



**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division**

1 National Life Drive – Davis 4 [phone] 802-828-1535
Montpelier, VT 05620-3521 [fax] 802-828-1541
dec.vermont.gov/water

Agency of Natural Resources

Mountainside Resort at Stowe Owners
Associations Inc.
31 Mountainside Drive
Stowe, VT 05672
info@mountainsideresort.com

June 7, 2024

NOTICE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION (NOAV)

Dear Mountainside Resort at Stowe Owners Associations Inc.:

The Agency of Natural Resources (Agency) has found that you are in violation of the Vermont Water Supply Rule (Rule). Specifically, our records indicate that you exceeded the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) as per the table below at Mountianside Resort Water System, VT0005165, in violation of Section 6.1.1 of the Rule.

Analyte(s)	Required Monitoring Period	Average of initial and confirmation sample result in nanograms per liter (ng/L)	MCL in nanograms per liter (ng/L)
PFAS – VT 5 SUM	Second Quarter 2024	22	20

Compliance Directives:

1. **Within 24 hours** of being notified, complete and issue the enclosed Do Not Drink public notice to all users of the water system. The notice must be reissued at least every 3 months, or sooner if directed to by the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division (Division) for as long as the situation exists;
2. **Within 10 days** of the date you issue the Do Not Drink public notice, complete the certification section of the public notice document and send an electronic copy of the issued public notice and completed certification to marie.sawyer@vermont.gov. Failure to issue timely public notice is an additional violation of the Rule; and
3. **Within 7 days** of this notice, engage with a professional engineer who will:
 - a) Coordinate an onsite meeting with staff from both the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection and Waste Management Divisions of the Department of Environmental Conservation to review the water system, including supply sources;

PUBLIC NOTICE
****IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER****

Do Not Drink the Water at Mountainside Resort
Levels of PFAS above state drinking water standards

The standard for the combination of five PFAS: PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid), PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonic acid), PFHxS (perfluorohexane sulfonic acid), PFHpA (perfluoroheptanoic acid) and PFNA (perfluorononanoic acid) is 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L). That means the sum of the five PFAS levels must not exceed 20 ng/L in your drinking water. A routine water quality monitoring sample was collected from the Mountainside Resort Water System WSID#VT0005165 on April 16th 2024 and had a result of 24 ng/L. A confirmation sample collected on May 15th, 2024 showed a PFAS results of 20 ng/L. The average of the initial sample and confirmation sample indicate that the water being served contains PFAS above the drinking water standard. As of **Second Quarter**, the combined level of the five regulated PFAS is **22 ng/L**.

As water system users, you have a right to know what you should do, what this means, and what is being done to correct this situation. Due to the potential for impact to human health, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has required the Water System to provide this Do Not Drink notice to all users of the water system.

This **DO NOT DRINK NOTICE** remains in effect until further notice.

What should I do?

- DO NOT DRINK THE WATER. Do NOT use the water for drinking or cooking, brushing teeth, making ice cubes, making baby formula, washing fruits and vegetables, or any other consumptive use.
- Use another source of water for consumption which may include bottled water.
- Water may be used for other uses when you don't swallow the water, such as showering, bathing, or washing clothes or dishes. Try to limit the amount of water children swallow while bathing.
- Do NOT use water containing the five PFAS over 20 ng/L to water your garden. The PFAS could be taken up by the vegetables.
- DO NOT BOIL THE WATER. Boiling the water will not remove PFAS and may concentrate them.
- If you have specific health concerns, contact your health care professional.

What does this mean?

PFAS is a group of chemicals that may affect different systems in the body. Although more research is needed, some studies in people have shown that these chemicals may affect growth, learning, and behavior in babies and children; lower a woman's chance of getting pregnant; interfere with the body's natural hormones; increase cholesterol levels; affect the immune system; and increase the risk of cancer. These health effects may be the same for pets. If you are concerned, you can give your pet bottled water or water from a known safe source.

What happened? What is being done?

Exceeded p fas limit

We will be needing to add a filtration system

For questions about the health effects of PFAS visit www.healthvermont.gov/water/pfas or call 800-439-8550. Additional information is also available at <https://dec.vermont.gov/water/drinking-water/water-quality-monitoring/pfas>.

