

# SPILL INVESTIGATION ONGOING IN GRANVILLE, NY

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) are providing this community update regarding the July 5, 2024, spill of firefighting foam at the Saint-Gobain Facility in Granville, Washington County.

This community update provides an overview of the spill event and the efforts by the State and the facility to cleanup and monitor any potential environmental impacts.

## Background Information

On Friday, July 5, DEC Spill Response experts responded to a report of a release of firefighting foam at the Saint-Gobain facility in the village of Granville, Washington County, because of an equipment malfunction due to a power outage. Approximately 400 gallons of foam concentrate was released as spilled product. The firefighting foam contains chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Due to rain and on-site conditions, foam escaped containment and entered a drainage swale leading off the site, impacting the Indian River. Under DEC oversight, the facility contracted the services of a cleanup contractor to contain and recover the foam, investigate areas impacted by the spill, and excavate contaminated soils in and around the facility.

## Investigating Impacts to Drinking Water

DOH is working with DEC and the facility owner to assess potential impacts from the spill on local drinking water supplies and recreational waterbodies. Much of the impacted area along the drainage ditch is served by the village of Granville public drinking water system, which was not affected by this spill. Residents and businesses who receive their drinking water from the public water system do not need to have their water tested and can continue to safely use the water. Granville property owners who use private wells along

the affected area (see map on page 3) will be evaluated to assess if testing is recommended to determine if the spill has affected their well. Where testing is recommended, those property owners will be contacted by the State to discuss the testing. At this time, DOH has no evidence to suggest that property owners on private wells cannot safely drink and use their water.

Available information indicates that potential impacts to sediment and/or soil is limited to the Saint-Gobain property, drainage ditch, and downstream waterbodies, and those areas will be further investigated.

## Indian River Recreation Advisory Issued

While the spill is investigated and out of an abundance of caution, DOH recommends that people avoid fishing, swimming, and recreating in the section of the Indian River north (downstream) of the Route 149 bridge to the confluence with the Mettawee River (approximately 0.25 miles north of the Mettawee Street bridge). This includes the pool immediately downstream of the Mettawee Street bridge. Signs are posted in affected areas to notify the public. The Mettawee Village Park and swimming area is upstream of the confluence and was not affected by this spill.

## Saint-Gobain Facility

On the evening of July 5, the Maintenance and Engineering team at Saint-Gobain Tape Solutions in Granville responded to fire alarms caused by the local power outage and discovered the fire suppression system in a storage building engaged because of the false fire alarms. Upon investigation, the foam used in the suppression system traveled out of the building, across the property, and made its way into the Indian River via stormwater ditches and culverts connected to Saint-Gobain's property. There are no additional sources of this foam on the property currently.

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In response, Saint-Gobain promptly contacted DEC to notify the agency of the release. Saint-Gobain also engaged the help of Maviro, an environmental services company, and promptly initiated response actions to contain and mitigate the release. Working together, and with the oversight of the DEC, the parties engaged in the following activities:

- Surveyed and inspected the land and surface water between the plant property and the Indian River to evaluate the distance and areas where the foam traveled;
- Begun excavation of soil on the plant property where the foam traveled;
- Placed sorbent booms in surface water sources in the area to contain and absorb the foam; and
- Started an investigation to understand how the fire suppression system was engaged.

DEC and DOH are committed to keeping the town and village of Granville informed to respond to this incident and conduct the needed remediation efforts.

## WHO TO CONTACT

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Region 5 Spills Program  
Info.R5@dec.ny.gov  
(518) 897-1241

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation  
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## INFORMATION ON FIREFIGHTING FOAM

New York State continues to lead the nation in responding to emerging contaminants like PFAS and holding polluters accountable for cleaning up chemicals from the environment. Removing PFAS from the environment requires a long-term, concerted effort involving laws and regulations aimed at manufacturers, in addition to work underway to limit direct discharges of emerging contaminants to groundwater or surface water bodies. Over the past several years New York enacted laws to phase out intentionally-added PFAS in carpeting, aqueous film forming foam (“AFFF”) often used as foam for controlling Class B fires, food packaging, and apparel, among other products.

DEC is working aggressively to phase out the use of PFAS from the supply chain and is pursuing investigations at PFAS sites throughout the state to address other sources. DEC also works with DOH to inform the public on ways to reduce PFAS in private wells. See the “Reducing PFAS in Private Wells” fact sheet at

[https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation\\_hudson\\_pdf/pfasprivatewellsfs.pdf](https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/remediation_hudson_pdf/pfasprivatewellsfs.pdf).



Map depicting the flow of the spill from the Saint-Gobain facility, through drainage swales and underground culverts to the Indian River.

Orange flow path is area of spill investigation, avoid fishing, swimming or recreating in these areas.

- Drainage Swales, Indian River
- Underground Flow
- Mettawee River

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