

WATER SYSTEM LETTERHEAD

DATE

Customer Name

Address

Address line 2

RE: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) detected in **Water System Name**

Dear **Customer Name**:

In May 2019, Act 21 (S.49), An act relating to the regulation of polyfluoroalkyl substances in drinking and surface waters, was signed by Governor Scott. This Act provides a comprehensive framework to identify PFAS contamination and to issue new rules to govern PFAS levels in drinking water. It set an interim standard for five PFAS in drinking water: **PFOA** (perfluorooctanoic acid), **PFOS** (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid), **PFHxS** (perfluorohexane sulfonic acid), **PFHpA** (perfluoroheptanoic acid), **PFNA** (perfluorononanoic acid). The sum of these five PFAS cannot exceed 20 parts per trillion (ppt).

To comply with Act 21, **Water System Name** collected a PFAS drinking water sample on **date**, and the sum of the five PFAS compounds was **xxx ppt**, which exceeds the standard of 20 ppt. We will be collecting a confirmation sample immediately and will notify all customers of the results of that sample. It could take up to one month to receive the results from the lab. The confirmation sample is used to validate results. If the average of the first and confirmation samples are greater than 20 ppt, we will issue a Do Not Drink notice for all users of the **Water System Name** until we can implement corrective action and future testing demonstrates that PFAS in our drinking water is reliably and consistently below the standard of 20 ppt. **There is nothing you need to do at this time; however, choosing to continue to drink the water, prior to receiving the results of the confirmation sample, is a personal decision for you to make yourself or upon consulting with your healthcare provider.**

PFAS are a group of over 4,000 human-made chemicals (they do not occur naturally) that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since at least the 1950s. They do not break down easily and are widespread in the environment. These chemicals are used to make household and commercial products that resist heat and chemical reactions and repel oil, stains, grease, and water. Some common products that may contain PFAS include non-stick cookware, water-resistant clothing and materials, cleaning products, cosmetics, food packaging materials, and some personal care products.

Although more research is needed, some studies in people have shown that certain PFAS may:

- Affect growth, learning and behavior of babies and older children
- Lower a person's chance of getting pregnant
- Interfere with the body's natural hormones
- Increase cholesterol levels
- Affect the immune system
- Increase the risk of cancer

For information about the health effects of PFAS, visit www.healthvermont.gov/water/pfas or call the Vermont Department of Health at 1-800-439-8550. If you have specific health concerns, contact your health care provider.

For general information on PFAS in Vermont public drinking water systems, call 211 or visit <https://dec.vermont.gov/water/drinking-water/water-quality-monitoring/pfas>.

For more information about your drinking water, please contact **Water System Contact** at **Phone number** or **email**.

Sincerely,