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March 20, 2026

Dear Ms. Iken,

Thank you for reaching out to Governor Scott about the PFAS contamination in Shaftsbury. The Governor asked me to update you on the State's efforts to address a number of the concerns you raised.

The State of Vermont is committed to supporting Shaftsbury residents and will continue to provide all the assistance we can. Learning that your well contains PFAS is understandably unsettling and raises many questions. The State has taken immediate steps to respond to PFAS detections in Shaftsbury and support affected residents. Some solutions, however, take time to implement and may not move as quickly as anyone would like. Regarding the specific issues identified in your letter, the State of Vermont is taking the following actions:

### **Comprehensive mitigation measures**

The State is actively working to reduce PFAS exposure and support affected households by:

- Conducting additional sampling in the Spring of 2026 to better understand the extent of contamination;
- Ensuring delivery of bottled water to impacted residents;
- Engaging in ongoing discussions with the Town of Bennington about possible water line extensions;
- Continuing discussions with Saint-Gobain related to responsibility for the PFAS detected in supply wells in Shaftsbury; and
- Supporting installation of point-of-entry treatment (POET) systems, where appropriate.

### **Fair compensation for property owners**

We understand the concerns about financial impacts on homeowners. To date, the State of Vermont has not provided compensation to property owners for PFAS contamination in private wells or other properties. In Bennington, some residents filed a class-action lawsuit against Saint-Gobain. Residents of Shaftsbury may choose to pursue a similar legal option, but the State does not participate in private lawsuits.

## State-supported medical monitoring

In 2016, much was unknown about PFAS contamination of drinking water wells and its health impacts. At that time, the State offered blood testing – but not ongoing medical monitoring – to Bennington and North Bennington residents affected by PFOA contamination, where well levels ranged from 40 to 2,880 parts per trillion (ppt). For context, the highest PFAS level detected in Shaftsbury was below 35 ppt.

PFAS is present in the blood of nearly all Americans, and a blood test cannot determine whether PFAS exposure will cause health problems, whether a condition was caused by PFAS, or how exposure occurred. For these reasons, the State no longer conducts blood testing for PFAS. If you and your healthcare provider believe testing is appropriate, private labs are available.

We know the lower your exposure to PFAS, the lower your risk of adverse health effects. The mitigation measures outlined in this letter are ways the state is actively working to reduce PFAS exposure to Shaftsbury residents – and as exposure decreases, PFAS levels in the blood will decline over time.

In addition to the State-led actions described above, the Department of Health recommends the following individual actions:

- Continue to use the bottled water provided by the State for consumption. Do not drink water with PFAS levels above the Maximum Contaminant Levels, and do not use it for activities where water may be swallowed – preparing food, cooking, brushing teeth, or making baby formula.
- Let your health care provider know you have been exposed to PFAS in your drinking water so they can add it to your medical record. Your health care provider can discuss certain factors that might affect your health, such as genetics, work history or lifestyle.
- Follow your health care provider's recommendations for general health screenings and check-ups.
- Take steps to lower your PFAS exposure [from other sources](#).

The State of Vermont is committed to addressing the needs of Shaftsbury residents impacted by PFAS contamination. However, local circumstances can be different and therefore our response will vary some by community.

In Bennington, for example, the Town owns a public water system and was willing to extend water lines to more than 300 homes with contaminated private wells. The public water system in Shaftsbury cannot be extended in the same way, so a different approach is needed. To that end, the State has provided funding to the Town of Bennington to evaluate extending its water lines into the affected areas of Shaftsbury; this work is ongoing.

Vermont state agencies are committed to the goal of ensuring all Vermonters have access to PFAS-free drinking water and will continue working to address contamination and hold those responsible for the release of these chemicals accountable.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have further questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia S. Moore".

Julia S. Moore, P.E., Secretary  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

cc: Dylan Lamson, Governor's Constituent Services Office  
Misty Sinsigalli, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation  
Dr. Rick Hildebrant, Commissioner, Department of Health  
Representative David Durfee  
Senator Seth Bongartz  
Senator Rob Plunkett