

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Ayer Drinking Water PFAS Update

June 3, 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.

Water Quality Sampling - Quarterly sampling of Ayer's water supplies for PFAS compounds was completed on May 20 by Koman Government Solutions, under contract with the Army. In addition, the Ayer DPW samples the two Town distribution storage tanks on March 20 and the results for the 5 MassDEP long chain compounds was 17 ppt at Pingry Hill water tank and 24 ppt at the Washington St water storage tank.

Outdoor Water Ban – The Ayer Board of Selectmen voted to institute an outdoor water ban (no sprinklers or irrigation systems) beginning on May 15. The purpose on the ban is to reduce the system demand to allow the DPW to minimize the use of wells with higher PFAS concentrations. We are monitoring all outdoor water only meters on a weekly basis to verify compliance.

Grove Pond Temporary Treatment – Ayer Water completed the system connections, and site preparation for the GAC skid. The GAC unit will arrive on June 5 and there will be a process of disinfection, carbon rinsing, testing and DEP installation inspection before it goes on line.

Grove Pond PFAS Treatment Facility – The PFAS Treatment addition to the Grove Pond Water Treatment Plant is currently out for bids and the bid opening in Wednesday, June 5.

Point of Use (POU) Filter Testing – The Ayer DPW evaluated a POU filter (PUR Model FM-2000B, FM-3333B) which the State of Minnesota had found effective in removing PFAS compounds. We tested at two locations, the Grove Pond Water Treatment Plant and the DPW Administration Building on Brook Street. Water samples were taken at different flow volumes and the results were analyzed by Alpha Analytical Lab. We are in the process of analyzing the testing data.

Spectacle Pond Wellfield Treatment – Ayer is working with CDM-Smith on the treatment solution for the PFAS contamination at the Spectacle Pond Wellfield. The initial scope of work includes:

- Wetland delineation and land survey
- Existing Treatment Facility building systems evaluation
- Site adequacy assessment with Grove Pond WTP PFAS building footprint and existing drawings
- Desktop review of water quality and treatment process selection
- Geotechnical borings
- Verify temporary treatment options
- All other conceptual design activities
- Develop construction cost estimate and schedule

Public Outreach – I gave the Board of Selectmen and update on all things PFAS at their meeting on May 21. In addition, we are finalizing the 2018 Water Quality Report to include information regarding the PFAS in Ayer's water and the Action Plan.