



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

Re: New section on the MassDEP-DWP Guidelines: 5.11 PFAS treatment

01/21/2026

Dear Public Water Suppliers,

The MassDEP Drinking Water Program (DWP) has published a new section for PFAS Treatment in the Public Water Systems (PWS) Guidelines. This new section is located within the Chapter 5: Treatment section, and describes the different PFAS treatment technologies including design recommendations that can be implemented in a water treatment plant to remove PFAS from drinking water.

MassDEP/DWP has incorporated information from the EPA, national working groups including ASDWA, AWWA, Ten States Standards, other state regulatory programs, water works associations, and MassDEP/DWP's established approval and permitting process and comments from our Safe Drinking Water Act Advisory Committee (SDWAAC) to develop consistent guidelines that uphold the protection of public health while ensuring regulatory compliance.

The new section was developed based on a review of the following references:

- MassDEP Drinking Water Policy #90-04, (2000)
- 10 State Standards for PFAS (2020)
- AWWA publication: "PFAS Treatment Evaluation: Framework for Approaching Permit Plan Approval" (April 2025)
- EPA Treatment Options for Removing PFAS from Drinking Water
- Water Research Foundation, Treatment Mitigation Strategies for Poly- and Perfluoroalkyl Substance
- NY Interim Recommendations for Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Installations - Design Review, Startup and Operations (2021)
- NJ PFAS Treatment and Construction Permit Guidance
- State of Vermont, Agency of Natural Resources, PFAS GAC Treatment Design Checklist

- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, PFAS Treatment Submittal and Pilot Study Guidance

According to our water quality records approximately 163 Community (COM) and Non-transient Non-Community (NTNC) PWS will need to address PFAS in order to comply with the EPA MCLs by the 2031 (EPA announced) deadline. Currently, 38 Communities/PWS have received EPA/MassDEP Emerging Contaminant for Small and Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) grants and there are currently 24 PFAS treatment systems under construction with Mass DWSRF loans right now. See Tab 6 on the [PFAS storymap](#) for details on the approved PFAS treatment.

To date MassDEP/DWP has approved 81 permits for PFAS treatment and simultaneous compliance and 20 new statewide technology/product applications from manufacturers. [See MassDEP/DWP Approved statewide technologies](#). In addition to statewide wide manufacturer's approvals, PWS may apply for and have been granted site specific approval for other forms of PFAS treatment not on the statewide technologies list.

The new PFAS treatment section in the Guidelines will support consistent, standardized guidance for all public water systems regarding the permitting and approval of PFAS treatment systems.

To access the document, please visit the [Public Water System \(PWS\) Guidelines main website](#) or use the following link: [Guidelines For Public Water Systems Chapter 5 Treatment](#).

If you have questions, please contact MassDEP Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov.



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MassDEP/ Drinking Water Program

CC: Certified Operators