

From: Ellis, Rebecca
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2016 10:50 PM
To: Schuren, Alyssa; Blatt, Eric
Cc: Nicolai, Jean; Pallito, Joanna; Chapman, Matt; Desch, George; Schwer, Chuck
Subject: RE: Bennington PFOA Contamination - Potential Funding Option

Categories: PFOA, SGPP Bennington

Hi Alyssa,

The Capital Bill will be taken up in House Appropriations on Tuesday 3/29. There are 3 amendments that would be nice to see on the Capital Bill when it gets to the House Floor later this week. If you think it's advisable, I have prepared a memo for you to send to Rep. Mitzi Johnson and Rep. Alice Emmons on Monday morning. Eric has already alerted the committee via Catherine Benham regarding #1 and #2. I've included a suggestion to expand eligibility for the VT Drinking Water Planning Loan Fund as suggestion #3.

By the way, according to the 2010 census, Bennington's population is 15,764, so I suggested raising the population threshold from 10,000 to 20,000 people.

Rebecca

From: Schuren, Alyssa
Sent: Saturday, March 26, 2016 8:58 PM
To: Blatt, Eric <Eric.Blatt@vermont.gov>
Cc: Ellis, Rebecca <Rebecca.Ellis@vermont.gov>; Nicolai, Jean <Jean.Nicolai@vermont.gov>; Pallito, Joanna <Joanna.Pallito@vermont.gov>; Chapman, Matt <Matt.Chapman@vermont.gov>; Schwer, Chuck <Chuck.Schwer@vermont.gov>; Desch, George <George.Desch@vermont.gov>
Subject: Re: Bennington PFOA Contamination - Potential Funding Option

Eric- We are pressing Saint-Gobain to pay. That said, the leg idea is a good one. I passed this on to Deb. - Alyssa

Alyssa B. Schuren
Commissioner
VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation
One National Life Dr., Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3520
(802)828-1556
[Http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec](http://www.anr.state.vt.us/dec)

On Mar 25, 2016, at 2:34 PM, "Blatt, Eric" <Eric.Blatt@vermont.gov> wrote:

The system population according to the WSD database (SDWIS) is 13,250. I think we are at a point in time (unlike when the legislation was created in 1997) to extend this fund to the larger systems. We currently have roughly \$3M in the fund, so I do not foresee a problem with a shortage of these funds anytime soon. We also have the ability to prioritize planning loans (which to date, we have not had to resort to) and could limit the amount to larger systems thru that process. The loan fund and statutory limitations are found at 24 VSA §4753(a)(5).

From: Ellis, Rebecca
Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 2:19 PM
To: Blatt, Eric <Eric.Blatt@vermont.gov>
Cc: Nicolai, Jean <Jean.Nicolai@vermont.gov>; Schuren, Alyssa <Alyssa.Schuren@vermont.gov>; Pallito, Joanna <Joanna.Pallito@vermont.gov>
Subject: RE: Bennington PFOA Contamination - Potential Funding Option

Hi Eric,

Do you happen to know the population of Bennington? As a general matter, would it make sense to expand eligibility to the VT Drinking Water Planning Loan Fund to larger communities? And finally, can you send me the statutory cite ? Thanks,

Rebecca

From: Blatt, Eric

Sent: Friday, March 25, 2016 11:34 AM

To: Schuren, Alyssa <Alyssa.Schuren@vermont.gov>; Ellis, Rebecca <Rebecca.Ellis@vermont.gov>; Pallito, Joanna <Joanna.Pallito@vermont.gov>

Cc: Nicolai, Jean <Jean.Nicolai@vermont.gov>

Subject: Bennington PFOA Contamination - Potential Funding Option

Importance: High

Alyssa/Rebecca –

Jean Nicolai will be meeting next Wednesday on the PFOA issue and needs to know what funding options are available to North Bennington and Bennington for engineering planning. Planning funding for North Bennington is straightforward as we can provide a loan from the VT Drinking Water Planning Loan Fund. However, Bennington is more problematic. Current state law limits access to this fund to systems under 10K in population – Bennington exceeds the limit – while federal law does not impose a population limit. My question for you is whether we should be pursuing one-time emergency legislation (or a permanent change for similar circumstances) to expand access to this fund to enable Bennington to receive a loan as a funding option. If so, one option might be to find out if this could be done via the capital bill which goes to the House floor next week.

Rebecca – Are there other approaches that would be quicker?

Mailing Address:

Eric Blatt, Director

Facilities Engineering Division

1 National Life Drive, Main-1

Montpelier VT 05620-3510

Phone Number: (802) 585-4901

"Note: Written communications to and from state officials regarding state business are considered public records and will be available to the public for review."