

**Dorset Fire District #1  
P.O. Box 341  
Dorset, VT 05251**

April 20, 2017

Ms. Heather Collins  
System Operations Specialist  
Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division  
One National Life Dr. – Main 2  
Montpelier, VT 05620

Dear Ms. Collins:

I am writing to provide you with an official response to the Sanitary Survey of the Dorset Fire District #1 Water System (WSIE #5020), conducted on February 28, 2017, with results of the survey sent to us on March 30, 2017.

I am the chairman of the Prudential Committee that governs the Dorset Fire District. The public water system is one of our responsibilities. We would request that you send all future correspondence to the committee chair, at the address at the top of this letter.

In response to the deficiencies outlined in your letter:

**1. Inadequate Water Supply**

The Prudential Committee has determined that the addition of a supplemental water supply is our highest priority. We have been working with an engineering firm, Kepler Consulting LLC, since the summer of 2016, and under their guidance, we have explored 10 potential sites, including natural springs and new wells. All sites have been analyzed for suitability using several criteria, including potential water production, proximity to existing water mains, proximity to power, septic system setbacks and potential issues with property owners.

This work has yielded us a primary site that is estimated to have sufficient water supply, is close to water mains and power, and has a feasible path for establishing the agreements and easements necessary. We have been negotiating with two private property owners and The Nature Conservancy, and have made significant progress with the former.

We also have contingency plans if The Nature Conservancy does not provide us with the requested permission. As you can imagine, with multiple parties involved, this is a complex process. Nevertheless, we will be applying for a source permit and a permit to construct as soon as possible.

**2. Inadequate Monthly Reporting**

Our water operator, Jim McGinnis, has been recording daily water usage and chlorine levels since March 1, 2017. He is also aware that a monthly report is due 10 days after the end of each month and has assured the Prudential Committee that he will be submitting these reports in a timely manner.

**3. Daily Chlorine Residual Sample Point**

The daily free chlorine values are now being taken at the blow off valve about 800 feet from the start of the distribution system and these values will be used in our monthly reporting.

In response to your “review, consideration and comment” section:

**A. System Expansion is Prohibited**

From this point forward, until prohibition is lifted by the state, the Prudential Committee will not permit new water service and will not permit increased allocations to existing water users.

**B. Fire Protection and Conservation of Fire Hydrants**

Our engineering firm conducted a preliminary investigation into the system improvements necessary to achieve the required flows and pressure necessary to meet state requirements to make the fire hydrants functional. These improvements would include replacing all water mains with larger pipe, along with building a water storage facility on the east side of Dorset village. After significant deliberation, the Prudential Committee has set this project as a low priority, due to other significant issues in the water system (inadequate water supply, supply lines reaching the end of their lifespan and lack of metering), firefighting approaches and apparatus that have been in place since state prohibition first occurred (many years ago) and the estimated cost of the necessary improvements.

**C. Fire District Meetings**

We would welcome your attendance at one of your monthly public meetings. Our agenda is already full for our May meeting, so I would suggest June 12<sup>th</sup> or July 10<sup>th</sup> as potential dates. Our meetings are held at the Dorset Firehouse at 7pm. Let me know if either of these dates work for you.

Respectfully,



Ben Weiss, Chairman  
Dorset Fire District #1 Prudential Committee