



MassDEP

Drinking Water Program

One Winter Street – 5th Floor; Boston, MA 02108

Program.Director-DWP@mass.gov or 617-292-5770

The Drinking Water Updates can be found on-line at:

<https://mass.gov/lists/communication-to-public-water-suppliers>

or at the Statehouse Archives at: <https://archives.lib.state.ma.us/handle/2452/826119>



The Dog Days of Summer

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dog_days

Drinking Water Program Updates

2020-08-14

This week's program director email has these topics of interest:

1. MassDEP COVID-19 Information
MassDEP Public Water Supply Information
MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls
2. Arsenic Regulations Adopted
3. Building Flushing Information ******UPDATED******
4. Reducing Lead and Copper in School and Child Care Facility Drinking Water Before Re-Opening
5. Your Transient Non-Community Public Water System Well and the Massachusetts' SMART Program
6. FDA Announces the Voluntary Phase-Out of Certain PFAS Used in Food Packaging
7. State Health Officials Announce Season's first Human Case of EEE in the Commonwealth
8. **RESPONSE REQUESTED** – Statewide Service Area Mapping
9. RCAP Secures 40,000 N95 Masks for Essential Utility Workers at small systems
10. Training Calendar
11. Spam

MassDEP COVID-19 Information

For all information go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency>

Sign-up for the state messaging tool called “AlertsMA” which sends real-time notifications of COVID-19 alerts. To subscribe to these real-time notifications text the keyword **COVIDMA** to **888-777**. After signing up, you will receive short messages and links to information on your cell phone or other mobile device.

Masks and Face Coverings: On May 1, Governor Baker issued an order requiring the use of masks or face coverings in public situations when appropriate social distancing measures are not possible. [Order](#) | [Guidance](#)

Phase 3, Step 1 (as of July 6) - Re-opening Massachusetts

Until a treatment or vaccine for COVID-19 is available, life will not return to normal. We each have a collective responsibility to ensure that reopening proceeds smoothly and safely. Everyone must follow public health directives and use common sense to protect yourself, your family, your neighbors, and vulnerable populations across the Commonwealth.

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>

MassDEP Public Water Supply Information

MassDEP is coordinating with the water supply industries, agencies, and organizations to provide information about the impacts of COVID-19 in Massachusetts.

- Recorded weekly meetings with Commissioner Suuberg: [Water Suppliers Meetings on COVID-19](#)
- Questions from drinking water operators answered by MassDEP [Water Supplier FAQs](#)
- [Bacteria sampling at outside taps/spigots/hose bibs](#) (PDF 97 KB)
- [Bacteria sampling at hydrants using hydrant sampler](#) (PDF 87 KB)
- [Mitigating lead and copper levels in facilities after school closure due to COVID-19](#) (PDF 115 KB)
- Emergency Certification for Public Water System Temporary Closure (Non-Operational Status) For Non-Community (TNC/NTNC) public water suppliers ([Word 40KB](#)) ([PDF 149 KB](#))
- Drinking Water Operator license Extension Guidance during the public health emergency <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/guidance-regarding-the-orders-by-the-governor-extending-certain-occupational-and>
- Mass DEP Building Flushing Information <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information> ***** UPDATED *****
- Form to document non-compliance related to COVID-19 <https://www.mass.gov/doc/documentation-for-failure-to-comply-with-a-requirement-as-a-result-of-the-covid-19-emergency>
- Information on Training for Public Water Suppliers <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/drinking-water-training>

EPA COVID-19 Information

- EPA COVID 19 <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

MassDEP COVID-19 Conference Calls

MassDEP's Commissioner Suuberg is now holding bimonthly (every two weeks) Zoom conference calls to all operators and interested parties. Here is a link to MassDEP's webpage, where recordings of Commissioner Suuberg's calls with the operators as well as FAQs for both water supply and wastewater are published: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/covid-19-information-for-drinking-water-and-wastewater-operators>. MassDEP will continue to populate this webpage with other relevant information related to the COVID-19 crisis.

The next call with Commissioner Suuberg is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25, at 2 PM. Please email all drinking water questions to MassDEP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.

