

# JENKINSVILLE ASSESSMENT AREA

The New York State Departments of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Health (DOH) are providing this community update to share progress on the State's investigation after groundwater sampling at the Queensbury Landfill detected the emerging contaminants 1,4-dioxane and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at levels that may be a concern for nearby private wells.

With property owners' consent, DEC and DOH are testing nearby private wells and taking actions to reduce potential exposure where necessary. To date, PFAS have not been detected in any private wells above New York State's public drinking water standards. DOH uses drinking water standards as guidance when evaluating sampling data from private wells. Low levels of 1,4-dioxane were detected in some private wells at levels above the State's public drinking water standards. The highest levels detected to date do not pose a significant health risk, and are well below levels of 1,4-dioxane associated with health effects. However, DOH always recommends people take actions to reduce exposure when drinking water standards are exceeded. Accordingly, DEC is currently providing bottled water to residences whose results were received and showed 1,4-dioxane levels at or above standards.

DEC and DOH will continue to oversee the private well sampling program, including taking actions to address exposures where necessary. DEC will continue to work with the owners of the landfills in the area to collect on-site samples, and will oversee additional investigations where deemed appropriate. DEC and DOH will continue to keep you informed throughout the process, and plan to participate in an upcoming April 19<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting at 7:00 pm, to brief the public on findings and planned activities. The Zoom meeting link is provided here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89171637292>

## Jenkinville Assessment Area

DEC, DOH, and local partners are committed to protecting public health and the environment in the Town of Queensbury. This community update provides an overview of DEC and DOH's recent actions and the steps the State is taking to address groundwater impacts from area landfills and other potential waste disposal operations in the area.

As part of New York's statewide efforts to address emerging contaminants, DEC is investigating potential, existing, and legacy State Superfund sites and inactive landfills, including the recently sampled Queensbury Landfill, to ensure any public exposure to contamination is addressed.

New York State is committing resources to perform and/or oversee a thorough investigation of emerging contaminants, namely 1,4-dioxane and PFAS, detected in groundwater near a complex of inactive landfills between State Route 149 and Mud Pond Road in the Town of Queensbury. DEC and DOH

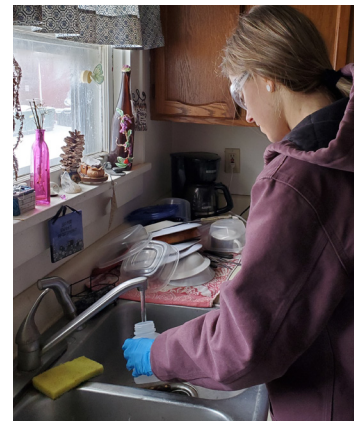
are dedicated to ensuring that all area residents have access to clean drinking water. As part of this commitment, the two agencies are overseeing the sampling of private wells in the area and are providing an alternate water supply if levels are detected above public drinking water standards.

## Private Water Well Sampling

DEC and DOH are identifying private wells in the area and offering sampling for the contaminants detected in the Queensbury Landfill monitoring wells. The State is using a phased approach that targets the closest potentially affected wells and helps determine the extent of private well contamination. This approach identifies an Area of Interest, comprised of water supply sources that draw from groundwater. The current Area of Interest extends approximately ½ mile from the Queensbury Landfill to Ridge Road to the west, and to the south and southeast directions along Jenkinville Road.

If contamination that could potentially affect public health exists, New York State will immediately act to address exposures and provide clean water to affected residents and communities, as comprehensive investigations are launched to determine the nature and extent of contamination.

To date, DEC and DOH have identified 88 wells for sampling, requested access from all of the owners to conduct the sampling, and completed sampling at 74 wells. Of the 43 homes where data has been received, no further action is needed for 28, resampling is recommended for four, and bottled water is being provided to 11. All residents within the Area of Interest have been invited to participate in sampling by mail and hang tags left at properties for sampling. If a resident has not responded and is interested in sampling, the resident may reach out to the project contacts with DEC and DOH located on the final page of this document.



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DEC LIST SERV

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[www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html)

## DEC Source Investigation:

DEC is working to sample landfills in the area to identify all potential sources of the 1,4-dioxane and PFAS contamination. The following updates provide the latest information on the potential source investigation and progress of ongoing work in the area.

### Queensbury Landfill (Ridge Road)

The Queensbury Landfill was a municipally owned and operated solid waste disposal site in operation from the late 1940s through 1993. A portion of the property currently operates as the Town of Queensbury Transfer Station.

