

On Friday, July 5th, a firefighting foam spill occurred at the Saint Gobain facility in Granville, Washington County and traveled offsite along a drainage ditch to the Indian River. Investigation and remediation of the spill is ongoing. The New York State Department of Health is working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the facility owner to assess potential impacts from the spill on local drinking water supplies and recreational waterbodies. The firefighting foam contains chemicals known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). 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 who receive their drinking water from the public water system do not need to have their water tested, as public water supplies are monitored for contamination prior to distribution. Granville residents who use private wells along the affected area will be identified and contacted to discuss testing to determine if the spill has affected their well. While the spill is being investigated and out of an abundance of caution, the Department of Health recommends that people avoid fishing 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) and the agencies will post signs to this effect. This includes the pool adjacent to the Mettawee Street bridge. The Mettawee Village Park and swimming area is upstream of the confluence and was not affected by this spill. Available information indicates that potential impacts to sediment and/or soil is limited to the Saint Gobain property, drainage ditch, and downstream waterbodies, and will be further investigated. Questions on the spill and cleanup activities can be directed to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Region 5 Spills Program at (518) 897-1241 or Info.R5@dec.ny.gov and health-related questions can be directed to New York State Department of Health's Bureau of Environmental Exposure Investigation at (518) 402 -7860 or beei@health.ny.gov.