



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

# Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker  
Governor

Karyn E. Polito  
Lieutenant Governor

Kathleen A. Theoharides  
Secretary

Martin Suuberg  
Commissioner

**Please forward this notice to the person who is responsible for paying the bills for your public water system. When you receive your bill, please remember to enclose the top part of your bill with your payment.**

November 1, 2020

RE: Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment for Fiscal Year 2022 (to be billed in December 2021)

Dear Public Water Supplier:

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) recognizes the extraordinary challenges facing Public Water Systems (PWS) as they provide safe and fit drinking water to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. MassDEP is making every effort to support PWS in addressing this and other issues and in keeping up with the increased demands posed by these new challenges. COVID-19 information, forms and guidance are available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-covid-19-resources-for-water-suppliers-and-wastewater-operators>.

## Assessment Rate Structure for FY22

To fund its work, MassDEP relies on critical funding through federal and state sources.

As you are aware, section 18A of Chapter 21A of the Massachusetts General Laws directs MassDEP, after consultation with the Safe Drinking Water Act Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee), to establish and revise a federal Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment to assist the department in providing technical compliance assistance to and otherwise to regulate all suppliers of water. The Assessment, paid annually by all consumers of public water, is collected by PWS and sent to MassDEP to help fund the Commonwealth's work to provide a safe and fit supply of public drinking water to all consumers. The Advisory Committee submits an Annual Report to the Massachusetts Legislature that includes a summary of work conducted by MassDEP with Assessment funding. A copy of the summary is enclosed with this letter. The Annual Report for 2019, as well as information about the Committee, is available at: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html>.

## FY 2022 Assessment

Following the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, MassDEP has established the same rate structure for FY22 as for FY21.

- \$9.50 per million gallons of water used by PWS with meters;
- Minimum bill for metered PWS is \$50;

This information is available in alternate format. Contact Michelle Waters-Ekanem, Director of Diversity/Civil Rights at 617-292-5751.

TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370

MassDEP Website: [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep)

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- Flat rate of \$50 for unmetered PWS serving up to 101;
- Flat rate of \$100 for unmetered PWS serving 101 through 200;
- Flat rate of \$250 for unmetered PWS serving 201 through 899; and
- Unmetered PWS serving 900 or more pay a rate based on an average water use.

The bills for FY22 will be mailed to all PWS in December 2021 and are based on water use reported by PWS on the Annual Statistical Report for 2019. The bills that you receive in December 2020 will be for the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment for FY21. The FY21 bill is based on water use reported by PWS on the Annual Statistical Report for calendar year 2018.

### **How Will Assessment Revenue be Used?**

The Assessment helps support MassDEP's implementation of over 50 federal Safe Drinking Water Act programs and allows MassDEP's Drinking Water Program to provide no-cost technical and compliance assistance and training to PWS. Training topics are determined based on needs articulated by PWS and/or by surveying deficiencies identified during sanitary surveys. No-cost Training Contact Hours (TCHs) to maintain state drinking water operator licenses are provided.

In addition to providing training support, more contact with PWS will result in increased awareness about updates to SDWA programs, emerging contaminants, and lessons learned across the industry. Other important efforts include:

- Water quality monitoring waiver program which saved PWS customers \$4,712,915 for the 2017-2019 cycle;
- Free water sample analyses for PFAS;
- More funding for PWS infrastructure;
- On-site technical and compliance assistance; and
- Training w/free Training Contact Hours (TCHs).

A summary of efforts supported by MassDEP's Drinking Water Program is attached to this letter.

Thank you for the support that you have shown to MassDEP's Drinking Water Program over the past year as we pursue our shared responsibility of protecting public health. Please contact us at 617-292-5770 or [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov) if you have any questions about the Assessment or other public drinking water topics.

