

Mindy Wormuth the Halfmoon Town Supervisor announced today that due to high levels of PCB's discovered by the General Electrical Company during required testing, the Town has transferred to the City of Troy as a water source. The Environmental Protection Agency advised the Town of Halfmoon on Friday evening that samples taken at Thompson Island were determined to contain levels of PCB's that far exceed safe drinking standard of 500 parts per trillion. The testing determined the levels of PCB's exceeded 2,000 parts per trillion. Testing is continuing to determine if this is a one-time occurrence or if the increase in turbidity due to the spring thaw will continue to re-suspend the PCB'S that were uncovered during the dredging process. The Town had been assured by EPA that the spring turbidity should not increase the PCB levels above the safe standard. Supervisor Wormuth said, "We determined that switching to Troy as an alternative water source was necessary in our ongoing efforts to ensure that the residents of the Town of Halfmoon are provided safe water. GE is continuing to take samples to evaluate the results of the recent testing. The Town of Halfmoon will be utilizing Troy water as a safe drinking source until such time as the EPA can satisfactorily explain the high levels of PCB's and guarantee that the exceedance will not reoccur."

The Supervisor also expressed a concern with EPA's delay in notifying the Town in accordance with the procedures set forth by the EPA at the commencement of dredging. "I was assured that The Town of Halfmoon would immediately receive notice of any exceedance in a time frame that would permit the Town to switch to an alternative water source. Yesterday's events revealed that EPA was not processing the test results quickly enough for the Town to switch to the alternative source prior to the affected water reaching our intake. EPA needs to re-evaluate their testing procedures and determine what changes they need to make to guarantee timely notification." The Troy water currently being provided does contain fluoride. A reverse 911 call will be sent out to our residents to advise them of the change in water source.