



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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July 1, 2024

Annual PWS Compliance Report
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
WJCB-South 7112A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
Attn: Raquel Taveras

Dear Ms. Taveras,

Section 1414(c)(3)(A)(1) of the amended Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to prepare and make available to the public an annual report on violations of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations by public water systems (PWSs) in the State of Massachusetts each year. Following the USEPA *Guidance on Preparing Calendar Year 2023 Annual State Public Water Systems Compliance Report*, please find attached the Calendar Year 2023 Annual PWS Compliance Report (ACR) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Environmental Protection, Drinking Water Program (MassDEP/DWP).

The Massachusetts drinking water regulations differ from the federal regulations for four contaminants:

- Perchlorate – where a state Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and monitoring requirements exist,
- Ethylene dibromide – where the state MCL of 0.00002 mg/L is more stringent than the federal MCL of 0.00005 mg/L and
- Para-dichlorobenzene – where the state MCL of 0.005 mg/L is more stringent than the federal MCL of 0.075 mg/L.
- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) - On October 2, 2020, MassDEP published its PFAS public drinking water standard or Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MMCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L), or parts per trillion (ppt) applicable to community (COM) and non-transient non-community (NTNC) systems for the sum of the concentrations of six specific PFAS. The six PFAS are: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA); perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA); and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). MassDEP abbreviates this set of six PFAS as “PFAS6.” This drinking water standard is set to be protective against adverse health effects for all people consuming the water.

The MassDEP/DWP 2023 ACR does not include violations of both the state MCL and monitoring requirements for perchlorate or PFAS6.

This information is available in alternate format. Please contact Melixza Esenyie at 617-626-1282.
TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370
MassDEP Website: www.mass.gov/dep

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No variances or exemptions were issued or were in effect during 2023

The following terms and abbreviations appear in the ACR:

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) – means the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system.

Monitoring and Reporting Violations – occur when a PWS fails to properly collect, analyze or report a water quality sample to the MassDEP.

Other Violation – Includes consumer confidence report (CCR) violations, public notification requirement violations, state notification violations relating to the Revised Total Coliform Rule, Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, and the Groundwater Rule.

Primacy Agency – MassDEP has been granted authority by the U.S. EPA to implement the Safe Drinking Water Act in Massachusetts.

Public Water System (PWS) - means a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption, through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if such system has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days of the year. Such term includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of the operator of such a system and used primarily in connection with such system, and any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under such control which are used primarily in connection with such system.

Return to Compliance (RTC) – indicates that a formal record has been reported to the federal Safe Drinking Water Information System reflecting that a violation has been closed. RTC reporting is not required for most violations.

Treatment Technique (TT) - means a required process, practice, or device intended to reduce the level of a contaminant or other constituent in drinking water. Treatment Techniques are typically promulgated in lieu of a numerical standard such as an MCL.

The ACR is in four parts; State Summary, Detail by Chemical, Detail by Rule, and Detail by PWS. The Detail by PWS lists all PWSs with one or more MCL, MRDL or TT violations (note that the standard SDWIS ACR Details report also includes PWSs that only incurred monitoring violations). The full ACR will be posted on the web at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/public-drinking-water-system-operations#safe-drinking-water-act->

Please note that the Mass DEP identified discrepancies with our data and the ACR report. This may be a result of EPA assigning Return-To-Compliance (SOX) after a PWS is inactivated. MassDEP decided to add the following note to this year's ACR report:

- This report is generated using EPA's Annual Compliance Report tool using data from the frozen March 2023 Safe Drinking Water Information System (See Introduction).
- Mass DEP has identified minor discrepancies and differences in the data compared to the state database.
- Any questions or comments should be directed to: program.director-dwp@mass.gov Subject ACR

If you have any questions about this report, please contact Andrew Durham at Andrew.Durham@mass.gov. or the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov. Subject: ACR

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yvette DePeiza". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Yvette DePeiza
Program Director
MassDEP Drinking Water Program

Attachments

cc: Denise Springborg, Kevin Reilly, Andrea Traviglia, Ken Rota, Sandra Petrakis U.S. EPA Region 1
DWP regional chiefs, Kathleen Baskin, MassDEP/BWR.

Mass DEP File location: Annual Compliance Reports [-2023](#)