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July 9, 1991

Dear Burlington Water Customer:

On October 22, 1990, the Burlington City Council approved a backflow ordinance "Sec. 31-22 Part C" of the Burlington Code of Ordinances, requiring a backflow prevention device on all water services in the City of Burlington having an inch and one half and larger meter. The purpose of a backflow prevention device is to prevent backflow which is defined as the flow of water or other foreign liquids, gases or other substances into the distribution system of a public water supply from any source other than the intended source.

The new ordinance was enacted, first and foremost, to protect the Burlington water system from becoming contaminated by a cross connection in a customer's building.

A cross connection by definition is any physical connection or arrangement between two otherwise separate piping systems, one of which contains potable water and the other water or other substances of unknown or questionable safety, whereby water or other substances may flow from one system to the other, the direction of flow depending on the pressure differential between the two systems.

The State of Vermont is also in the process of enacting a Cross Connection Control Policy for the entire State of Vermont with compliance dates based on the number of customers served.

Under the Cross Connection Control Policy that accompanies the ordinance, the City Plumbing Inspector will determine the degree of hazard associated with each service and determine the type of device needed to protect the City's water system from contamination. The device will be installed by a licensed plumber at the owner's expense. Annual or semiannual testing of the device will be required on each device installed depending on the degree of hazard of the building.

The language of the approved ordinance is included on the reverse side of this notice. The Public Works Department is also holding a public informational meeting on July 30th, at 1:00 p.m. at the Water Treatment Plant on Lake Street for all interested parties. For further information, you may call Tom Dion, Meter Foreman at 862-3301, or Arlon Nolan, Plumbing Inspector at 863-9094.

Singerely,

Clamic Adams

Laurie Adams

Water Division Head

Tom Dion



- Sec. 31-22. "Physical connection" defined, prohibited.
- (a) As used in this section "physical connection" shall mean any cross-connection, bypass, valve, pipeline, auxiliary intake or other similar device which permits or may permit any flow of water into the city water supply from any other water supply, unapproved by the state board of health for drinking purposes.
- (b) No physical connection shall be constructed or maintained by any person at any time.
- (c) Commencing as of January 1, 1992, all services 1-1/2" and larger shall be equipped with a back flow preventer. All back flow prevention devices must comply with the rules and regulations of the department of public works. It shall be unlawful for any person to utilize a service after January 1, 1992, unless the service is equipped with a functioning back flow preventer per the provisions of this section.