OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Recently, a lot of misinformation has been spread about our site and operations. This is a complex issue, and because we believe it's important that the community and local stakeholders hear from us directly, we wanted to take this opportunity to address several critical subjects.

First and foremost, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics is part of a company with a 354-year-old history. Our longevity comes in part because we recognize the importance of being good stewards and partners to the communities where our people live and work. As we have since first learning about the presence of PFOA in groundwater in some areas near our facility, we are working transparently and cooperatively with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) and other partners in our response.

This said, we would like to take this opportunity to share some important facts.

- **Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics never manufactured PFOA or PTFE.** Our suppliers committed to the phase out of PFOA in their manufacturing processes of PTFE raw materials in connection with the US EPA stewardship program, which was scheduled to be completed in 2015. Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics worked with our suppliers in advance of this deadline.

- **Our raw materials tested non-detect for PFOA.** We have and continue to work with the NHDES in testing the raw materials currently in use in our operation. The most recent results of sampling by NHDES confirmed our raw materials were non-detect for the presence of PFOA.

- **The fact that our current site investigation is finding PFOA at PPT levels does not mean that we are still using, or increasing the use of, raw materials made with it.** PFOA is persistent in the environment and will likely be detected at ppt (parts per trillion) levels where it has been historically used. Prior to the phase out, it was commonly used in a range of consumer and industrial products, including carpeting, clothing, firefighting foam, protective coating for furniture, microwave popcorn bags, grease-resistant fast food wrappers, cleaning agents and many others. As a result, it will be found in many locations such as landfills, paper coating factories, metal plating, military sites and other places where it was historically used or disposed of. It is even commonly found in household dust -- one study of US household dust found levels of more than 14,000 ppt.

- **Analytical measurements at the PPT level are very difficult and results across media require a discerning view.** When trying to gather samples from a wide range of media (water, air, soil, waste streams, etc.) and make measurements at the 0.000000001% concentration level (10 ppt), significant rigor and understanding of how measurements are made is required in order to interpret the results. There are many possibilities for inaccurate results including sampling methods, sample contamination, contamination in the laboratory, and instrument errors. Also, the sampling techniques, analytical methods, detection limits, and context for the reported results are very different when comparing data across different media. Therefore, focusing on singular data points and/or comparing results across different media can easily lead to wrong conclusions. Results from investigative studies must be viewed in the aggregate, over time, and with the proper context.

- **Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics continues to take a leadership role**. From the beginning we have been active partners in finding solutions. The speed at which we've worked to implement solutions is notable given the complexity of the projects, both from an engineering perspective as well as the coordination required among various parties. While we recognize that the solutions never seem fast enough, much has been accomplished in the communities and at our site in cooperation with our partners, including some highlights as follows:

    - ✓ Installation of more than 15 miles of water lines connecting over 500 homes completed so far and another 100 additional homes coming soon – making this one of the largest water infrastructure projects in the area.
    - ✓ Installation of GAC water filtration units for Merrimack Village District wells 4 and 5 which are expected to bring the filtration system on-line next year.
    - ✓ Voluntarily and proactively installed filtration inside our facility to remove PFAS from process water discharges. There is no regulation that would require this type of treatment for process water, yet we have installed a treatment system that goes above and beyond even drinking water standards.
    - ✓ We are currently working with NHDES to amend the facility's air permit to include the installation of Best Available Control Technology which will control emissions.
    - ✓ Bottled water programs – more than 200,000 gallons of water has been distributed to date; including the recent addition of bottled water at no charge to 122 properties in Merrimack, Bedford, Londonderry, and Litchfield where wells tested above the state's new regulations. Plans to sample additional wells and any appropriate next steps are being finalized with NHDES.
    - ✓ Establishing clear priorities and protocols for site investigation and monitoring including – but not limited to – sampling groundwater, drinking water, surface water, storm water, fish, soil, and air. We regularly report our findings to NHDES.

The products made in this facility by our more than 200 employees play a crucial role in protecting our military and first responders, as well as enabling the creation of some of the most iconic stadium landmarks in the world. As one of the largest employers in Merrimack we too are members of this community. Our families live, work and play here and we take our responsibilities to Merrimack very seriously. That is why we notified officials when we discovered this issue and it is why we have worked side-by-side with state and federal officials from day one.

There is still work to do and we are committed to seeing it through while continuing to take a leadership role. We appreciate the patience of the communities and the commitment of the many partners that are helping us.

Please visit our website – www.merrimackwater.com – to keep apprised of our ongoing efforts.

Thank you,

Thomas G. Kinisky
CEO, Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics

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