

AUGUST TOWN BOARD MEETING UPDATE REGARDING
THE OLD GHENT (TALARICO) LANDFILL SITE WATER TESTING

At the June Town Board meeting this Board made a statement regarding the Old Ghent (Talarico) Landfill Site, including our intention to request of NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation and County of Columbia officials that they perform water testing to include testing for PFOA. It was our understanding that while water testing had been performed at this private site in the past, none had been sampled since 2006 and that previous testing did not include PFOA.

Following the June Town Board meeting I emailed a letter to the Chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, the Columbia County Attorney, DEC Counsel Patrick Foster, DEC Project Manager Larry Alden and DEC Regional Hazardous Waste Engineer Jim Quinn, which included the Town of Ghent's official request for said testing to be performed. Subsequently I was contacted several times by Keith Goertz, DEC Regional Director for Region 4 and was advised in July that NYSDEC and the NYS Dept. of Health, in concert with the Columbia County Dept. of Health, would be taking samples at the site, as requested, on July 25th. DEC would be planning to contact the necessary parties and test the same sites that were tested years ago surrounding the Old Ghent (Talarico) Landfill.

Within the past week I was advised by the Columbia County Dept. of Health that the results were back from the lab utilized by New York State. I was informed that the results associated with this testing were in the form of 3 separate reports consisting of over 200 pages in total. I asked Columbia County Dept. of Health Director Jack Mabb for a summary of the report, which we received from Health Dept. staff member Tara Becker. The summary results reflect the following:

Sampling was conducted of 4 residential drilled supply wells and the pond surrounding the perimeter of the landfill. These included the wells sampled periodically since 1992 and most recently in 2006. There are no official monitoring wells at this site. The recent testing included PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFBS, PFHpA, PFHxs, volatile organic compounds, semi-volatile organic compounds, organochlorine pesticides, PCBs, metals and mercury. The residential well samples were non-detect for all of the above analytes. In regards to metals, the sample ranges showed the same or a slight decrease from those collected in 2006, no increases were detected. The surface water from the pond was non-detect for all analytical parameters, metals were in range and PFOA/PFOS was detected at 6 parts per trillion. The NYSDOH has advised that PFOA and PFOS is being detected routinely at very low levels in surface water and in snow in on-going studies. To give some perspective, the EPA has currently issued a health advisory for a combined level of PFOA and PFOS in a single sample of drinking water in excess of 70 Parts Per Trillion or above. In summary, the most important reasoning behind the request for testing was to sample for the presence of PFOAs and all other relatable chemicals as listed above. Those results were thankfully non-detect.