



The Southern New Hampshire PFOA Investigation 5/23/2016 – 1:45 PM

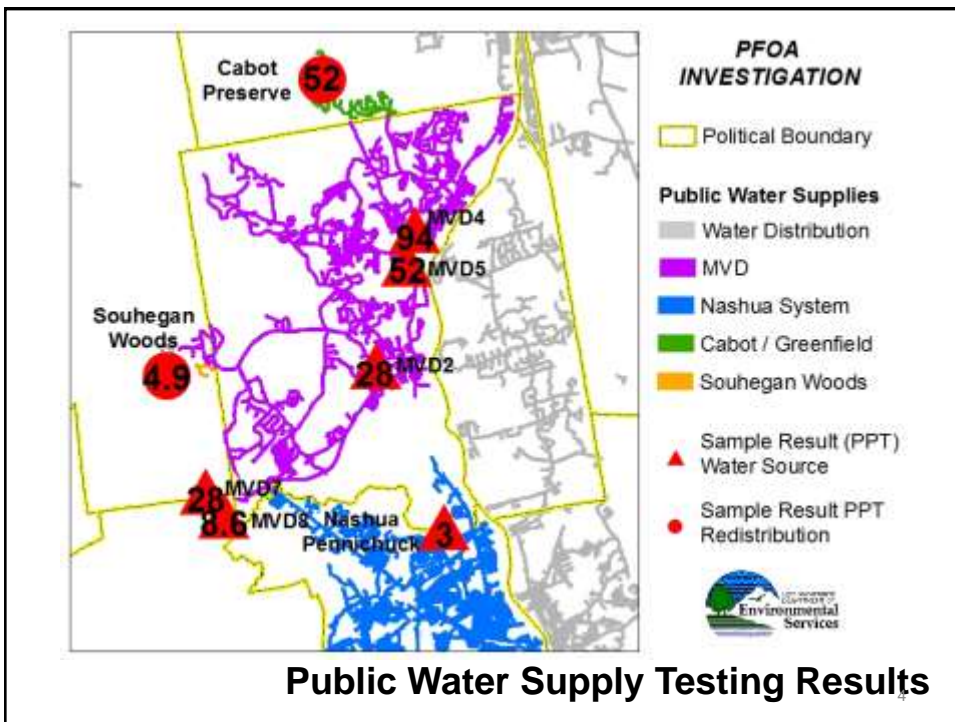
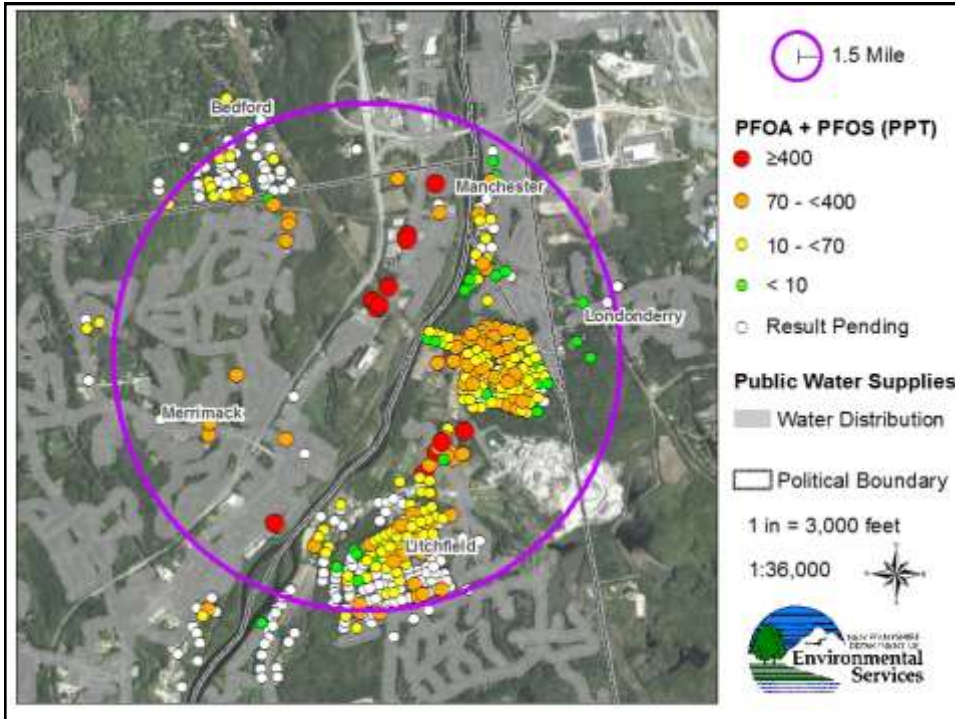
**Presented by Mike Wimsatt, Director, Waste Management Division
At the State/EPA Meeting on PFAS – Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substances
Quinsigamond Community College, Worcester, Massachusetts
May 23, 2016**

