RIVERKEEPER
NY's clean water advocate

Contaminated Drinking Water in Newburgh

The City of Newburgh faces a drinking water crisis after the toxic chemical PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) was found to have contaminated its primary reservoir, Lake Washington, prompting the City Manager to declare a state of emergency in May 2016.

Come to the Public Forum

Tuesday, October 25, @ 7PM
Newburgh Armory Unity Center
321 South William Street, Newburgh, NY

Where does Newburgh's drinking water come from?
More than 29,000 residents in the City of Newburgh rely on drinking water from Lake Washington. The water is filtered and treated, and then piped throughout the city.

What chemicals were found and are there health risks?
Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS, usually pronounced "Pee-Foss") is a toxic chemical present in products such as firefighting foam used at airports. Exposure has been linked to serious health issues, including cancer, thyroid problems, and high cholesterol.

How did this chemical get into the Newburgh drinking water supply?
PFOS is in firefighting foam used at airports, including Stewart Air National Guard Base and Stewart International Airport. These airports are believed to be the major sources of PFOS in Newburgh's drinking water.

What steps are being taken to protect your health?

- Newburgh's drinking water source was temporarily shifted to safe clean water that supplies NYC.
- The State has committed to fund installation of a filtration system to filter Newburgh's drinking water.
- The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has decided that Stewart Air National Guard Base needs to be cleaned up - freeing up money from the 'Superfund' to investigate and rid the site of the chemical.

Sign up for Blood Testing

Blood testing will tell everyone in the community how much PFOS is in their body.
Call: (518) 402-7950
Email: beoe@health.ny.gov

More information at www.riverkeeper.org/newburgh