

Town of Ayer – DPW Water Division Ayer, Massachusetts

Important Information for all consumers receiving Drinking Water from our system -- Translate it or speak with someone who understands it --

Important Notice: This notice provides new important information regarding your drinking water and contaminants known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). The Town of Ayer has been conducting voluntary quarterly testing for PFAS at its Grove Pond and Spectacle Pond Water Treatment Plants since 2016 and 2018 respectively. PFAS compounds have been detected in the drinking water below the current health guideline established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) but above the recently revised health guideline established by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). This notice provides information about Ayer's and MassDEP's ongoing efforts to address PFAS in drinking water and provide health-protective guidelines.

In 2016, EPA published a drinking water Health Advisory Level for two of the PFAS compounds (Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid, PFOS, and Perfluorooctanoic acid, PFOA) combined at 0.070 micrograms per liter (ug/L) or 70 parts per trillion (ppt). In January 2020, MassDEP issued an Office of Research and Standards guideline (ORSG) for drinking water of 0.020 ug/L or 20 ppt for six PFAS compounds combined. Those compounds are PFOA, PFOS, PFNA (Perfluorononanoic acid), PFHxS (Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid), PFHpA (Perfluoroheptanoic acid) and Perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). The ORSG was established to be protective against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water for a lifetime and is also applicable to shorter-term exposures of weeks to months during pregnancy and breast-feeding.

Based on the current ORSG, MassDEP recommends that:

- 1) Consumers in sensitive subgroups (pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants) not consume water when the level of the six PFAS substances, individually or in combination, is above 20 ppt.**
- 2) Public water suppliers take steps expeditiously to lower levels of the six PFAS, individually or in combination, to below 20 ppt for all consumers.**

As part of the agency's efforts to address PFAS compounds, in December 2019 MassDEP proposed a PFAS Drinking Water Regulation with a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 ng/L for the same six PFAS compounds in the ORSG. The public comment period for the proposed MCL closed on February 28, 2020. Information on the PFAS MCL process, can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/development-of-a-pfas-drinking-water-standard-mcl>

What PFAS Levels have been detected in your drinking water, and what should you do?

A sample collected at the **Spectacle Pond Water Treatment Plant** on February 13, 2020 for the finished blend water (from multiple well sources) showed a total of **30 ppt** for the following six PFAS: PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, PFHpA, and PFDA. A sample collected on February 13, 2020 at the **Grove pond Water Treatment Plant** showed a total of **12 ppt**. The results from the Spectacle Pond Water Treatment Plant are above the updated MassDEP 20 ppt drinking water guideline.

You should consider taking the following steps while actions are being implemented to address this issue:

- Sensitive subgroups, including pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants, use bottled water¹ for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta).
- Use bottled water¹ to make infant formula or use formula that does not require adding water.
- For older children and adults, the 20 ppt value is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk. However, if you are concerned about your exposure while steps are being taken to assess and lower the PFAS concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water¹ will reduce your exposure.
- Water contaminated with PFAS can be treated by home water treatment systems that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, Water Quality Association, or the CSA Group. These may include point of entry systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet.
- In most situations the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing and showering. If you have cuts or broken skin, you may want to avoid long showers or baths. If you are concerned about your exposure, even though the risk is very low, you may want to use bottled water¹ for brushing your teeth and cleaning items like dentures, pacifiers, and fruits and vegetables.
- Note: boiling the water will not destroy these chemicals and will somewhat increase their levels due to evaporation of some of the water.
- If you have specific health concerns regarding your exposure, you should consult a health professional, such as your doctor.

What is our water system doing?

Our system has taken the following actions:

- The water supply well with the highest PFAS levels (Grove Pond Well No. 8) was removed from service in February 2018. Temporary carbon filtration was installed and activated on Grove Pond Well No. 8 on July 31, 2019 to remove the PFAS. Treated water from Well No. 8 is blended with the remaining Grove Pond Wells to reduce the level of PFAS in the finished water.

¹ MassDEP recommends using bottled water that has been tested and found not to contain PFAS. See MassDEP Bottled Water Companies surveyed list at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

- The treated water combined for the other wells at the entrance points to the distribution system (Grove Pond WTP and Spectacle Pond WTP) are sampled quarterly.
- We have completed the design of a state of the art treatment facility at Grove Pond to remove PFAS from the water for all of the Grove Pond wells. Construction of this treatment plant has begun and is expected to be completed in July 2020.
- We are designing a second state of the art treatment facility for the Spectacle Pond Wellfield, which will begin construction in late summer.
- We are also investigating the source of the PFAS contamination at Spectacle Pond Wellfield with assistance from MassDEP.
- We regularly post updates on the PFAS water quality results, treatment progress and other PFAS contamination related issues on the Town web page at <https://www.ayer.ma.us/home/news/pfas-drinking-water>

What are PFAS and how are people exposed to them?

PFAS are fluorinated organic chemicals. PFOA and PFOS have been the most extensively produced and studied of these chemicals. PFAS are contained in firefighting foams, which have been used in training exercises and to extinguish oil and gas fires at a variety of locations including airfields and military installations. PFAS are also used in a number of industrial processes and have been used to manufacture carpets, clothing, fabrics for furniture, paper packaging for food and other materials (e.g., nonstick cookware) that are resistant to water, grease or stains. Because these chemicals have been used in many consumer products, most people have been exposed to them.

While consumer products and food are the largest source of exposure to these chemicals for most people, drinking water can be an additional source of exposure in communities where these chemicals have contaminated water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a specific facility, for example, an airfield at which they were used for firefighting or a facility where these chemicals were produced or used.

Where can I get more information?

For more information on what our system is doing about this situation, please contact Mark Wetzel, DPW Superintendent at Phone # 978-772-8240, email address: mwetzel@ayer.ma.us Ayer DPW, 25 Brook Street, Ayer, MA 01432.

You can also get more information on PFAS from the following sources:

- MassDEP Fact Sheet – PFAS in Drinking Water: Questions and Answers for Consumers
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

- USEPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories can be found at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/drinking-water-health-advisories-pfoa-and-pfos>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Statement for PFOS and PFOA can be found at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>
- Ayer DPW posts regular updates at <https://www.ayer.ma.us/home/news/pfas-drinking-water>
- For additional information on possible health effects, you may contact the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Research and Standards, at 617-556-1165.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by:

PWS Name: Town of Ayer, Department of Public Works

PWS ID#: 2019000

Date distributed: March 16, 2020

Translations for English Instructions

The translations below are examples state or public water systems may use. The translations are included in the *Preparing Your Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report Guidance for Water Suppliers*. Translations are provided courtesy of the State of Washington Department of Health. None of these translations has been independently verified.

<p>Translations for the English Text:</p> <p>“This report contains important information about your drinking water.”</p>	
<p>Amharic:</p> <p>ይህ ዘገባ ስለሚጠጡት ውሃ ጠቃሚ መረጃዎችን ይዟል ። ሌላ ጉዳዩን የሚረዳሰው አገዳሪ ተረጎሙልዎት ወይም እንዲያስረዳዎት ያድርጉ ።</p>	<p>Arabic:</p> <p>هذا التقرير يحتوي على معلومات مهمة عن ماء الشرب الذي تستخدمه. اطلب من شخص ما ان يترجمه لك لو يستطيع فهمه.</p>
<p>Cambodian (Khmer):</p> <p>រាយការណ៍នេះ មានសារៈសំខាន់ណាស់ គឺស្តីអំពីទឹកដែលយោគអ្នកប្រើប្រាស់។ ប្រសិនបើអ្នកមិនយល់អ្វីអំពីព័ត៌មាននេះទេ ឬមិនយល់អ្វីអំពីអ្វីដែលអ្នកប្រើប្រាស់នោះទេ ។</p>	<p>Chinese (simplified):</p> <p>此报告包含有关您的饮用水的重要信息。请人帮您翻译出来，或请看懂此报告的人将内容说给您听。</p>
<p>Chinese (traditional):</p> <p>此報告包含有關您的飲用水的重要資訊。請人幫您翻譯出來，或請能看懂此報告的人將內容說給您聽。</p>	<p>Farsi:</p> <p>این گزارش شامل اطلاعات مهمی درمورد آب آشامیدنی شما می باشد. از شخصی بخواهید که به شما ترجمه کنند و یا با شخصی که این موضوع را میفهمند صحبت بکنید.</p>
<p>French:</p> <p>Ce rapport contient des informations importantes à propos de votre eau potable. Demander à quelqu'un de traduire ces informations pour vous ou discuter avec une personne qui comprend ces informations.</p>	<p>Greek:</p> <p>Αυτή η αναφορά περιλαμβάνει σημαντικές πληροφορίες σχετικά με το πόσιμο νερό σας. Ζητήστε από κάποιον να σας τη μεταφράσει, ή μιλήστε με κάποιον που την καταλαβαίνει.</p>

