

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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

February 22, 2021

The Ayer Department of Public Works will be providing 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 – As the Grove Pond PFAS Treatment Facility is on line, we have reduced the PFAS monitoring of the individual wells, and are monitoring the treated water monthly. The most recent PFAS water quality results are as follows:

Supply	Date	MassDEP PFAS-6 ppt
Grove Pond Well 1	01-08-21	29.50
Grove Pond Well 6	01-08-21	26.63
Grove Pond Well 7	01-08-21	28.73
Grove Pond well 8	01-08-21	185.90
Grove Pond blended prior to IX	01-08-21	122.80
Grove Pond blended after IX	01-08-21	Non-detect
Spectacle Pond Well 1	01-08-21	20.47
Spectacle Pond Well 2	01-08-21	29.82
Spectacle Pond blended	01-08-21	23.88
Washington St Water Tank	12-29-20	26.28
Pingry Hill Water Tank	12-29-20	31.88

Attached is a graph showing the sample results through Q3 2020.

Grove Pond PFAS Treatment Facility –The Grove Pond PFAS Treatment Facility was approved for use in October 2020. However, due to some operational issues when in automatic mode, the system was used only when the plant was staffed (7 to 3:30) and the Well 8 GAC treatment was used when the new PFAS treatment facility was not in operation. Additional controls were installed in December and the PFAS treatment plant was placed in service full time on January 4, 2021. Note that this is a unique treatment facility and we are still evaluating all of the operational issues.

Grove Pond Temporary Treatment – The Grove Pond Well 8 temporary treatment system was decommissioned by the Army Corp of Engineers in mid-January.

Spectacle Pond Wellfield Treatment – Construction of the Spectacle Pond PFAS began in November and due to the good weather, the majority of the site work has been completed and the building foundation will be constructed in the spring. This facility will use granular activated carbon (GAC) to remove the PFAS chemicals. The Grove Pond Facility uses ion exchange (IX), however the testing results found that IX media was not compatible with the Spectacle Pond Wellfield water quality. Hopefully this facility will be completed in late fall 2021.

Spectacle Pond Contamination Investigation – MassDEP Waste Site Clean-up Division is investigating potential source of contamination in the Spectacle Pond watershed. There are no recent updates.

Other issues – One of the concerns with IX treatment is that it can make the water more corrosive, impacting the potential for lead and copper increases from household plumbing. We are monitoring this at the treatment facility and will be doing additional lead and copper sampling in customer's houses.