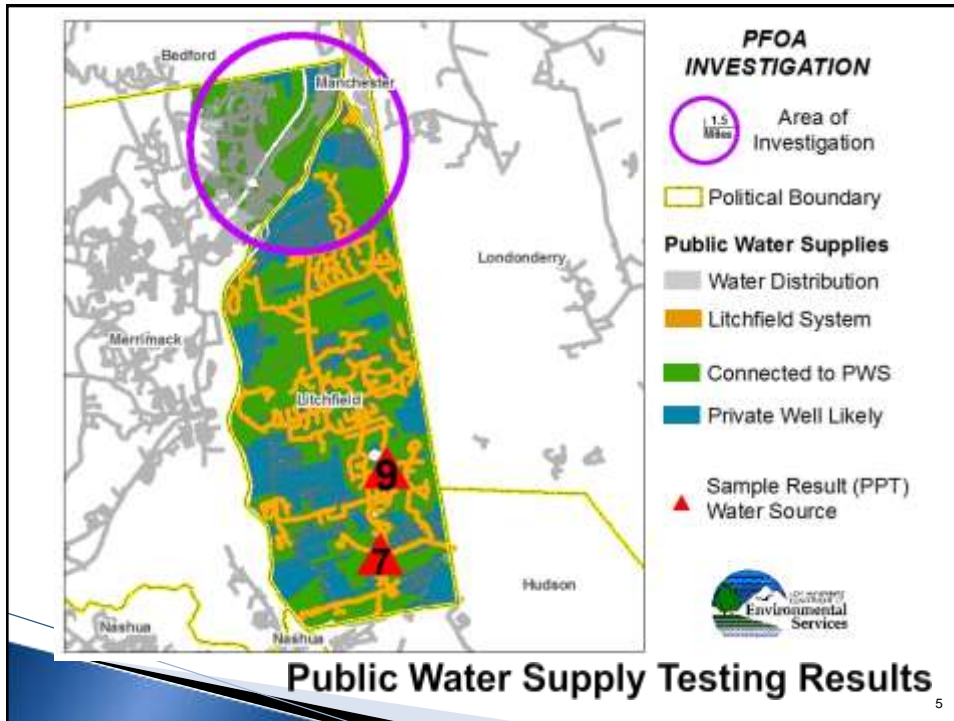
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Initial Site Discovery – Saint-Gobain Facility in Merrimack, NH

- ▶ Due to contamination detected near its NY and VT plants, Saint-Gobain (S-G) tests water at its NH plant
- ▶ 2/26/16: S-G reports PFOA detected at 30 parts per trillion in water supplied to plant by Merrimack Village District Water System (MVD), a public water supply
- ▶ NHDES and MVD take immediate steps to sample public and private drinking water supplies in vicinity of the plant
- ▶ Testing quickly expands across the river to Litchfield – airborne transport pathway becomes evident





Incident Response Components

- ▶ Private drinking water well sampling
 - Well owner identification/outreach/reporting
 - GIS / mailings / phone / door-to-door
 - DES Website / Survey Monkey / DHHS Public Info Line
 - >600 wells sampled to date; on our way to >1000
 - Laboratory overload
- ▶ Public water supply sampling
- ▶ Bottled water provision
 - Contractor capacity
 - Initial distribution / followed by home delivery
 - >400 homes and growing



