

DRINKING WATER HEALTH ADVISORY UPDATE

This notice is intended to provide an update on efforts to address contaminants in drinking water known as Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). In June 2018, MassDEP issued a drinking water guideline (MassDEP Office of Research and Standards guideline "ORSG" for drinking water of 70 ppt for 5 PFAS compounds). This guideline is applicable to each compound individually or in combination. The Mashpee Water District has undertaken a number of actions to ensure the your drinking water met this guideline, including taking one of our wells offline and construction of a filter plant to remove these compounds.

MassDEP has informed Mashpee Water District that based on their review of the latest scientific information, they will be issuing a proposed new drinking water guideline of 20 ppt on April 19, 2019 for these five compounds plus one more PFAS. MassDEP is accepting public comment on this draft number, and expects it will take several months to issue the final guideline.

While PFAS levels in our system meet the current Drinking Water Guideline, they are above the new proposed 20 ppt limit under consideration by MassDEP. Mashpee Water has immediately implemented additional actions to meet the proposed guideline, including:

- Take Turner Road Pump offline
- Begin discussions with US Air Force regarding funding of filter plant

Mashpee Water District anticipates that these actions will enable us to provide water with levels that are below the proposed guideline of 20 PPT .

What are PFAS and how are people exposed to them?

PFAS are fluorinated organic chemicals. Two PFAS chemicals, perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (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 contact Andrew Marks at 508-477-6767 or andy.marks@verizon.net, or by mail Mashpee Water District 79 Industrial Drive Mashpee MA 02649

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

MassDEP Fact Sheet – PFAS in Drinking Water: Questions and Answers for Consumers

- MassDEP Fact Sheet – PFAS in Drinking Water: Questions and Answers for Consumers
- USEPA's Drinking Water Health Advisories can be found at:
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Statement for PFOS and PFOA can be found at:

For additional information on possible health effects, you may contact the Massachusetts Department Environmental Protection, Office of Research and Standards, at 617-556-1165.

