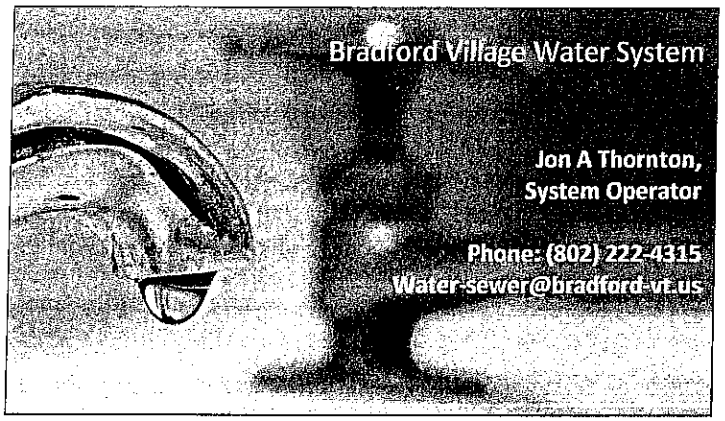

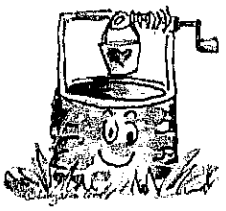

Dear Water Customer,

At the **Bradford Village Water System** we take seriously our responsibility to ensure that the drinking water we provide meets all state and federal standards for drinking water quality. Your health and safety are our highest priorities. THUS, **I wish to inform you that we have taken steps to address recent elevated lead levels detected in the drinking water at several sample sites. Lead and copper both tend to enter drinking water when naturally aggressive (typically low pH) water corrodes plumbing and fixtures – putting lead into solution OR it can enter drinking water as a nodule that becomes dislodged from either the plumbing or from a fixture. We have been testing for lead and copper since 1993 (and although we dealt with a lead issue in 1994) we have not exceeded a standard set for these metals in drinking water since then.**

To remedy this situation (and to fulfill the requirements of the Federal Lead & Copper Rule), we are proceeding with the following action steps:

1. We will test both our wells for lead. We do this to determine whether the lead is coming to our system from the source.
2. We will collect water samples necessary to characterize and better understand the water chemistry of our source waters.
3. We will do our best to answer whatever questions you may have regarding lead in drinking water.
4. We will work with representatives of the Vermont Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division to determine what constitutes effective corrosion control treatment should this be necessary.

What Does This Mean?

(This is the information we are required by the Federal Lead & Copper Rule to supply to consumers)

Under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set the action level for lead in drinking water at 15 ppb. This means utilities must ensure that water from the taps used for human consumption do not exceed this level in at least 90 percent of the sites sampled (90th percentile value). The action level is *the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.* If water from the tap does exceed this limit, then the utility must take certain steps to correct the problem. Because lead may pose serious health risks, the EPA set a Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) of zero for lead. The MCLG is *the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.*

What Are The Health Effects of Lead?

Lead can cause serious health problems if too much enters the body from drinking water or other sources. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of the body. The greatest risk of lead exposure is to infants, young children, and pregnant women. Scientists have linked the effects of lead on the brain with lowered IQ in children. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults. Lead is stored in the bones, and it can be released later in life. During pregnancy, the child receives lead from the mother's bones, which may affect brain development.

What Are The Sources of Lead?

The primary sources of lead exposure for most children are deteriorating lead-based paint, lead contaminated dust, and lead contaminated residential soil. Exposure to lead is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants whose growing bodies tend to absorb more lead than the average adult. Although our facility's lead levels were below the action level, if you are concerned about lead exposure in your home, parents should ask their health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

What Can I Do To Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water?

The following are steps you can take to further reduce your exposure to lead in drinking water.

- **Run your water to flush out lead.** If water hasn't been used for several hours, run water for 15-30 seconds to flush out interior plumbing or until it becomes cold or reaches a steady temperature before using it for drinking or cooking.
- **Use cold water for cooking and preparing baby formula.**
- **Do not boil water to remove lead.**

For More Information

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

Please feel free also to contact the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division for additional information about lead in drinking water:

State of Vermont
Department of Environmental Conservation
Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division
1 National Life Drive (Main Building – Floor 2)
Montpelier, VT 05620-3521

Attention: Lead & Copper Rule Administrator
(802) 585-4891

Complying with the Lead & Copper Rule

According to estimates from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), on average drinking water makes up about 10-20% of children's exposure to lead. In Vermont, lead-bearing paint and dust are the most common causes of elevated blood lead levels in children. Although lead in drinking water is not often a primary source of exposure it cannot be disregarded as a contributing factor. Thus, on June 7, 1991, EPA published a regulation to control lead and copper in drinking water. This regulation is known as the Lead and Copper Rule.

The rule requires systems to monitor drinking water at customer taps. If lead concentrations exceed an action level of 0.015 mg/L or copper concentrations exceed an action level of 1.3 mg/L at more than 10% of customer taps sampled (90^{th} percentile), the system must undertake a number of actions to control corrosion. If the action level for lead is exceeded, the system must also inform the public about steps they should take to protect their health.

The **Bradford Village Water System**, your supplier of drinking water, continues to provide water that is tested for lead and copper on an ongoing basis – and has largely posted numbers well below federal limits – with every intention of keeping it that way.

In an effort to ensure that lead and copper in drinking water continues to present but minimal health risks, the **Bradford Village Water System** is asking the following:

1. If you plan to change the plumbing (pipes) or fixtures (faucets) in any way, please let us know in advance as changes that introduce fresh copper pipes, leaded solder, or faucets purchased outside of Vermont can increase personal health risks.
2. Where faucets are in need of replacement, please be sure to purchase virtually lead-free fixtures meeting the requirements of Vermont's new lead law.
3. Please let us know if you are interested in becoming part of our lead and copper monitoring program.

What's in it for me to become part of the Water System's lead and copper monitoring program?

Those who chose to become part of our lead and copper monitoring program will be collecting a drinking water sample that will be tested for both lead and for copper. In return you will receive notice of laboratory results for your sample, and your results will be used in compliance calculations by the state. It's a good way to stay atop lead and copper in drinking water – at your tap.

For more information or to be part of the system's lead and copper monitoring program please use the following contact information:

BRADFORD VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM
JON A THORNTON, SYSTEM OPERATOR
PHONE: (802) 222-4315
WATER-SEWER@BRADFORD-VT.US

Bradford Water & Sewer Commission
172 North Main Street - P.O. Box 603 - Bradford, Vermont 05033

Bradford Water System
Lead & Copper Information

Owner/Official
Bradford Water & Sewer Commission
P.O. Box 603
Bradford, Vermont 05033
water-sewer-admin@bradford-vt.us
Phone Number: (802) 222-4315

Operator
Jonathan Thornton
P.O. Box 603
Bradford, Vermont 05033
water-sewer@bradford-vt.us
Phone Number: (802) 222-4315

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Date:	2nd Tuesday of every month
Time:	6:30 p.m.
Location:	Room #28A of the Bradford Academy Building

BRADFORD WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 603
BRADFORD, VT 05033

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BRADFORD, VT
PERMIT NO. 17

BOXHOLDER
POST OFFICE
RURAL ROUTE
STAR ROUTE