done during development and construction phases, which led everyone to believe that this water, our water, was safe and immune from the problems plaguing our friends in the City of Newburgh.

Unfortunately, more recent testing done by the State Department of Health has revealed low levels of PFOA and PFOS in the water. Confirmation of these results was first received by the Town, in writing, on April 4, 2019.

The DOH has told us that the levels of these chemicals detected in our wells are below both the EPA's lifetime health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion and the NYS Drinking Water Quality Council's recently recommended 10 parts per trillion maximum contaminant level for PFOA and PFOS.

They further say that "based on the results of PFOA and PFOS being below this recommended level, [our] water is acceptable for drinking."

Despite these claims, however, the Town Board and I have determined to shut down the wells.

Not long ago, this same situation was forced upon us with regard to contamination at the Town's Kroll Well. We decided to shut it down in order to ensure the safety and well-being of the Town's residents, and we must do the same thing now.

We have instructed the Town's Water Operator and Engineer to restart the Riley Road Water Treatment Plant in order to begin drawing water again from the Catskill Aqueduct. It is expected to take at least a few weeks to get this Plant up and running again at full capacity.

When that occurs, the Butterhill facilities will be shut down.

We have already contacted the DEC and the DEP to advise them of the situation and the Town's insistence that they work with us to provide the Town with a treatment system to deal with this issue.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please call the Town Attorney's Office at 845-563-4630.