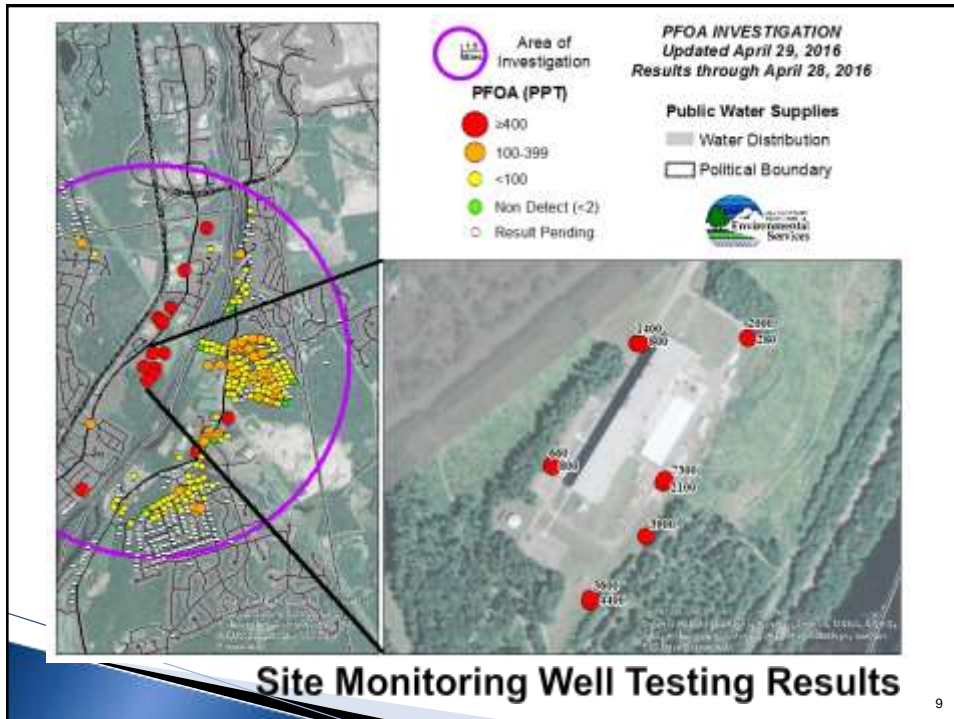
Incident Response Components, cont'd

- ▶ Local government communications
 - 7 communities involved
- ▶ Public Outreach
 - 7 public meetings to date; more to come
 - Press releases / press calls
 - DES Website
 - Dedicated page
 - One-Stop Public Database
 - DHHS Public Info Line
 - Field samplers / Office staff



Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Site Investigation Components

- ▶ Plant site soil/groundwater investigation
 - Up to 7300 ppt in site groundwater
- ▶ Public/private water supply well sampling
- ▶ Sensitive receptor site soil sampling
- ▶ Agricultural site soil sampling
- ▶ Potential off-site disposal area
 - Former Merrimack Town Landfill
 - Up to 2200 ppt in site groundwater



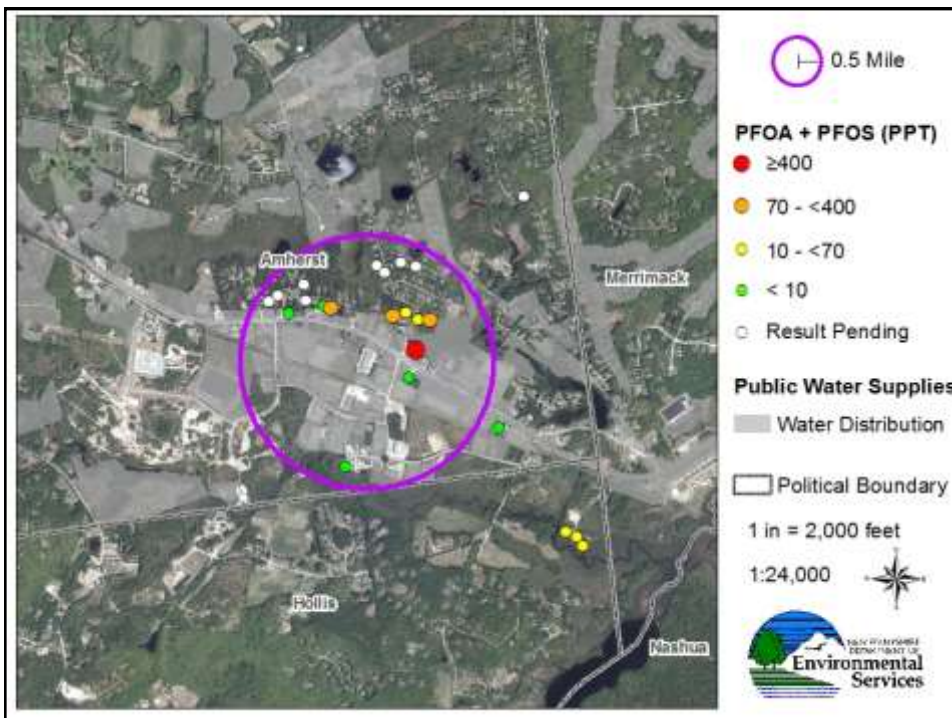
Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Response/Remedial Actions

