



The State of New Hampshire  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**



**Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner**

August 18, 2016

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

The Honorable David Borden  
PO Box 167  
New Castle, NH 03854

Dear <sup>David</sup> Representative Borden:

Thank you for your email of August 6, requesting assistance from NHDES relative to further private drinking water well testing and water supply planning efforts in the seacoast region. After meeting with the appropriate NHDES staff to discuss your requests, I am writing to respond and share some thoughts with you.

As you acknowledge in your email, sampling of private wells has occurred and will continue to occur in proximity to known and suspected sources of MTBE and other emerging contaminants, such as PFCs. In addition, it is our understanding that the Town of Greenland is planning to engage a private laboratory to provide PFC testing of a limited number of its residents' private drinking water wells. NHDES has offered to assist in this effort, using its staff to obtain the samples for delivery to Greenland's lab, and to also analyze samples from the same wells for volatile organic compounds and MTBE.

Relative to the broader seacoast region, I want to make you aware that a statewide study of the impact of PFCs on groundwater, and particularly on public water supply wells, is currently being planned with the United States Geological Survey. (Similar statewide studies have been completed in the past, specifically for MTBE.) In addition, NHDES devotes considerable resources to urging citizens to test their own wells and to assist them in identifying proper treatment for any natural or manmade contaminants in their water.

Relative to your questions regarding public water planning efforts, it is important to note that an interconnection study entitled, "Seacoast New Hampshire Emergency Interconnection Study: Examining Mutual Aid Between Ten Water Utilities," was performed in 2005 and identifies how seacoast communities could further connect and what barriers exist to their doing so. I've attached the cover page, executive summary, and copies of Tables 2-1 and 4-1

The Honorable David Borden

August 18, 2016

Page 2

from the report (prepared by a consulting firm, Woodard and Curran), which was shared with each of the seacoast towns following its completion in January 2006. If you would like a complete copy of this two-inch thick document, please let us know. Alternatively, the listed public water suppliers should all have copies and you may be able to review the full final report at one of their offices.

We expect that further targeted work to address MTBE and potentially other contaminants in the seacoast and throughout the state will be considered by the Drinking Water and Groundwater Advisory Commission, established by SB380. The Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund will provide significant opportunities to restore, protect, and enhance the state's drinking water resources and we look forward to working with the Commission to ensure that it is used in a strategic and cost-effective manner, to provide maximum benefits to the citizens of New Hampshire.

I trust that this has been responsive to your requests. We would be happy to meet with you to further explore your interests and to discuss how they may be addressed in the future.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Burack  
Commissioner

Attachment