

Important Information About Your Drinking Water

The Bennington Water Department System has levels of Haloacetic Acids above Drinking Water Standards

In the past, our water system's *running annual averages* of disinfection by-products exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) according to Federal Drinking Water Standards. Although this **was not an emergency**, as our customers, you had the right to know what happened, what you should do, and what was being done to correct that situation.

The Town of Bennington routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Our most recent quarterly testing results were averaged into the last four quarters creating the "running average". This most current running average shows that our system **currently meets** standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Haloacetic Acids. The *standard* for Total Haloacetic Acids is *0.060* mg/L. Haloacetic Acids were found at **0.050** mg/L.

We will continue to make this notification to our customers and the general public until we meet the standard for one continuous year.

What Should I do?

- You **do not** need to use an alternative (e.g. bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What Does This Mean?

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, *some* people who drink water containing Haloacetic Acids in excess of the MCL *over many years may* have an increase risk of getting cancer. In animal studies, some Haloacetic Acids have also been associated with reproductive or developmental effects.

Health Information Regarding Drinking Water?

Some people *may* be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. **Immuno-compromised persons** such as persons with cancer undergoing **chemotherapy**, persons who have undergone **organ transplants**, **people with HIV/AIDS** or

other Immune System Disorders, some elderly, and infants, can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

What happened? What is being done?

The State of Vermont's Water Supply Division and the Bennington Water Department are working together to determine ways to reduce the levels of Total Haloacetic Acids. We have formulated a modified year-round Distribution System Flushing Program designed to help reduce Haloacetic Acid level. A formal Hydraulic Management Plan for the water system has been prepared by the Town of Bennington and approved by the State of Vermont Water Supply Division.

Bennington Water Department has also now *completed* construction at the water treatment plant implementing the necessary improvements intended to reduce levels of disinfection by-products (including Haloacetic Acids). With positive results showing, the annual running average of Haloacetic Acids is **now below** the EPA standard.

For more information, please contact the **Terrance A. Morse, Water Resources Superintendent at (802) 442-1037** or by mail at Bennington Town Offices, 205 South Street, Bennington, VT 05201.

- 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.

This notice is being sent to you by the **Bennington Water Department**

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