

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Ayer Drinking Water PFAS Update

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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.

Regulatory Update – Massachusetts Department of Environmental protection recently established a PFAS Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for the sum of six PFAS compounds (PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFHpA and PFDA), known as PFAS6. The regulations detail the sampling requirements and corrective actions that public water supplies must take when the MCL is exceeded, as well as the provisions for public education and notice of exceedances so that communities can be educated and proactive in protecting their drinking water quality. Ayer has been proactive in sampling the Town water supplies and implementing treatment. Based on this regulation, Ayer would not be required to test for PFAS in the water until summer 2021.

Water Quality Sampling – Quarterly sampling for the third quarter of 2020 were taken in September and the results are as follows:

Supply	PFOA & PFOS ppt	MassDEP PFAS-6 ppt
Grove Pond Well 1	15.8	28.5
Grove Pond Well 6	13.9	24.6
Grove Pond Well 7	15.4	28.8
Grove Pond well 8 (untreated)	119	262
Grove Pond well 8 (treated)	Non Detect	Non Detect
Grove Pond finished	8.76	15.2
Spectacle Pond Well 1	13.4	20.9
Spectacle Pond Well 2	15.4	28.6
Spectacle Pond finished	14.8	25.6

Grove Pond PFAS Treatment Facility –The Grove Pond PFAS Treatment Facility construction is substantially complete. The resin was installed in the filters on September 9 and the MassDEP inspected the facility on September 15. Samples for bacteria, VOCs, PFAS, sulfates and chlorides were taken and we are awaiting results before placing the treatment system into service. We have developed a plan to test all modes of operation, including taking additional PFAS samples at various points in the treatment process (influent, lead vessel treated, lag vessel treated). We are anticipating start-up in the next 2 weeks.

Grove Pond Temporary Treatment – The Grove Pond Well 8 temporary treatment system is effectively removing the PFAS in this supply to below detectable limits. The water is sampled monthly for PFAS. We expect to keep this system in place as a back-up until several weeks after the Grove Pond plant is on line.

Spectacle Pond Wellfield Treatment – This project is out for bids with bids due on September 24. This treatment facility uses granular activated carbon (GAC) to remove the PFAS from the water. Construction

will start in late October and continue through next construction season. The project will be funded by the MassDEP Drinking Water SRF program with a 0 percent interest and 17% principal forgiveness. The DPW recently received a \$200,000 PFAS grant to cover engineering costs.

Spectacle Pond Contamination Investigation – MassDEP Waste Site Clean-up Division is investigating potential source of contamination in the Spectacle Pond watershed. They have sent letters to all potential industries and have initialed specific investigations at several of the properties.

Silent Springs PFAS Health Study – The DPW is assisting Silent Spring with determining potential PFAS exposure levels and health effects in Ayer, due to the drinking water contamination. We have set up a computer model of the water system to simulate the various operating conditions and potential PFAS levels in various parts of Town.