



Department of Health
Agency of Human Services



New Web Resource Tracks Drinking Water Quality



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BURLINGTON – A new online tool gives Vermonters the power to check on the quality of drinking water supplied by 100 community water systems serving 400,000 residents.

As part of its Environmental Public Health Tracking portal, the Health Department and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have developed a data display that tracks the presence of 10 contaminants – such as arsenic, nitrate, uranium and the pesticide atrazine – that could cause health problems at: <http://webmail.vdh.state.vt.us/vttracking/pcws/>.

“We wanted to provide a site for people to learn more about water quality and health issues in the towns where they live,” said David Grass, the Health Department’s environmental health surveillance chief.

The yearly concentrations of contaminants for water systems are tracked and compared to the levels permitted by state and federal regulations. Also provided are the known health effects of each contaminant, and the service areas of the largest water systems.

The new resource complements the Consumer Confidence Reports on water quality sent by community water systems to their customers each spring.

“Overall, public water providers are doing a very good job meeting the standards of the Vermont Water Supply Rule, and are providing not only safe drinking water, but also a reliable and adequate supply,” said Ellen Parr Doering, deputy director of the DEC’s Division of Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection.

The data display is part of a continuing effort by the State to help Vermonters understand environmental health issues in their communities. Other topics covered by Environmental Public Health Tracking (<http://www.healthvermont.gov/tracking>) include asthma, birth defects, cancer, blue green algae, heat illness, childhood lead poisoning, and air quality.

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