

## Notice of Sampling Results, Southern Bennington

TO: Residents of Southern Bennington

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SUBJECT: Sampling Results of Residences in Southern Bennington- Fall 2023  
Thomson Residence (southern Bennington site),  
South Bennington (Site #2023-5345)

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The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Sites Management Section (SMS) has completed the Fall 2023 sampling of 70 wells in southern Bennington (see sampling results map at <https://anrweb.vt.gov/PubDocs/DEC/PFOA/Maps/Figure2-SitePlan-12142023.pdf>).

This sampling effort was completed in response to results of testing in areas near Hickory Hill Road and Stonehedge Drive/Southshire Drive (now referred to as the southern Bennington site) as part of the sampling of 500 randomly selected private wells throughout Vermont. This initial work indicated the presence of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in several water supply wells. PFAS are manmade compounds that have been used in industry and consumer products since the 1950s and are known to be persistent in the environment. Currently, Vermont's health advisory and groundwater standard is 20 ppt for the sum concentration of five PFAS compounds (PFHxS, PFHpA, PFOA, PFNA, and PFOS)

This initial sampling effort was followed up by expanded sampling of 25 wells. This showed widespread PFAS contamination in these two areas, with close to half the wells above VT PFAS standards. The most recent sampling results (Fall 2023) expanded the sampling again, collecting samples from 70 wells around the original sampling locations (Stonehedge Drive/Southshire Drive and Hickory Hill Road) and homes in between (southern Bennington site). These results do not show any clear indication of the extent or density of this contamination, but it does confirm the presence of PFAS in numerous wells in the southern Bennington area.

Based on these results the SMS would like to re-sample homes from the Fall 2023 event, in addition to expanding sampling again to additional wells in areas of Bennington. The area of interest is south of Route 9 all the way down to Coleville and Fuller Roads, and from the Green Mountains to Mount Anthony. The SMS will be sending homes with wells in this area blank access agreements to be filled out, signed, and returned (either electronically or by mail) to the SMS. The access agreements will provide the SMS with both property access and the best contact information for us to be able to coordinate with homeowners and residents.

While the SMS coordinates obtaining signed access agreements, we will also be formalizing a contract with an environmental consulting firm that will be performing this sampling event, compiling the results, and continue to investigate possible sources for this contamination. Should the SMS, in coordination with the Town of Bennington, hold a public meeting on the findings of the past work and next steps, we will announce this with a separate email and post to the town's public announcement forums. Contact Richard Spiese or Malayika Vincent should you have any questions.