

VT Agency of Natural Resources
Department of Environmental Conservation, Waste Management and Prevention Division
1 National Life Drive – Davis 1
Montpelier, VT 05620-3704

February 25, 2021

213 Settlers Road
Bennington, VT 05201

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the petition and draft decision to reclassify groundwater from potable to non-potable for portions of Bennington, Shaftsbury, and North Bennington. We understand the need to reclassify portions of our community that were hardest hit and provided solutions to their unhealthy water supply. We believe that including our home at 213 Settlers Road in Bennington (and likely others around us) within the reclassified area is in error for the following reasons:

As stated in a letter from Richard Spiese (attached), our first sampling of our well water on June 7, 2016 resulted in a very high measurement of PFOA contamination (381ng/l). Subsequent testing of the water coming into our home (x7) has seen a safe level of PFOA coming into our home (<2ng/l). The homes around our property all have negligible amounts of PFOA in their water systems. The blood tests for my wife and myself had levels of PFOA in our bloodstreams that are below the average level for people who are drinking clean water. With all these factors taken together, Mr Spiese offers his professional judgement within the letter that the initial results were incorrect and may have resulted from samples being switched or improperly labeled.

Under the Consent Order and Final Judgement with St Gobain, the town of Bennington installed water lines throughout parts of the community to rectify the damaged water sources. Under this agreement with St Gobain, the water line that extends into our neighborhood stops four houses from ours. We were not allowed access to the town water line, and thus have only the POET system to rely on if needed. The settlement agreement with St Gobain did not include many homes within our neighborhood as they did not fall within the guidelines established in negotiations between the State and St Gobain.

Given the above circumstances, it seems unfair to classify our home to be within the class IV portion in the Town of Bennington (indicating our groundwater well is non-potable). Our well-driven drinking water (measured before the POET System) has repeatedly been deemed non-detectable for PFOA by its measurements by CT Male Associates. This designation of our drinking water as non-potable may have an impact on the resale of our property as well as our capacity to redrill our well if needed. Without access to a public water supply and with no knowledge of how long our POET system will be supported by the State or St Gobain's, we believe this classification is unfair. If the settlement with St Gobain's did not include our home or others for town water, why are we included in the property re-classification?

We ask that the classification map for non-potable drinking water be re-drawn to exclude ours home as well as others in our neighborhood that do not have access to the public water supply.

Sincerely,

Al Bashevkin

Nancy Pearlman