<p>Hebrew:</p> <p>זוהי כולל מידע חשוב בנוגע למי השתייה שלכם. בקשו ממישהו שיתרגם אותו עבורכם, או שוחחו עם מישהו שמבין את תוכנו.</p>	<p>Hindi:</p> <p>यह रीपोरट में आपके पीने वाले पानी के बारे में जरूरी जानकारी है। किसी से जिसे इसका अनुवाद करना आता हो उस से बात करें।</p>
<p>Hmong:</p> <p>Dlaim ntawv tshaabxu nuav muaj lug tseemceeb heev nyob rua huv kws has txug cov dlej mej haus. Kuas ib tug paab txhais rua koj, los nrug ib tug kws paub lug thaam.</p>	<p>Japanese:</p> <p>このレポートには飲料水に関する重要な情報が記載されています。この英文を訳してもらるか、またはどなたか英語が分かる方にたずねてください。</p>
<p>Korean:</p> <p>이 보고서에는 귀하의 식수에 대한 중요한 내용이 실려있습니다. 그러므로 이 보고서를 이해할 수 있는 사람한테 번역해 달라고 부탁하시기 바랍니다.</p>	<p>Laotian:</p> <p>ໃບລາຍງານນີ້ມີຂໍ້ມູນສຳຄັນກ່ຽວກັບນ້ຳດື່ມຂອງທ່ານ ໃຫ້ຄົນອື່ນປຶກສາພາສາໃຫ້ທ່ານຟັງ, ຮີວີ ຫຼື ຜູ້ອື່ນ ໃດຄົນໜຶ່ງຜູ້ອື່ນ.</p>
<p>Oromo:</p> <p>Gabaasii kun odceffanno barbachisa wa'ce bisaan dhugaatii qaba. Akkaa isinii turjumaa'uu gaafadhaa yokaan nama afaan keessan dubbatuu dubbisaa.</p>	<p>Polish:</p> <p>Następujący raport zawiera ważną informację na temat wody pitnej. Proszę poprosić kogoś o przetłumaczenie lub porozmawiać z kimś kto rozumie.</p>
<p>Punjabi:</p> <p>ਇਸ ਰੀਪੋਰਟ ਵਿਚ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਪੀਣ ਵਾਲੇ ਪਾਣੀ ਬਾਰੇ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੈ। ਕਿਸੇ ਕੋਲੋਂ, ਜਿਸ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੋਵੇ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਵਾ ਲਵੋ ਜਾਂ ਉਸ ਨਾਲ ਗੱਲ ਕਰੋ।</p>	<p>Russian:</p> <p>В этом сообщении содержится важная информация о воде, которую вы пьёте. Попросите кого-нибудь перевести для вас это сообщение или поговорите с человеком, который понимает его содержание.</p>

<p>Samoan:</p> <p>O le lipoti lenei o lo'o iai ni mea e sili ona taua e uiga i le vai o lo'o e taumafaina nei. Su'e se tagata e fa'aliliuina mo oe, po'o lou talatalanoa i seisi e iai sona malamalama i lenei mataupu.</p>	<p>Serbo-Croatian:</p> <p>Ovaj izvještaj sadrži važnu informaciju u vašoj vodi za piće. Neka vam neko prevede, ili popričajte sa nekim ko se u ovo razumije.</p>
<p>Somali:</p> <p>Warbixintan waxay wadataa macluumaad muhiim ah ee la xiriira biyaha aad cabtid. Cid ha kuu tarjunto ama la hadl cid fahmaysa.</p>	<p>Spanish:</p> <p>Este informe contiene información importante acerca de su agua potable. Haga que alguien lo traduzca para usted, o hable con alguien que lo entienda.</p>
<p>Tagalog:</p> <p>Naglalaman ang report na ito ng importanteng impormasyon tungkol sa iyong iniinom na tubig. Magkaroon ng isang tao na isasalin ito sa iyong wika para sa iyo, o makipag-usap sa isang tao na nakakaintindi dito.</p>	<p>Thai:</p> <p>รายงานนี้มีข้อมูลสำคัญเกี่ยวกับน้ำดื่มของท่านโปรดขอให้บุคคลในครอบครัวหนึ่งแปลข้อความให้ท่าน หรือปรึกษาผู้ที่เข้าใจข้อความนี้</p>
<p>Tigrigna:</p> <p>እዚ ጽሑፍ ብዛዕባ ተሰትይዎ ማይ ለገዳሊ ሓበሬታ ኣለዎ። ዘተርጉሙልኩም ወይ ዘረዳልኩም ሰብ ድለዩ።</p>	<p>Ukranian:</p> <p>Це повідомлення містить важливу інформацію про воду, яку ви п'єте. Попросіть кого-небудь перекласти вам це повідомлення або поговоріть з людиною, яка розуміє його зміст.</p>
<p>Vietnamese:</p> <p>Tài liệu này có tin tức quan trọng về nước uống của quý vị. Hãy nhờ người dịch cho quý vị, hoặc hỏi người nào hiểu tài liệu này.</p>	

