

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

**Sutton Water System**

**Sutton Water System Has Nitrate Levels just below the Drinking Water Standards**

We received the results from five samples collected on March 19, 2013, April 3, 2013 and April 8 which report nitrate levels ranging from 8.3 to 9.2 milligrams per liter. This is just below the Environmental Protection Agency nitrate standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/l). Nitrate in drinking water above the nitrate standard is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old, older infants born prematurely and pregnant women. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know about these test results, what precautions you may take and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Nitrate in drinking water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems and run-off). Levels of nitrate in drinking water can vary throughout the year.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants in this water system, including quarterly testing for nitrate.

**What should I do? What does this mean?**

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division and the Department of Health recommend that users take the following precautions:

**DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS OR PREPARE INFANT FORMULA OR JUICE WITH THE WATER.**

Use bottled water or other water low in nitrates until further notice. The blood of infants less than six months of age and older infants born prematurely is less able to carry oxygen and infants can become seriously ill. Affected infants may exhibit breathing difficulty or develop a skin color with a blue-gray tone. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.

The safest choice for pregnant women is to use bottled water or seek an alternate source low in nitrates until further notice. For specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor.

Boiling, freezing, and letting the water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.

Nitrates in water are not a health concern when showering or bathing.

**What happened? What is being done?**

Water quality monitoring for Nitrate has fluctuated above 5.0 mg/L but less than the MCL of 10 mg/L resulting in the Water System requirement to conduct quarterly monitoring. The Agency of Natural Resources noted during a sanitary survey visit on October 12, 2011 that there appears to be a trend over the years of a steady (seasonal) increase in the Nitrate levels and required a plan to reduce or eliminate (by treatment, source protection activities, or developing an alternative source) be developed and submitted. The plan must incorporate not only source protection, but source improvements, treatment or the development of a new source and this plan needs to be submitted to the Division for review. The

Town has begun an investigation of the cause for the nitrate levels of the water system and based on the findings will develop and implement a plan to reduce or remove nitrates from the system if possible. The Town is also changing the nitrate monitoring frequency from quarterly to monthly. The Town will provide updates and progress made to resolve this issue to users as additional information is available.

For more information, please contact Joe Solinsky, Sutton Select Board, at 802-535-4437, [cows5@localnet.com](mailto:cows5@localnet.com) or Town of Sutton, 167 Underpass Road, Sutton, VT 05867

To contact the Health Department with questions regarding this notice, please call 1-800-439-8550.

If you have questions regarding water quality and reported nitrate levels, please contact the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division at 1-800-823-6500.

This notice is being sent to you by the Town of Sutton.

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Date distributed: