

The State of Vermont's first Class II Groundwater Area has been designated for the Brandon Fire District #1 Public Community Water System. This Class II designation will help to ensure long-term drinking water quality protection for approximately 3,900 residents of Brandon, Vermont who are served by this system. Since the groundwater classification system was enacted for Vermont in 1985, all groundwater in the state has remained at the default Class III designation, with the exception of approximately 10 Class IV groundwater areas that have been designated in areas where the groundwater has become non-potable due to human activity. This Class II groundwater designation for the Brandon Fire District #1 water system source protection area is the first "upgrade" of groundwater classification to occur in Vermont. This reclassification relied upon a thorough scientific analyses completed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, the Vermont Rural Water Association, and the firm of Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc. in Essex Junction, Vermont. Raymond Counter, the operator of the Brandon Fire District #1 water system, has been actively pursuing Class II Groundwater designation for many years, and it is with a profound sense of accomplishment that the system was finally able to achieve this reclassification. Ray is proud to promote what he sees as Brandon's greatest resource – "the best drinking water in the state." The Fire District and its partners are hoping that this groundwater reclassification will help to encourage other public community water systems across the state to take this proactive step to ensure the long term protection of their groundwater and drinking water resources.

Please contact Raymond Counter or Eric Hanson of Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc. with any questions or comments.

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