

**SUFFOLK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**



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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Water Quality Advisory for Private-Well Owners in Areas of Yaphank Avenue

The US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has identified two chemicals known as PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) as emerging contaminants. These chemicals are part of a class of chemicals known as perfluorinated compounds (PFCs), which are currently unregulated by the federal government. PFCs have been used in a number of industrial and commercial products such as firefighting foam, as well as coatings that repel water, oil, stains and grease. Thus, people may be exposed to PFOS and PFOA through air, water, or soil from industrial sources and from consumer products. In 2013, major water supply companies began testing their wells for PFOS and PFOA. In April of 2016, New York State added PFOS and PFOA to the state's list of hazardous substances.

Through private well sampling conducted by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, PFOS/PFOA was detected in the vicinity of Yaphank Avenue. To ensure a safe supply of drinking water, Suffolk County has been working with Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) to connect impacted residents to public water at no cost to the homeowner. The County is working to facilitate this connection as soon as possible, ideally by mid-November. Suffolk County will continue to provide bottled water at no charge to impacted residents until the connection to public water is complete. Please call 631-852-4820 to request bottled water.

If your property is served with a private well, and your residence is located along Yaphank Avenue, between Nick Court and approximately half a mile north of Horseblock Road; along Grand Avenue and Michele Lane; and along Gerard Road, between Leslie Lane and Monterey Lane, and you would like to have your drinking water tested, please contact the SCDHS Office of Water Resources at (631) 852-5810. Again, this notice does not affect residences that utilize public water.

Residents with health related questions about PFOS and PFOA in drinking water are advised to call the New York State Department of Health at 1-518-402-7860 (please reference investigation in Yaphank, Suffolk County).

For additional information about PFC's please visit our website at:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/health/pfcwaterinfo>