

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: October 14, 2016**

**NHDES and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics Announce Agreement to Begin Pennichuck Water Line Extension to Litchfield Residents**

Concord, NH - The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics are today announcing that work will soon begin to connect 360 Litchfield homes to the Pennichuck public water system. Unless unforeseen early winter weather interferes, 173 of the homes are expected to be connected by the end of this year. The work on the remaining Litchfield homes will be completed in 2017, and in the interim these homes will receive point-of-use (POU) filters until they are fully connected to the public water system.

“NHDES recognizes that Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics is now taking another important step toward providing clean drinking water to residents in Litchfield, New Hampshire,” said Tom Burack, NHDES Commissioner. “NHDES is pleased that the Litchfield waterline project will soon be breaking ground in an effort to connect as many residents as possible prior to the onset of winter.”

In May 2016, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics agreed to fund the engineering design work by Pennichuck Corp. for the potential expansion of the existing public water system in Litchfield, in addition to funding the provision of bottled water to homes in the vicinity of the company’s Merrimack plant whose private wells contained elevated levels of PFOA. In August, NHDES and Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics announced arrangements with Pennichuck Corp. to secure bids for the project.

“We are pleased the connections will mean clean drinking water that meets or exceeds state and national advisory levels for these residents,” said Tom Kinisky, President and CEO of Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics. “That has been and remains our primary concern, and we will continue to work with the state to ensure this goal is met.”

Work is also currently in progress to connect 15 Merrimack homes and 26 Manchester homes to the municipal water lines of the Merrimack Village District and Manchester Water Works, respectively. Although PFOA levels were below the State’s regulatory standard of 70 parts per trillion in the private wells at most of the Manchester homes, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics agreed to fund the connection of all 26 residences to the municipal water system at NHDES’s request. The work is expected to be completed this fall.

NHDES and Pennichuck Water Corporation, at the request of the Litchfield Board of Selectmen, invite and encourage Litchfield residents with impacted drinking water wells to attend a public meeting to discuss the public water supply project. At that time, affected property owners will have the opportunity to complete the necessary paperwork to help ensure the prompt connection of their homes to the public water supply. The meeting information is as follows:

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.  
Campbell High School auditorium  
1 Highlander Court, Litchfield, NH 03052

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