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*Human Services*

May 9, 2007

Senator Douglas Racine  
Chair, Senate Health & Welfare Committee  
Vermont State Legislature  
115 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05633

Dear Senator Racine:

This letter is a follow up from testimony to the Senate Health and Welfare committee regarding Chloramines. We would like to suggest an approach that gives the State of Vermont the opportunity to discuss disinfection byproducts in drinking water samples, taking a broad look at the issue with a view to presenting comprehensive findings that can be used as the basis for discussions going forward.

We propose that the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Conservation convene a small working group including EPA Region 1 Office, representatives for public water, and involved advocacy groups to:

- Determine the number and types of Vermont's public water supply systems that could be in violation of EPA disinfection byproduct rule requirements effective 2012.
- Investigate the various 'classes' of sources that lead to increased disinfection byproducts, and what alternative disinfection methods could be used to minimize the byproducts and bring the public water system into compliance.
- The summary would include a review of the costs, benefits and risks.

The first step, to be taken within a month, will be to identify the working group members and hold an initial meeting at which the group will develop an agreed upon process going forward. The Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Health will convene the meeting and will provide technical assistance to the group.