New Zoom Meeting Information

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://zoom.us/meeting/uJEtf-isqzstGhSf_beAtiSdfHxE-69rQ/ics?icsToken=98tyKuytrjMrHtGVt1z9d7lvW4X-b-HyllZGmaVinhREfYlgZgXeLsdGf-QmAumB

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/550814507>

Meeting ID: 550 814 507

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,550814507# US (New York)

+13126266799,,550814507# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US

Meeting ID: 550 814 507

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/anAJCjR7G>

Arsenic Regulations Adopted

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts had adopted the drinking water regulations for the Arsenic Rule (66 FR 6976). EPA has reviewed all the relevant documents provided by MassDEP and has determined that the Commonwealth's version of this rule is no less stringent than the corresponding federal requirement. Therefore, EPA intends to approve the Commonwealth's adoption of this rule.

See Boston Globe's public hearing announcement **attached**.

For content details of the rule click [here](#).

Updated Building Flushing and Stagnant Water Information

MassDEP has updated its information on building flushing and addressing stagnant water in buildings. The updated information can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/massdep-building-flushing-information/download> and <https://www.mass.gov/doc/addressing-stagnant-water-in-buildings/download>.

Reducing Lead and Copper in School and Child Care Facility Drinking Water Before Re-Opening

When facilities are closed or partially closed, water sitting stagnant in pipes and fixtures can allow lead and copper to leach into it. MassDEP has created a brochure on ways to reduce lead and copper in school and childcare facility drinking water before re-opening. This brochure provides important steps to bring fresh water into the building and reduce levels of lead and copper in drinking water. It can be found here: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/reducing-lead-and-copper-in-school-and-child-care-facility-drinking-water-before-re-opening>.

Your Transient Non-Community Public Water System Well and the Massachusetts' SMART Program

Attention Owners/Operators of Transient Non-Community (TNC) Public Water Systems

If you do not know if your system is a TNC check if your system is listed as NC in the Class column in the list of all Public Water Systems at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/public-water-suppliers-contact-spreadsheet-rev-aug-2020/download>

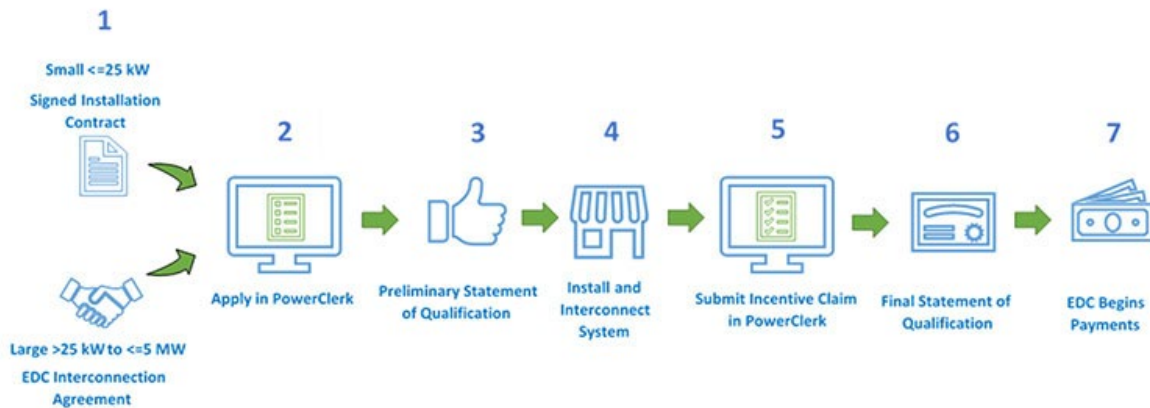
Are you looking for a fresh start for your business that will cut your monthly operating costs, update your TNC with clean and reliable power generation, while also contributing to the development of future energy infrastructure? If you answered yes to any of those questions, the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) Program may be for you.

If your TNC is served by utility companies Eversource, National Grid, or Unitil, you may be able to qualify for the SMART program. The SMART program is a long-term sustainable solar incentive program designed to encourage the development of solar power technology in Massachusetts.

