

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### **\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER\*\***

#### Do Not Drink the Water at \_\_\_\_\_ Levels of PFAS above state drinking water standards

The standard for the combination of five PFAS: PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid), PFHxS (perfluorohexane sulfonic acid), PFHpA (perfluoroheptanoic acid) and PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid) is 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L). That means the sum of the five PFAS levels must not exceed 20 ng/L in your drinking water. Routine water quality monitoring samples collected from the \_\_\_\_\_ Water System WSID# \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, indicate water being served contains PFAS above the drinking water standard. As of \_\_\_\_\_ Quarter of \_\_\_\_\_ the combined level of the five regulated PFAS is \_\_\_\_\_ ng/L.

As water system users, you have a right to know what you should do, what this means, and what is being done to correct this situation. Due to the potential for impact to human health, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has required the Water System to provide this Do Not Drink notice to all users of the water system.

This **DO NOT DRINK NOTICE** remains in effect until further notice.

#### **What should I do?**

- DO NOT DRINK THE WATER. Do NOT use the water for drinking or cooking, brushing teeth, making ice cubes, making baby formula, washing fruits and vegetables, or any other consumptive use.
- Use another source of water for consumption which may include bottled water.
- Water may be used for other uses when you don't swallow the water, such as showering, bathing, or washing clothes or dishes. Try to limit the amount of water children swallow while bathing.
- Do NOT use water containing the five PFAS over 20 ng/L to water your garden. The PFAS could be taken up by the vegetables.
- DO NOT BOIL THE WATER. Boiling the water will not remove PFAS and may concentrate them.
- If you have specific health concerns, contact your health care professional.

#### **What does this mean?**

PFAS is a group of chemicals that may affect different systems in the body. Although more research is needed, some studies in people have shown that these chemicals may affect growth, learning, and behavior in babies and children; lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant; interfere with the body's natural hormones; increase cholesterol levels; affect the immune system; and increase the risk of cancer. These health effects may be the same for pets. If you are concerned, you can give your pet bottled water or water from a known safe source.

#### **What happened? What is being done?**

---

---

---

For questions about the health effects of PFAS visit [www.healthvermont.gov/water/pfas](http://www.healthvermont.gov/water/pfas) or call 800-439-8550. Additional information is also available at <https://dec.vermont.gov/water/drinking-water/water-quality-monitoring/pfas>.

For more information from the water system, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ at # \_\_\_\_\_ or via email at \_\_\_\_\_.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.*

**CERTIFICATION** ( \_\_\_\_\_ WATER SYSTEM/WSID \_\_\_\_\_ )

Method(s) of Distribution: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Distributed: \_\_\_\_\_

(e.g. hand or direct delivery, posting<sup>1</sup>, television, radio)

**I \_\_\_\_\_ (print name) Certify, as the Responsible Person (or authorized representative) of the water system listed above that this public notice has been provided to customers in accordance with the delivery, content, and format requirements and deadlines in the Vermont Water Supply Rule (Chapter 21, Subchapter 21-10).**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Within 10 days of issuance of public notice, send a copy of the notice to:*

*VT-DEC, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division, 1 National Life Drive – Davis 4, Montpelier, VT 05620-3521*

1 - Community Water Systems may use posting as a second method, but must also use radio, television, or hand or direct delivery.

## Instructions for Issuing Chemical/Radiological MCLs Public Notice

This is a Tier 1 violation. You must provide public notice to persons served as soon as possible, but no more than **24 Hours** after you learn of a Tier 1 violation. The public notice must be **reissued** at least **every 3 months** for as long as the situation exists. Use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers:

Community systems must use one of the following methods:

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Noncommunity systems must use one of the following methods:

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and noncommunity systems must use another method reasonably calculated to reach others if all users would not be reached by the first method. Such methods could include email, newspapers, radio, television, direct delivery to community organizations such as health care facilities, or additional mailing or delivery to apartment tenants. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on your system's letterhead, if available.

The notice on the previous page is appropriate for mailing, posting, or hand delivery. If you modify this notice, you must still include all required elements from 40 CFR 141.205(a) and **leave the mandatory public health language unchanged**. If you modify the notice, you may not alter the mandatory language, but it can be in italics or regular font.

### **What happened? What is being done?**

This section of the public notice **MUST** be completed prior to distributing. Describe why the situation exists and what corrective actions you took or will be taken. (e.g. exploring treatment options, new source, etc.)

### **Repeat Notices**

For repeat notices, you should state how long the violation has been ongoing and remind consumers of when you sent out any previous notices. If you are making progress, describe it. Alternatively, if funding or other issues are delaying progress, let consumers know. It may be helpful to show customers the results of the contaminant over time.

### **After Issuing the Notice**

Send a copy of each type of notice and the Public Notice Certification to the Division within 10 (ten) days from the time you issue the notice. The certification states that you have met all the public notice requirements. The Division suggests you inform your customers when the violation is resolved.