Sincerely,



Yvette DePeiza, Program Director  
Drinking Water Program, MassDEP

**Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection**  
**ACCOMPLISHMENTS SUPPORTED BY THE**  
**SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT ASSESSMENT**  
**January 1 through December 31, 2019**



**Protect Public Health through Compliance Reviews**

- Reviewed 339 water quality monitoring waiver applications for 822 drinking water sources and issued 211 volatile organic compound waivers; 552 synthetic organic compound waivers; 495 inorganic compound waivers; and 487 perchlorate waivers. This program saved consumers \$4,712,914 in water quality monitoring costs for the cycle 2017-2019.
- Approved watershed protection programs for 29 reservoirs with disinfection log credit.
- Approved watershed protection programs for 6 reservoirs with filtration waivers.
- Maintained incentives for developing local wellhead and surface water protection plans.
- Reviewed compliance status of wellhead protection land use controls for 126 wells in 17 municipalities.
- Registered 17 existing Public Water Systems (PWS) that were previously unregulated.
- Reviewed and/or approved 23 new large capacity public water sources.
- Reviewed and approved Cross Connection Control Plans for 6 non-community PWS.
- Sent 265 Cross Connection Surveyors/Testers Certification reminder letters.
- Issued 119 Cross Connection Surveyors/Testers Certificates.
- Reviewed and approved 8 new technologies for use with drinking water.
- Entered 29 permit applications into MassDEP's permit management system.
- Conducted 300 sanitary surveys which included technical and compliance assistance.
- Conducted inspections at 6 public surface water systems that have waivers from filtration.
- Held regular coordination meetings with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and the EPA - conducted compliance reviews, evaluated water quality reports and trends.
- Conducted regular meetings of the Drinking Water Filtration/Treatment Committee.
- Conducted 21 Capacity Reviews for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund applicants.
- Reviewed 3 Water Supply Business Plans during the New Source Approval process.
- Conducted 6 sanitary surveys for the Mass. Dept. of Public Health at water bottlers and ice makers.



**Save Money for Consumers with Compliance Assistance**

- Provided technical assistance to K-12 schools, early education and care facilities, Boards of Health, Plumbing Inspectors, PWS and the public on lead and copper in drinking water.
- Continued to implement the Wellhead Protection Program to provide compliance and technical assistance. Assisted 46 municipalities or PWS with wellhead protection issues.
- Field verified 13 watershed and/or tributary delineations for reservoirs and updated Geographic Information Systems (GIS) maps.
- Continued technical support of the bulk upload tool for laboratories to submit drinking water quality sampling results on-line.
- Provided compliance assistance for Statistical Reporting, Ground Water under the Influence, Consumer Confidence, Cross Connection, Certified Operator and Source Water Protection.
- Captured the 10<sup>th</sup> year of electronic Annual Statistical Reporting (e-ASR).
- Continued improving the e-ASR for the next reporting year.

- Provided over 425 instances of Source Water Protection technical assistance.
- Continued sending biweekly Program Director emails to PWS with regulatory reminders, trainings, etc., and separate emails with timely info about the Lead & Copper Rule, Lead in School Drinking Water, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and grant opportunities.
- Maintained an on-line template for PWS to use for Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) compliance, updated support materials and emailed CCR reminder e-postcards.
- Notified new community water systems of CCR requirements for 2019.
- Reviewed 512 CCRs, provided Technical Assistance Reports and tracked CCR compliance.
- Posted sample schedules and Certificates of Registration for all PWS and CCRs for Transient, Non-Community (TNC) and Non-Transient, Non-Community (NTNC) PWS.
- Provided compliance assistance to PWS for the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule.
- Continued to offer free training programs for small system operators through an EPA grant.
- Continued the implementation of the Capacity Development Program which provides financial, managerial, and technical assistance to small PWS.
- Reviewed the technical, financial, and managerial operations of 239 community and non-transient non-community and 157 transient non-community PWS.
- Reviewed Underground Injection Control (UIC) registration application for 1 PWS.
- Responded to requests from PWS regarding the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 4 (UCMR4) Program and the Inorganics Program and provided compliance assistance.
- Helped PWS write watershed protection plans & local water supply bylaws.
- Submitted the Annual Operator Certification Report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Gave 2 Boards of Health one-on-one assistance with well drilling requirements.
- Assisted well drillers at the 2-day New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) Exposition.
- Continued implementation work for 90 PWS under the Long Term 2 (LT2) Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. Preparing LT2 PWS for schedule 4 sampling.
- Identified 900 technical, financial, and managerial deficiencies during sanitary surveys.