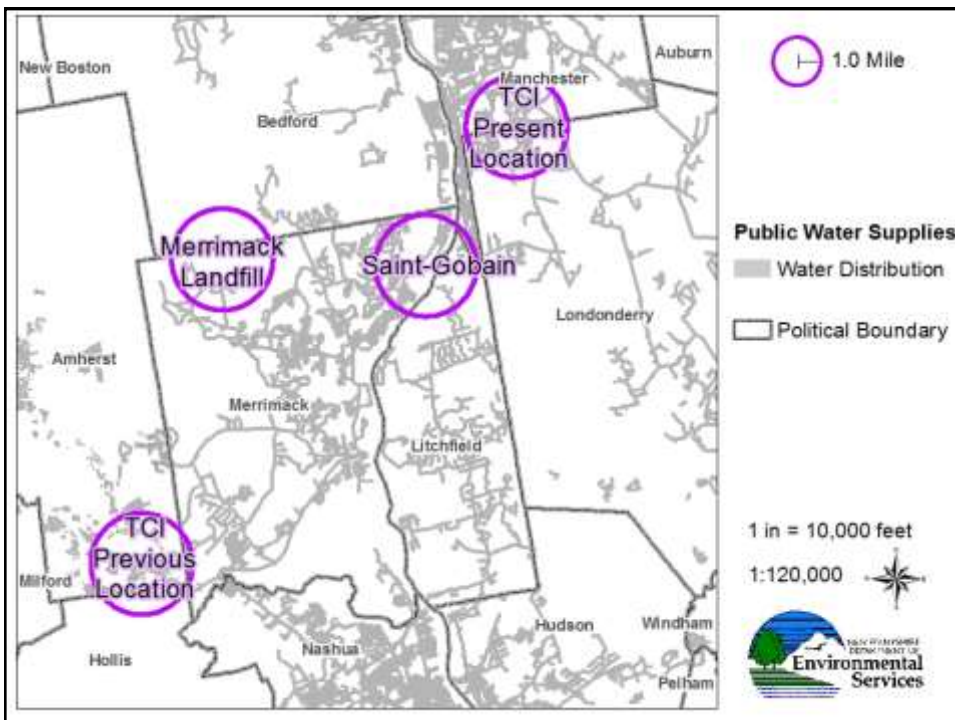
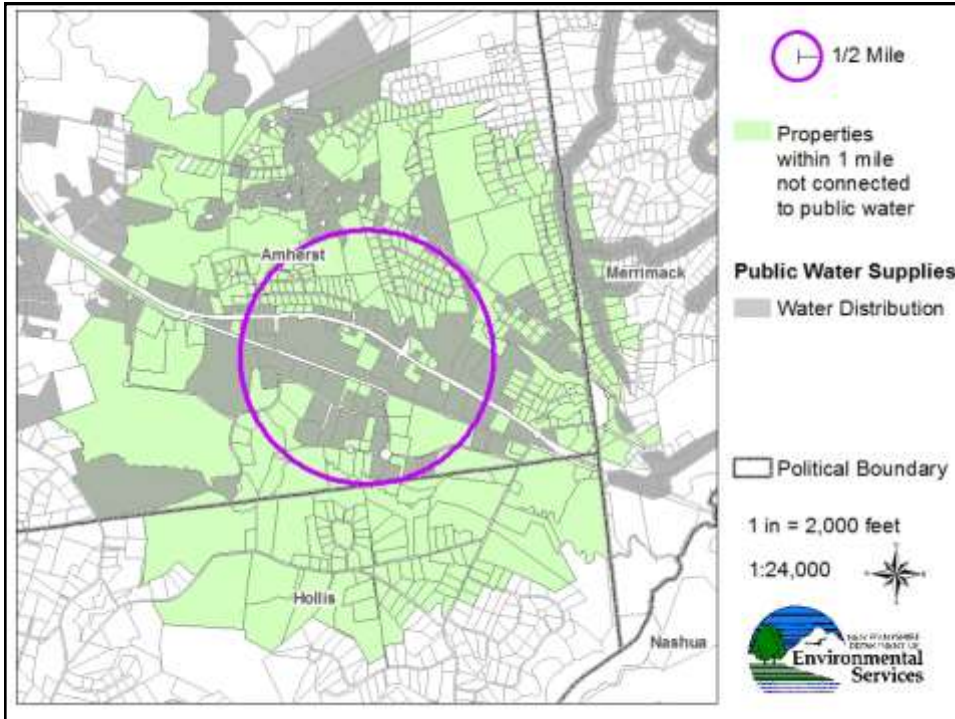
- ▶ Solution for impacted drinking water
 - Public water system (MVD)
 - Alternate water sources
 - Wellhead treatment
 - Private drinking water wells
 - POE Treatment systems
 - Provision of public water
 - Possible solution in Litchfield
 - Extension of Pennichuck system from south
 - S-G Funding design – work ongoing



