

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Town of Putney Water System Water is Contaminated with Total Coliform

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Total coliform bacteria were found in the water supply on 8/14/12 & 8/16/12. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves, but indicate that other bacteria that can make you sick may be present in the water. These bacteria are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We took two samples for coliform bacteria during August. Two of those samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 0 per month may do so.

What should I do?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What happened? What is being done?

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

The chlorine feed pump has been activated adding chlorine to help with disinfection. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within one week.

For more information, please contact Joe Tetreault, Simon Operation Services, at (802)387-4345 or (802)793-8442 or PO Box 233, Putney, VT 05346. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the Water Supply Division at (800) 823-6500.

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

This information is being sent to you by Town of Putney Water System

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Honorable Peter Shumlin, Governor George Crombie, ANR Secretary Jeffrey Wennberg, DEC Commissioner

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