

Notice of 2026 Residential Well Testing in Southern Bennington & Shaftsbury

TO: Residents of Southern Bennington and Shaftsbury

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SUBJECT: 2026 PFAS testing of residential wells in Southern Bennington &
Shaftsbury- Spring/early Summer 2026
Thomson Residence, South Bennington (Site #2023-5345)
Becker Residence, Shaftsbury (Site #2023-5344)

The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, Sites Management Section (SMS) has completed our planning for residential well testing in southern Bennington and southeastern Shaftsbury. **The SMS would like to ensure your well is sampled or resampled and tested for the presence of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).** If your well has been sampled in the past, our contractor, Weston & Sampson, will contact you to schedule a time (via email, be sure to check your Spam folder) to obtain a sample of your well water. If your well has never been sampled, please contact the SMS Project Managers, Richard Spiese or Malayika Vincent (contact information above) to arrange to get your well sampled. The SMS will use the 2026 testing results to determine the need for treatment of wells with PFAS concentrations above Vermont Health Standards.

Well testing began in 2023 in areas near Hickory Hill Road and Stonehedge Drive/Southshire Drive (now referred to as the Southern Bennington Contaminated Wells site) and on Red Clover Road in Shaftsbury (now referred to as the Southern Bennington Contaminated Wells site) as part of the sampling of 500 randomly selected private wells throughout Vermont. This initial work indicated the presence of 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. Follow-up sampling in both areas in 2023 through 2025 has shown extensive contamination in numerous wells in both southern Bennington (south of Rte 9 where

public water ends to almost the Pownal town line and from the Green Mountains (Burgess Road to Mount Anthony (Monument Road)), and in southeast Shaftsbury (on and around East Road).

The State of Vermont's drinking water standard for PFAS in was recently changed. As of January 31, of this year, the standards for several PFAS are as follows:

Compound:	Standard:
PFOA	4 ppt
PFOS	4 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (Gen X)	10 ppt
Mixtures containing 2 or more of PFBS, PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA	1 (unitless) Hazard Index

This change in standard will affect a number of homes with PFAS testing results between the previous and new standards. **Should the results of the 2026 sample prove to be above Vermont standards, someone from the SMS will contact you to discuss the results and next steps. Otherwise, all results will be sent out together sometime around mid-summer.**

How will levels in my well affect future actions to be taken by the State of Vermont?

- The SMS hopes to have all wells in the areas identified above in southern Bennington and Shaftsbury sampled early in 2026.
- Homes with PFAS levels above the old standard already have whole house treatment systems (point-of-entry treatment (POETs)) installed at no cost to the homeowner.
- Homes with PFAS levels between the old standard and the new standard will receive bottled water from the State of Vermont at no cost to the homeowner. The state contractor will be in touch over the next couple of weeks to arrange for water delivery.
- SMS will use the 2026 testing results obtained to determine appropriate treatment options for residences.
 - Treatment for residences will depend on the results of this sampling.
 - The state will be providing some form of treatment on wells, either POETs, point-of-use (POU), or continued bottled water deliveries to homes with detections between 4 ppt and 20 ppt. The exact type of treatment is still being sorted out.

PFAS Memo to Southern Bennington/Shafsbury Residence
February 27, 2026

The long-term goal of the SMS is to assist the Town of Bennington to extend public water lines to residents and have these homes connect to municipal water at no cost to the homeowner. Extension of Town of Bennington water will depend on a number of variables, including funding, water quality, and the town's ability to maintain the water system.

For homes that cannot be connected to municipal water, the State of Vermont currently has funding to provide treatment and/or bottled water for the time being. Future support of any actions will depend on funding and may have to stop should funds not be available. The SMS will notify residents receiving this assistance before any action to stop supporting funding of water treatment systems or bottled water deliveries before any actions are taken.

Please contact Richard Spiese or Malayika Vincent of the SMS should you have any questions about the content of this memo.