You may wonder, “Is my TNC large enough to implement solar photovoltaic (PV) panels on the land that I own?” After November 26th, 2018, the SMART program began including solar PV projects of all sizes with up to 5 megawatts (MW) available per project. There are many examples of smaller sized PV projects such as local bank drive-throughs, parking lot ‘solar canopies’ or even your neighbor’s roof that prove smaller PV projects are just as important and cost effective as larger projects.

MassDEP’s Drinking Water Program reviews all proposed solar projects on land owned or controlled by PWSs. Please refer to MassDEP’s solar guidance and solar Zone I policy located at <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/drinking-water-policies-and-guidance>.

Participating in the SMART program is quite simple. First, learn more about the steps and options to install solar at your facility <https://www.masscec.com/commercial-solar>. Apply online to receive your preliminary statement of qualification then begin installation and implementation of the project. When your project is set up and functioning, submit an incentive claim in the online portal. After you receive your final statement of qualification, you will begin receiving incentive payments from your electric distribution company (Eversource, National Grid, or Unitil).



If you have questions related to the SMART program, go to <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-department-of-energy-resources>, call them at 888-989-7752 or email MA.SMART@clearesult.com. For other questions, contact the MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov or 617-292-5770.

FDA Announces the Voluntary Phase-Out of Certain PFAS Used in Food Packaging

[CFSAN Constituent Services](#) - July 31, 2020

On July 31, 2020, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announced the [voluntary phase-out](#) of a certain type of short-chain per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), that contain 6:2 fluorotelomer alcohol (6:2 FTOH), which may be found in certain food contact substances used as grease-proofing agents on paper and paperboard food packaging.

The announcement followed an FDA post-market scientific review and analysis of data from rodent studies finding bio-persistence of 6:2 FTOH. While the findings were in rodents, the data point to the potential that 6:2 FTOH may also persist in humans following dietary exposure. Further scientific studies are needed to better understand the potential human health risks from dietary exposure resulting from authorized food contact substances for short-chain PFAS that contain 6:2 FTOH. This phased market removal balances uncertainty about the potential for public health risks with minimizing potential market disruptions during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Three manufacturers have agreed to a 3-year phase-out of their sales of compounds that contain 6:2 FTOH for use as food contact substances in the U.S. marketplace, beginning in 2021. After the 3-year period, it is anticipated that it may take up to 18 months to exhaust existing stocks of products

containing these food contact substances from the market. The fourth manufacturer informed the FDA in 2019 that they had already stopped sales of their food contact substances that may contain 6:2 FTOH for use in the U.S. market.

Manufacturers of these short-chain grease-proofing agents obtained authorization for the use of these substances in food contact paper packaging applications through the [FDA's Food Contact Notification \(FCN\)](#) process. This pre-market scientific review ensures food contact materials that contain or are made of food contact substances are safe for their intended use, based on the scientific data that is available at the time of submission.

There are 15 Food Contact Notifications held by the four manufacturers that contain 6:2 FTOH. These compounds are replacements for the long-chain PFAS that are no longer in use in food contact applications through voluntary agreements with manufacturers in 2011 and through FDA regulatory action. At the time the FCNs for short-chain PFAS became effective, the available scientific data showed they were a safe alternative to the long-chain PFAS and did not indicate any potential for bio-persistence.

The commitments made by the manufacturers that hold FCNs that contain 6:2 FTOH is noted on [FDA's Inventory of Effective Food Contact Substance \(FCS\) Notifications](#). This inventory is the main mechanism by which the FDA informs both the public and industry of substances authorized through the FCN program. The FDA will monitor the progress of the phase-out of the FCNs using annual updates provided by the three manufacturers. Additionally, these manufacturers have agreed to supply FDA samples of each of the authorized food contact substances in case future analysis is needed.

For additional background information, correspondence between the FDA and industry, and other resources, see [Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\)](#).

