



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

For Public Water Systems with MassDEP PFAS sampling results that indicate that your system could be impacted if the Proposed EPA PFAS Regulations are adopted as final

Dear Public Water Supplier:

On March 14, 2023, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for six Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

The EPA proposed regulations would limit PFAS in Community (COM) and Non-Transient Non-Community (NTNC) public drinking water systems and are not enforceable until finalized. Currently, MassDEP is evaluating the proposed EPA regulations and will provide comments to EPA during the comment period. MassDEP will also consider this information during the three-year review of PFAS science required by MassDEP's PFAS drinking water regulations in 310 CMR 22.00. The review is required to be completed by December 2023.

States are required to adopt PFAS regulations that are no less stringent than the final rule promulgated by EPA. States will have up to two years to develop regulations after the rule is final. Massachusetts will adopt PFAS drinking water regulations that are at least as stringent as the federal standards following the release of EPA's final drinking water standards for PFAS.

EPA's draft Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) are:

- PFOA – 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt)
- PFOS – 4.0 ppt
- PFHxS, GenX (HFPO-DA), PFNA, and PFBS – 1.0 Hazard Index (HI) (unitless) (See Resources below).

For more information on the EPA proposed MCL, see EPA's Fact Sheet:

https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/Fact%20Sheet_PFAS_NPDWR_Final_4.4.23.pdf

MassDEP held a briefing on the proposed PFAS NPDWR for all PWS on April 10, 2023. See a recording of the briefing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7DTumxik8KU>

MassDEP's Drinking Water Program (DWP) provided initial compliance assistance to all PWS in sampling for PFAS compounds. See below for an estimated breakdown of the number of COM and NTNC PWS that could be impacted by the EPA proposed regulation if it became final.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON COM AND NTNC PWS IF EPA PROPOSED REGULATION BECAME FINAL		
	Number of COM and NTNC PWS required to test for PFAS impacted by the draft EPA MCL*	% of total COM and NTNC PWS required to test for PFAS impacted by the EPA draft MCL
PWS currently over Mass PFAS6 MCL and working with MassDEP to reduce levels	49	7%
PWS newly impacted by draft EPA MCL	149	22%
Total PWS impacted by draft EPA MCL	198	29%
*Includes both PFOA, PFOS and HI impacted systems		

MassDEP/DWP has compared your most recent PFAS testing results to the proposed EPA PFAS MCLs (including HI) and determined that your system could be impacted by the proposed EPA PFAS Regulations if they became final.

It is the Capacity Development policy of MassDEP/DWP to encourage PWS to prepare and plan for the foreseeable future (six years) for upcoming federal Safe Drinking Water Act Regulations.

MassDEP/DWP is recommending that you take the following actions.

1. **Review your recent PFAS results.** You may see a summary of your PWS PFAS testing results on the [EEA data portal](#). Search under the chemical name: "PFAS6," or to see all the PFAS chemicals, search under the contaminant group "PFAS". *Please note your results are subject to change based on new PFAS results.* Compare against EPA's proposed MCLs, including EPA's HI calculation (see below in Resources).
2. **Begin planning to address PFAS results that may exceed EPA's draft PFAS MCLs, if they became final.** There are currently resources available to assist with such efforts (see Funding Opportunities below).

If you have any questions, reach out to the MassDEP/DWP Regional PFAS Contact listed below to schedule a technical assistance meeting to discuss your results and plans.

Region	Name	Email Address
Western	Christine Simard	Christine.Simard@mass.gov
Central	Paula Caron	Paula.Caron@mass.gov
Northeast	Amy LaPusata	Amy.Lapusata@mass.gov
Southeast	William Schwartz	William.Schwartz@mass.gov
You may also contact the MassDEP/DWP at program.director-dwp@mass.gov Subject: PFAS or 617-292-5770.		

Thank you for your continued work to provide safe drinking water and protect public health.

Sincerely,



Yvette DePeiza,
Program Director, MassDEP Drinking Water Program

RESOURCES:

USEPA PFAS information: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

MassDEP PFAS Information: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

Hazard Index Calculation

From [EPA's Understanding the PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Proposal Hazard Index Fact Sheet](#)

- Step 1.** Divide the measured concentration of Gen X by the health-based value of 10 ppt
- Step 2.** Divide the measured concentration of PFBS by the health-based value of 2000 ppt
- Step 3.** Divide the measured concentration of PFNA by the health-based value of 10 ppt
- Step 4.** Divide the measured concentration of PFHxS by the health-based value of 9 ppt
- Step 5.** Add the ratios from steps 1, 2, 3 and 4 together

Equation

$$\text{Hazard Index} = \left(\frac{[\text{GenX}_{\text{water}}]}{[10 \text{ ppt}]} \right) + \left(\frac{[\text{PFBS}_{\text{water}}]}{[2000 \text{ ppt}]} \right) + \left(\frac{[\text{PFNA}_{\text{water}}]}{[10 \text{ ppt}]} \right) + \left(\frac{[\text{PFHxS}_{\text{water}}]}{[9.0 \text{ ppt}]} \right)$$

Step 6. To determine HI compliance, repeat steps 1-5 for each sample collected in the past year and calculate the average HI for all the samples taken in the past year.

Step 7. If the running annual average HI greater than 1.0, it is a violation of the proposed HI MCL.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

- State Revolving Fund (SRF). See <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-grants-financial-assistance> to identify opportunities to fund your planned actions. Note: President Biden signed into law the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (H.R. 3694) aka Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Funding is available, through the [SRF Program](#), over five years (2022 – 2026).
- Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program. See <https://www.epa.gov/dwcapacity/emerging-contaminants-ec-small-or-disadvantaged-communities-grant-sdc>
On February 13, 2023, EPA announced the availability of the EC-SDC grant program. This grant provides states and territories with grants for PWS in small or disadvantaged communities to address emerging contaminants, including PFAS. EPA allotted \$38,204,000 to Massachusetts for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Work may include but is not limited to testing, planning & design, treatment, and PWS consolidation & creation. Small systems are PWS serving less than 10,000 persons and disadvantaged communities are those that meet the criteria at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/the-disadvantaged-community-program>. MassDEP is currently developing the statewide workplan for this grant program and collecting information on system needs. **If you are interested in this grant program, please complete the MassDEP/DWP brief informational survey at <https://www.mass.gov/forms/emerging-contaminants-in-small-or-disadvantaged-communities-ec-sdc-grant-program-survey> by Wednesday April 28, 2023.** This survey was also sent to all PWSs by separate email.