For more information, contact Rachel Grant at 802-253-8610, 31 Mountainside Drive, Stowe, VT 05672 or RACHAEL@mountainsideresort.com

- b) Develop and submit to the Secretary for approval, an emergency response plan that requires interim and long-term measures to address the exceedance of the MCL in conformance with Vermont Water Supply Rule, Chapter 21; and
- c) Establish a date by which a technical proposal (i.e., Alternatives Analysis) will be provided to the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division for consideration and approval.

Funding resources are available to public water systems in addressing elevated PFAS in drinking water. The first step to initiate the process is the submission of an Alternatives Analysis for review and approval. Should you have any questions about funding and low-cost financing sources, please visit the [Drinking Water State Revolving Fund website](#).

If you have any questions about this alleged violation or need information on how to comply, please contact Matthew Hunt at 802-505-5490 or matthew.hunt@vermont.gov

Sincerely,

Julia S. Moore, Secretary
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

By: _____



Janelle S. Wilbur, Compliance Section Supervisor
Department of Environmental Conservation
Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division

Encl: Do Not Drink Public Notice Template and Certification
Public Notice Instructions

cc: Marie Sawyer, Compliance Analyst, DWGPD
Janelle Wilbur, Compliance Section Supervisor, DWGPD
Bryan Redmond, Division Director, DWGPD
Ben Montross, Drinking Water Program Manager, DWGPD
Matthew Hunt, Community Operations Section Supervisor, DWGPD
Richard Spiese, Sites Manager, WMPD
Matt Moran, Environmental Program Manager, WMPD
Patricia Coppolino, Environmental Program Manager, WMPD
Sarah Owen, State Toxicologist, Vermont Department of Health
Lori Cragin, Vermont Department of Health
Bridget O'Brien, Vermont Department of Health
Tom DeBell, Vermont Department of Health
Town Health Officer, csafford@stowevt.gov
James Gascoyne, Designated Operator, james@clearwaterfiltration.com
Rachel Grant, Administrative Contact, RACHAEL@mountainsideresort.com
WSID File VT0005165

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

CERTIFICATION (VT0005165) Mountainside Resort

Method(s) of Distribution: _____ Date Distributed: _____

(e.g. hand or direct delivery, posting¹, television, radio)

I _____ (print name) Certify, as the Responsible Person (or authorized representative) of the water system listed above that this public notice has been provided to customers in accordance with the delivery, content, and format requirements and deadlines in the Vermont Water Supply Rule (Chapter 21, Subchapter 21-10).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Within 10 days of issuance of public notice, send a copy of the notice to:

VT-DEC, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division, 1 National Life Drive – Davis 4, Montpelier, VT 05620-3521

1 - Community Water Systems may use posting as a second method, but must also use radio, television, or hand or direct delivery.

Instructions for Chemical/Radiological MCLs Public Notice

This is a Tier 1 violation. You must provide public notice to persons served as soon as possible, but no more than **24 Hours** after you learn of a Tier 1 violation. The public notice must be **reissued** at least **every 3 months** for as long as the situation exists. Use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers:

Community systems must use one of the following methods:

- Hand (door to door) or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice, included with a bill, or with the **Consumer Confidence Report** as long as it is issued within one year of the violation

Non-community systems must use one of the following methods:

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use another method reasonably calculated to reach others if all users would not be reached by the first method. Such methods could include VT-Alert, email, newspapers, radio, television, direct delivery to community organizations such as health care facilities, or additional mailing or delivery to apartment tenants. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on your system's letterhead, if available.

The notice on the previous page is appropriate for mailing, posting, or hand delivery. If you modify this notice, you must still include all required elements from 40 CFR 141.205(a) and **leave the mandatory public health language unchanged**. If you modify the notice, you may not alter the mandatory language, but it can be in italics or regular font.

What happened? What is being done?

This section of the public notice **MUST** be completed prior to distributing. Describe why the situation exists and what corrective actions you took or will be taken. (e.g. exploring treatment options, new source, etc.)

Repeat Notices

For repeat notices, you should state how long the violation has been ongoing and remind consumers of when you sent out any previous notices. If you are making progress, describe it. Alternatively, if funding or other issues are delaying progress, let consumers know. It may be helpful to show customers the results of the contaminant over time.

After Issuing the Notice

Send a copy of each type of notice and the Public Notice Certification to the Division within ten (10) days from the time you issue the notice. The certification states that you have met all the public notice requirements. The Division suggests you inform your customers when the violation is resolved.