

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
COVENTRY FIRE DISTRICT #1  
**LEVELS OF ARSENIC ABOVE DRINKING WATER STANDARDS**  
**APRIL 2018 UPDATE**

In September 2016, our water system exceeded drinking water standards for arsenic. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The standard for arsenic is 0.010 MG/L. The running average ending in August 2016 result was 0.011 MG/L for Arsenic. The reading in October 2016 was 0.010mg/L, in January 2017, 0.008mg/L, and in July 2017, 0.012 MG/L. Levels at the Coventry Village School have been below the maximum contaminant level.

**What should I do?**

It is recommended that you consider other sources of water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula. Do not boil your water. Boiling water increases the concentration of arsenic, and does not get rid of arsenic. Instead, it is recommended that you use either bottled water or water from an alternate source with an arsenic level below 0.01 MG/L. You can continue to use the water for showering, bathing, and other household uses.

**What does this mean?**

Arsenic is a natural element found in some rocks and soils in Vermont. Drinking water wells located in these areas may produce water that contains arsenic.

Drinking water containing arsenic at this concentration will not lead to any short-term health effects, such as vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain. Drinking water containing arsenic over a long period of time can increase the risk of getting bladder, lung, or skin cancer. There is also research in progress on arsenic's link to skin and cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

If you have specific health concerns related to arsenic, contact your health care provider.

To contact the Vermont Health Department with questions regarding the health effects of arsenic, please call 1-800-439-8550 or <http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/water/arsenic.aspx>

**What is being done?**

Working with the Dufresne Group, our engineering firm, the decision was made to pursue treatment of our current water source. The Professional Engineering Review has been completed, a 60% design package has been prepared by Dufresne Group for the new treatment system, we have received a planning grant through the State Drinking Water Revolving Fund, and a successful pilot project proved effective in removing arsenic, iron, and manganese. A March 20<sup>th</sup> bond vote passed, allowing us to seek funding. Construction would begin in Summer 2018 and the project completed by the end of 2018.