PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE

From: Karen M. Astley, Town Manager
Date: March 24, 2020
RE: Municipal Utility Users

The Town of Putney is following the State of Vermont’s Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division’s requirement to disinfect municipal water system, WSID# 20934, with chlorine. Potential Sources of Contamination, such as viruses or other pathogens, are easily inactivated with disinfection. The State further added “The public needs to have confidence that their drinking water is safe”. There has been no incident or triggering mechanism for this action, merely an abundance of precaution.

Precautionary measures took effect Monday, March 23, 2020. Simon Operation Services, Inc. activated the chlorine feed pump. User’s may notice a slight taste or odor associated with chlorine as it is applied. The chlorine residual will be kept as low as possible. The water quality will be monitored, and the dosage will be adjusted as necessary to obtain a slight residual throughout the distribution system. This notice will remain in effect until the State lifts the mandate.

In speaking with Simon Operation Services, Inc., I’m assured our municipal water and wastewater systems are protected and any risks during this crisis will be handled in a professional manner. This includes having reserve chemicals on hand, daily water quality monitoring, staying in contact with the State and adjacent Towns along with any other operational adjustments that are required. In the event additional personnel are required, Simon Operation Services, Inc. is fully staffed to handle this. An emergency personnel list has also been compiled by Vermont Rural Water Association.

I’m confident that Simon Operation Services, Inc. is more than qualified to work through this crisis with us. Under the Governor’s order, all water and wastewater personnel are classified as an “essential worker” which allows Simon Operation Services, Inc. to maintain our water and wastewater systems during this crisis.

During this time of social isolation many of our Community Water Systems may see a higher-than-usual daily demand on their water system. The Town of Putney requests all users to implement and practice water conservation restrictions for all non-essential uses at this time.

Water conservation tips for homeowners can be linked at https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/water_conservation_residents.html. These tips include suggestions for shorter showers, only running dishwashers and clothes washers when they are full, and composting instead of using the garbage disposal, if you have one. Every little bit helps and we are all in this together. For businesses go to this link https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/water_conservation_biz.html.

Any questions or concerns contact Karen Astley, Town Manager at 387.5862 x11 or manager@putneyvt.org