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Agency of Human Services

January 28, 2008

Howard Frumkin, MD, PhD, Director
National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
1600 Clifton Rd. Mail Stop E28
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Frumkin:

Thank you for sending an Epidemiology Intelligence Service team to Vermont on September 25 - 28, 2007 to gather more information about symptoms some people believe to be associated with exposure to municipal water disinfected with monochloramine. The CDC team was joined by a team from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to examine community concerns about the use of monochloramine in Vermont's Champlain Water District, which serves approximately 68,000 customers in Chittenden County.

We are in receipt of the trip summary, *Epi-Aid Trip Report: An assessment of health concerns in a community exposed to chloramine treated tap water in Vermont, 2006-2007 (Epi-2007-054).* We at the Vermont Department of Health appreciate the time and effort invested by the CDC and the EPA in examining community concerns regarding the use of monochloramine in the Champlain Water District.

Despite the preponderance of evidence that indicates that monochloramine is the best available option for water disinfection of the municipal water supply, the controversy surrounding the issue here in Vermont proceeds unabated.

In light of this, I would ask you to answer a few questions to help clarify for me recommendations and next steps mentioned in the trip report:

1. Does NCEH/ATSDR recommend a forthcoming study of the reported health effects noted in the trip report? If yes, who, how and where do you recommend doing the study?

2. Will CDC take the lead in working with states and local agencies to develop next steps in addressing community concerns about monochloramine-treated public water? If so, what actions might be indicated and how soon can we expect to see them implemented?

3. Will the CDC be undertaking any research to eliminate remaining "data gaps" about the potential health effects of using chloramine for large scale water disinfection, as mentioned in the report?

If further epidemiological studies and scientific research from the CDC would cultivate new information and solutions, and bring peace of mind to Vermont citizens, we welcome them.

Thank you again for your efforts on our state's behalf. I highly value your insight into this challenging environmental health issue, and I look forward to working with you again soon in the future on this issue.

Sincerely,

Sharon Y. Moffatt RN MSN

Sharon Moffatt, RN, MSN
Commissioner of Health

cc: Jim Lando, MD, Branch Chief, Environmental Hazards and Health Effects, CDC
Jane F. Downing, Chief, Drinking Water Branch, EPA