## **DEC PFOA Investigation...** Continued from page 1

dial Measures (IRM) in response to the two "hotspots" on the campus where extremely high concentrations of PFOA were found in the initial round of testing, Firebaugh discussed IRMs in general. She said the normal process is for DEC to order remedial measures as part of its Record of Decision, which is issued after the investigation is completed and all remedial measures have been evaluated. That takes many years, so sometimes the agency orders IRMs where there is an urgent environmental problem, but only if there is "an obvious solution to a defined problem." She described some of the IRMs that have been undertaken in the Hoosick Falls situation, to give an idea of the conditions where an IRM would be appropriate.

The two spots where extremely high concentrations of PFOA were found were underneath Building Two where there was at one time a dry well, and behind Building One. Firebaugh said the area under Building Two does not seem to be an immediate threat, as the investigation so far indicates "there is no pathway for contaminants under Building Two to make their way out into the environment."

The area behind Building One, however, is a wet area, and the high concentrations of contaminants could be spread by groundwater flows. Firebaugh said, "We have asked Taconic to investigate the possibility of IRM in the high concentration area behind Building One." She said the first step will be to do additional sampling in that immediate area, and she hopes to get that done this season

Firebaugh also announced at this presentation that the DEC has approved a scope of work for a fish and wildlife impact assessment, so that project will be getting started this season as well.

The conference also provided a forum for comments and questions from local residents. Petersburgh Councilman Heinz Noeding noted that it has already been over four years since the consent order was signed, and we still seem to be looking at nothing in the near future but more investigation. "When will we get to the action stage?" Ian Beilby replied that "we don't want to cut corners." He said it will take time to come up with the right solution. He said the question of what technology to use in the remediation 'is not obvious," and it will probably be about two years from now before we get to discussing the specific ele-

Continued on page 14



Figure 2021	Celebra Celebra Service Shingle Roofs Architectural S Custom Coppe Slate Look-AL Roof Inspectio	Architectural Sheet Metal Gutter Systems ike Flat Roofs
STAR ROOFING 2021 INCENTIVE <b>FREE</b> <b>BACE A Free Upgrade</b> <b>To A Lifetime</b> " Shingle <b>Roofing System</b> With A Non-Prorated 50-year Full System Extended Warranty With The Mention of This Ad. Offer expires 9/30/2021	to Van Rensselaer Road • Albar 518-449-3422 www.starroofing.net	ROOFFING SPECIAL 100% financing available "Same As Cash" and fixed rate options available. \$999/mo Get HISTANCREDIT and get your root done now! Offer expires 9/30/2021

## SOUTHWESTERN VERMONT MEDICAL CENTER EXCELLENCE



SVMC's commitment to quality care and innovation is recognized by the nation's leading healthcare organizations. That means you can expect safety, expertise, and compassionate, personalized care during every visit.



One of only three hospitals in New England and 28 hospitals worldwide to achieve five consecutive designations as a Magnet® Center for Nursing Excellence.



Named the 2020 recipient of the Rural Hospital Leadership Award. Only one hospital in the nation is recognized each vear by the American Hospital Association<sup>1</sup>



Ranked fourth out of 3,282 hospitals nationwide for value of care. SVMC also earned an A+ overall, highest among Vermont's 10 hospitals.



Received an **"A" score** for Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group-the nation's only rating focused entirely on patient safety





Named one of Vermont Business Magazine's 'Best Places to Work in Vermont" in 2021 for the seventh straight year

Southwestern Dartmouth-Hitchcock



PARTNERSHIP IS POWERFUL MEDICINE™