Press Release

State Health Officials Announce Season's first Human Case of EEE in the Commonwealth

[Boston \(August 3, 2020\)](#)

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) announced that laboratory testing confirmed the first human case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) virus infection, a male under the age of 18 who was exposed to EEE in Plymouth County. As a result, the risk level in the two communities of Carver and Middleborough in Plymouth County has been raised to critical.

“EEE is rare, but it is a serious disease and public health concern, and we remind residents of the need to protect themselves from mosquito bites as EEE activity increases,” said Public Health Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH. “The single best prevention tool continues to be avoiding mosquito bites by using repellent, wearing long sleeves and pants, weather permitting, and avoiding outdoor activity between the hours of dusk and dawn in the highest risk areas.”

To read the full press release click [here](#).

For the most up-to-date information on pesticide spraying locations, visit the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Aerial Spraying Map <https://massnrc.org/spray-map/> For other updates, Q&As, and downloadable fact sheets in multiple languages visit the DPH webpage <https://www.mass.gov/guides/eee-in-massachusetts>.

RESPONSE REQUESTED – Statewide Service Area Mapping

MassDEP’s Water Utility Resilience Program (WURP) has been collaborating with the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program and the MA Department of Public Health (MDPH) to develop a statewide service area data layer that depicts generalized Public Water System (PWS) boundaries. These boundaries are protective of critical infrastructure information while allowing for public transparency.

All Community PWSs have now received multiple requests from MassDEP’s contractor, Tighe & Bond, requesting information to either:

- 1. develop a draft service area map,**
- 2. confirm the accuracy of a draft service area map or**
- 3. indicate participation refusal.**

Currently, 154 of COM PWSs out of 526 have not provided any response. Tighe and Bond will be reaching out to these systems once more in attempt to complete this data layer during 2020; and, if a response is received, will provide your system with a final service area map. Your immediate response to the Tighe & Bond request, even to indicate non-participation, will be much appreciated.

MassDEP thanks you for your anticipated cooperation. Any questions about this effort may be directed to WURP through Kristin.Divris@mass.gov or 508-887-0021.

RPCAP Secures 40,000 N95 Masks for Essential Utility Workers for Small, Rural and Tribal Utilities

The Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. announced it is sourcing and donating 40,000 N95 masks to frontline water operators in partnership with Xylem Watermark and 120Water, providing for the safety of essential water, wastewater and solid waste utility workers in small, rural and tribal utilities who have kept operations flowing in their communities amidst the challenges of COVID-19. The first shipments of face masks began in late July.

If you would like to order masks, please click the link below to input your name, organization, city, state, zip code and quantity of masks, and RACP will respond immediately.

https://share.hsforms.com/1ffPE_qJCQVa7183nripxw35n1x

Details are available [here](#).

Training Calendar

When you need training please look at the training calendar located at:

mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html for upcoming trainings.

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7lutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m

Or click here:  YouTube

Spam

Please be reminded that official emails from MassDEP will never come from a Hotmail or any other personal account. If you receive an email of this nature, the email is spam. Do not click on the links, and delete it immediately. To safeguard yourself only click open emails that have [XXXXX.XXXX@mass.gov](#).

MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS.

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program Updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go to mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html.

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 1 – New England
Boston, MA 02109

Program Requirement Revisions Related to the Public Water System Supervision Program for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

NOTICE: The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has adopted the drinking water regulations for the Arsenic Rule (66 FR 6976). EPA has reviewed all the relevant documents provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts's Department of Environmental Protection and has determined that the Commonwealth's version of this rule is no less stringent than the corresponding federal requirement. Therefore, the EPA intends to approve the Commonwealth's adoption of this rule.

A Federal Register (FR) Notice on the above determination was published on August 3, 2020, and any request for a public hearing related to this determination must be submitted within thirty (30) days of this publication date. Additional information regarding this determination and public hearing process is contained within the FR Notice. EPA's determination shall become final if no appropriate request for a hearing is received within the thirty-day timeframe, or if EPA's Regional Administrator does not elect to hold a hearing.

All documents relating to this determination are available for inspection, by appointment, between the hours of 8:30 and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday at the following office:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3129

For an appointment or additional information, please contact Jeri Weiss at (617) 918-1568.