Evolution of Investigation – Leads to Amherst, New Hampshire

- ▶ Review to identify other potential NH facilities (44)
- ▶ 4/4/16 Inspection of current Textiles Coated International, Inc. (TCI) facility in Manchester
- ▶ TCI founded by former ChemFab employees
- ▶ Conducted same manufacturing activities as S-G at its Amherst facility from 1985 to 2006
- ▶ 4/15/16 NHDES initiated drinking water well sampling
- ▶ 5/11/16 Test results showed PFOA >100 ppt
- ▶ Extensive private drinking water well sampling ongoing
- ▶ Sampling of nearby former solid waste landfill pending







Incident Management Challenge – Lack of an Enforceable Standard

- ▶ 2009 – EPA issues Public Health Advisory of 400 parts per trillion for PFOA, based upon short term exposure
- ▶ January 2016 – EPA Region 2 announces 100 ppt level in Hoosick Falls, NY
- ▶ February 2016 – Vermont establishes 20 ppt standard
- ▶ March 2016 – NHDES uses 100 ppt as action level
- ▶ May 19, 2016 – EPA issues Lifetime Health Advisories for PFOA and PFOS of 70 ppt
- ▶ NHDES reviewing LHA – considering emergency rulemaking to establish groundwater standard



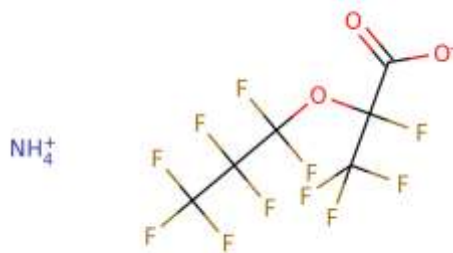
Current and Future Considerations

- ▶ Reviewing list of other potential manufacturing facilities
 - Information requests
 - Facility multi-media inspections
- ▶ Landfill groundwater monitoring
 - Active/lined facilities
 - 150 +/- closed, unlined facilities
- ▶ Review of fire sites, firefighting training facilities, and airports
- ▶ Superfund sites and federal facilities
- ▶ Review of PFOA substitutes – C6?



Future Questions...

- ▶ “C6” or “NextGen” as a substitute for PFOA
- ▶ Ammonium perfluoro(2-methyl-3-oxahexanoate)



Many Thanks are Due!

- ▶ Our colleagues in New York and Vermont
- ▶ U.S. EPA Region 1 leadership and staff
- ▶ NH Elected Officials
 - Governor Hassan
 - Congressional delegation
 - Municipal officials in 7 towns
- ▶ NH agency leadership and staff
 - NHDES
 - NH Dept. of Health & Human Services
 - NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets, and Food
- ▶ NEWMOA