DEC's Division of Materials Management (DMM) performed groundwater sampling at the Queensbury Landfill site in January 2020, under the Inactive Landfill Initiative, and found detections of 1,4-dioxane and PFAS, specifically perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA). Sampling from five existing landfill monitoring wells indicated maximum concentrations of 210 parts per trillion (ppt) PFOA. The maximum concentration at the landfill of 1,4-dioxane was detected at 6 parts per billion (ppb). While the groundwater at the landfill is not used for drinking, these findings led to a recommendation by DOH to sample off-site private drinking water supplies because levels detected exceeded public drinking water standards for PFOA (10 ppt) and 1,4-dioxane (1 ppb).

Last month, DEC designated the landfill as a potential inactive hazardous waste disposal site, and a Site Characterization investigation is planned (more details below). Documents pertaining to this site are available in the link to the right through DECinfo Locator.

### Finch Paper Landfill (1096 NYS Route 149)

The Finch Paper Landfill is a private inactive landfill, reportedly only used for dewatered paper mill sludge. The landfill is located to the northeast of the Queensbury Landfill. The Finch landfill operated from 1977 until approximately 1997, at which time it was closed with an engineered cap that included a geomembrane cover designed to prevent surface water infiltration into the waste mass and protect water resources.

DEC sampled the existing on-site wells on April 1, 2, and 6, 2021 as part of the ongoing investigation into groundwater contamination and will determine next steps based on a review of the data.

### Ciba - Geigy (Hercules) (236 Jenkinville Rd)

The Ciba-Geigy Landfill is a seven-acre inactive private landfill located on land off of Jenkinville Road owned by the Town of Queensbury just southwest of and adjacent to the Queensbury Landfill. The site has a liner system consisting of a double layer of bentonite clay and was capped and closed in 1990. This site was used for disposal of hazardous waste paint sludge from Ciba-Geigy's manufacturing processes located in nearby Glens Falls. An adjacent surface impoundment was used to collect leachate from the landfill cell and runoff from a truck washing station.

DEC is planning to conduct sampling of on-site wells in April 2021 as part of the ongoing investigation into groundwater contamination.

### McLaughlin C&D Landfill (Jenkinville Road)

The McLaughlin Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Landfill is an inactive landfill located directly to the west of the Ciba-Geigy Landfill and the Queensbury Landfill. This landfill accepted C&D debris and operated from 1992 until it was closed in 1999. It was capped with an engineered cap system, which included a geomembrane cover.

DEC is installing new groundwater monitoring wells at the site to conduct sampling in April 2021.

## WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION

### DEC INFO LOCATOR

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/557005/>

### AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY FACT SHEETS

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/factsheets.html>

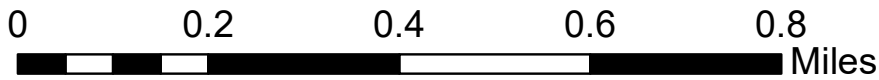
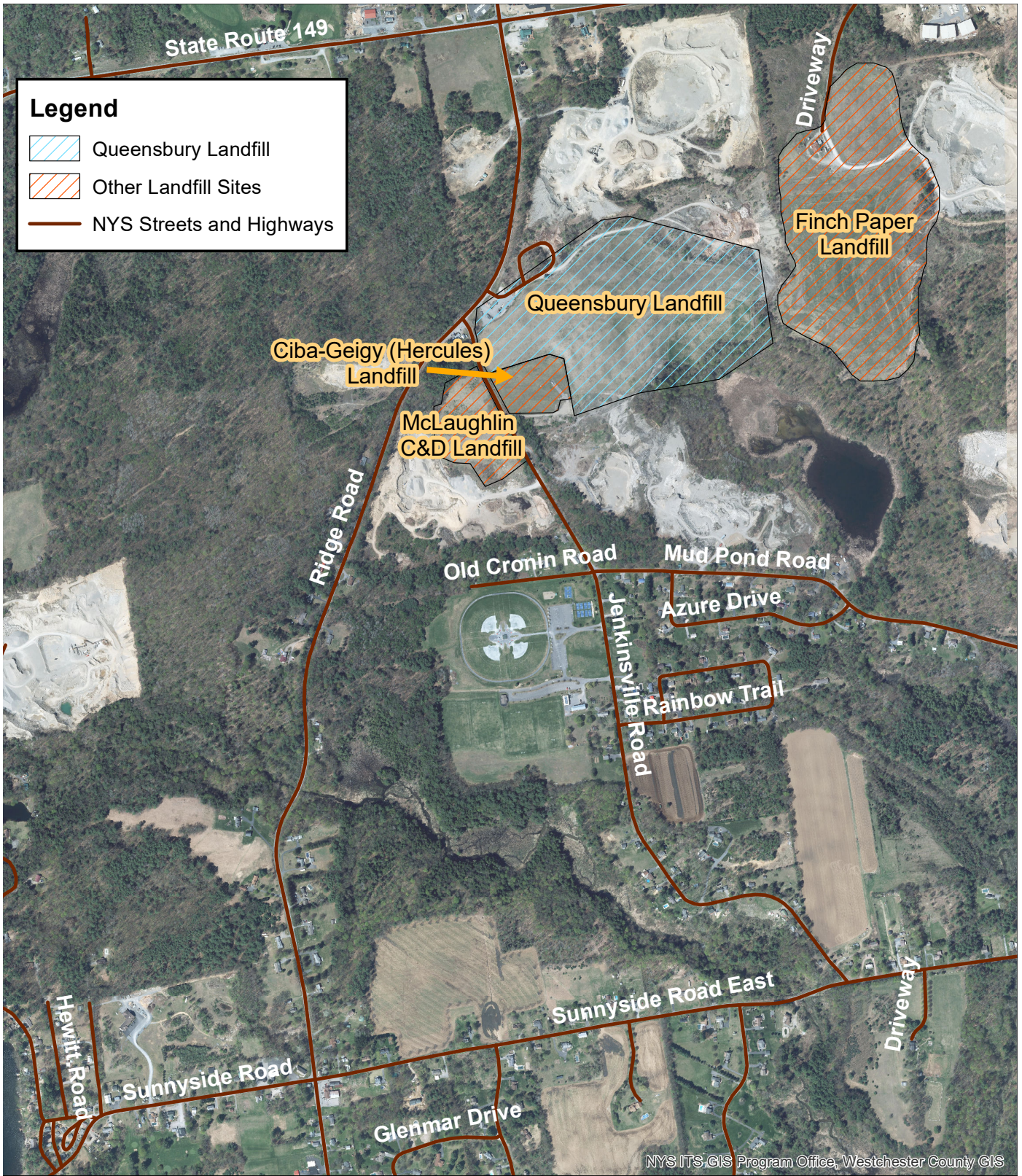
### PFAS AND 1,4-DIOXANE INTERSTATE TECHNOLOGY AND REGULATORY COUNCIL (ITRC) FACT SHEETS

PFAS:

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts200.pdf>

1,4-dioxane:

<https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tfacts187.pdf>



**Department of Environmental Conservation**

## State Superfund Process

As indicated above, DEC is planning an investigation at the Queensbury Landfill under the State Superfund Program.

The first step under the State Superfund program is a Site Characterization (SC) investigation to determine if hazardous waste is present and whether it poses a significant threat to public health or the environment. The Site Characterization will include additional installation and sampling of groundwater monitoring wells, collection of samples from any visible seeps, and collection of surface water and sediment samples, along with a review of historical documents to determine types of waste placed in the landfill(s). Based on these findings, DEC may initiate a Remedial Investigation (a more detailed investigation) to determine the full extent of contamination and develop a plan for interim cleanup actions, if appropriate, or to support a plan to clean up the site.

## INFORMATION ON 1,4-DIOXANE



In August 2020, New York State adopted among the lowest public drinking water standards in the country at 10 ppt each for PFOA and PFOS, and adopted the nation's first-ever public drinking water standard for 1,4-dioxane at 1 ppb for these previously unregulated contaminants in drinking water. 1,4-Dioxane is a synthetic industrial chemical commonly associated with chlorinated solvents, and was widely used as a chemical stabilizer in other formulations. New information indicates that it is also a byproduct or contaminant in consumer products such as laundry detergent. 1,4-dioxane has been found in groundwater at sites throughout the United States, particularly in Long Island's sole source aquifer, and in association with legacy industrial and hazardous waste sites.

Laboratory studies show that 1,4-dioxane caused cancer in animals exposed to high levels throughout their lifetimes. There is no evidence that 1,4-dioxane causes cancer in humans. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency classifies 1,4-dioxane as "likely to be carcinogenic to humans" based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in animals and inadequate evidence of carcinogenicity in humans.

## NEXT STEPS

DEC and DOH will continue to oversee the private well sampling program, including taking actions to address exposures, where necessary. DEC will continue to work with the owners of the landfills in the area to collect on-site samples and oversee additional investigations where deemed appropriate. DEC and DOH will continue to keep you informed throughout the process and plan to participate in an upcoming April 19<sup>th</sup> Town Board Meeting to brief the public on findings and planned activities.

Please sign up for email notifications in DEC List Serv link provided on the first page to receive Community Updates and stay up to date on upcoming meeting dates.

## WHO TO CONTACT



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