

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Mark L. Wetzel, P.E., Superintendent  
Dan Van Schalkwyk, P.E. Town Engineer  
Pamela J. Martin, Business Manager

25 BROOK STREET  
AYER, MASSACHUSETTS 01432  
T: (978) 772-8240  
F: (978) 772-8244

### **Ayer Drinking Water PFAS Update**

October 17, 2019

The Ayer Department of Public Works will be providing weekly updates regarding the various actions and issues related to the PFAS contamination in Ayer's drinking water. The update will be itemized and in no particular order or priority. If you need additional information or clarification on any of these items, contact Mark Wetzel 978-772-8240 [mwetzel@ayer.ma.us](mailto:mwetzel@ayer.ma.us).

Water Quality Sampling –The results of the September sampling at the two water storage tanks for the 5 MassDEP ORSG PFAS compounds at Ayer wells, are shown as follows.

	PFOA + PFOS	MassDEP ORSG 5 Compounds
Washington Street Tank	16.24 ppt	28.84 ppt
Pingry Hill Tank	17.81 ppt	35.65 ppt

Grove Pond Temporary Treatment – The Grove Pond Well 8 temporary treatment system had been in continuous operation for several weeks at 200 gpm. It was recently taken out of service to backwash the GAC vessels and is back on-line. Water samples continue to show the system is removing PFAS to ND levels. We are working with Sovereign Consultants on the winterization of the vessels.

Grove Pond PFAS Treatment Facility –The contractor is installing raw and treated water piping and completing the foundation for the treatment building. We removed the existing greensand media in three of the existing filters and the media was quite fouled and the underdrain system was partially plugged. Replacing the media and cleaning the underdrain system will significantly improve the performance of the plant.

Spectacle Pond Wellfield Treatment –CDM-Smith will be collecting 550 gallons of Spectacle Pond water for bench scale testing of 1 GAC media and 3 AIX media. A bench scale rapid column testing proposal is prepared for submittal and approval to the MassDEP. Results of the bench scale testing will be completed in January 2020. Ayer DPW is appropriating \$3.6 M for this project at the Fall Town Meeting in late October.

Spectacle Pond Contamination Investigation – The MassDEP Waste Site Clean-up Division is completing preliminary investigations into potential sources of contamination in the Spectacle Pond aquifer. Based on this investigation, we can better determine the source and potential levels of PFAS contamination that could impact the wellfield, including long term treatment and responsibility.

Public Outreach – I continue to provide PFAS updates at Ayer Board of Selectmen meetings. At the MWWA Fall Forum October 17, I presented Ayers experience. Paul Locke and Kathy Baskin from MassDEP presented on health risks, regulatory updates, funding and other related PFAS issues.

Lead and Copper Rule Compliance – While not directly related to PFAS contamination, meeting the Lead and Copper Rule action level requirements is a critical water quality issue. The average lead level in 2019 was 47% lower and copper level was 50% lower in 2019. The higher levels in 2018 were due to the operational changes required to minimize the PFAS levels. For 2019, the corrosion control optimization was much better and more consistent.