

For Immediate Release

March 4, 2016

Gov. Shumlin Statement on PFOA Contamination in N.H.

Montpelier - Gov. Peter Shumlin issued the following statement after public drinking sources in N.H. were found to be contaminated with the the potentially harmful chemical PFOA. Last week, a number of private wells in North Bennington tested positive for elevated levels of PFOA. The public drinking water systems in North Bennington and Bennington have been tested and are not affected.

"This is concerning news. I have reached out to Governor Hassan to express Vermont's willingness to work with our neighbors to address this contamination that has been found in multiple states. We are fortunate that the public drinking water systems are not impacted. We will continue to be vigilant about testing private wells in the North Bennington area, getting bottled water to those who need it, and addressing any health concerns or impacts going forward. I want to thank those Vermonters impacted by this situation for their understanding and patience throughout this last week. No one should have to worry about the safety of the water they drink. We will be there for those impacted until the situation is resolved."

The Governor also provided the following update on the state's response in North Bennington.

Water testing. DEC employees continue to go door-to-door sampling private drinking water wells in the 1.5 mile radius around the former Chem Fab plant in North Bennington. Since Tuesday, 123 wells have been sampled. DEC will continue to collect samples at any homes that were missed through next week.

Emergency Operations Center. The Center will close [today at 4pm](#). It is located at 324 Main Street in Bennington. An informational call line will be available on an ongoing basis, [starting Monday](#), from 8am-4:30pm: [802-828-1038](tel:802-828-1038).

Bottled Water. Remains available at the North Bennington Variety Store.

Health Advisory. On March 3, the Health Department revised its medical recommendations in a health advisory to providers in the Bennington and Rutland counties who may have patients with PFOA-contaminated or potentially contaminated water. The new recommendations are based on further review of scientific studies and consultation with national experts and local physicians. People who have specific health concerns should consult with their health care provider. The Health Department is updating information on its website at healthvermont.gov, and staff are also available to talk with anyone who has questions about potential health effects of PFOA: [800-439-8550](tel:800-439-8550).