### **Support Public Water Suppliers with Technical Assistance and Training**

- Distributed fact sheets, guidance documents, and other technical assistance materials.
- Continued to improve web pages for access by PWS, town officials, the public and others.
- Added a web page with information on PFAS and resources for PWS.
- Produced a training video on the special procedures for collecting drinking water samples for PFAS.
- Provided materials for statewide Board of Health workshops as requested.
- Prepared biennial mailing to all Boards of Health to support their role in protecting drinking water and to update them on drinking water issues.
- Delivered Drinking Water Program presentations to regional water works organizations.
- Worked with the Office of the State Geologist and United States Geological Survey (USGS) on geological studies relative to ground water.
- Presented 48 compliance awards, 12 nominated awards and five awards to individual operators during Drinking Water Day in May 2019.
- The Board of Certification of Operators of Drinking Water Supply Facilities approved 64 training courses. This is a short list of new topics.
  - Innovation in Drinking Water Industry
  - Aging Infrastructure

- PFAS PFOA Issues
- Water, Public Health and Healthcare Coordination
- HazWoper – Emergency Responder
- Management/Finance
- Provided instructors for 10 NEWWA Backflow Tester and Cross Connection Survey classes.
- Provided 1 instructor for 2 NEWWA Hydrogeology/Source Approval classes.
- Provided instruction and outreach at the NEWWA Spring Joint Exhibit and Conference.
- Provided Cross Connection Program technical assistance to 179 individuals and municipalities.
- Maintained online training videos for PWS at <https://goo.gl/Xhw4br>.
- Developed a new PFAS sampling video for PWS at <https://youtu.be/zrwhwSI-R9M>
- Maintained a Drinking Water Program Training Calendar with information on courses and conferences from MassDEP and other sources. PWS and others can download the calendar and receive automatic updates.
- Provided expertise to MassDEP’s Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup and Title 5 and Groundwater Discharge programs for consistency with Drinking Water Program regulations.
- Provided expertise to the USGS Climate Response Network.
- Collaborated with the USGS to measure monthly water level readings throughout the state.
- Provided speakers and operator training on Mass. drinking water topics at local and regional water works events and for the Massachusetts Rural Water Association.
- Continued to collaborate with the Mass. Department of Public Health (DPH) on the Lead Contamination Control Act, fluoridation and other topics.
- Provided classroom training on fluoride to PWS.
- Provided technical training to PWS on the new Chemical Addition Form.
- Provided help with writing capital improvement plans to 125 PWS during sanitary surveys.
- Updated records and added new wells totaling 3,500 entries in the Well Driller database.
- Provided technical assistance and instructors to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission’s (NEIWPC) Soil Evaluator Course.
- Provided expertise to the National Science Foundation Drinking Water Technology Review Section.



### **Participate on Committees that Bring Massachusetts Interests to State, Regional and National Levels**

MassDEP staff participated in meetings and events of the following committees, organizations, and other state, regional and national entities: New England Communications Collaborative; Association of State Drinking Water Administrators; State Vegetation Management Panel; State Pesticide Board; Office of the State Geologist State Map Advisory Committee; NEWWA Source Water Advisory Group, Groundwater Advisory Committee, Groundwater Resource Initiative, Drinking Water Operators Certification Committee, Board of Certification of Backflow Prevention & Cross Connection Control, Management & Finance; Multi-Agency Task Force on Schools; National Drinking Water Advisory Council Small Systems Implementation Work Group; MassDEP Laboratory Advisory Committee; NEIWPC Source Water Protection Work Group; Ground Water Protection Council’s Source Water Protection Work Group; Well Driller Certification Program Technical Advisory Committee; American Water Works Association Fluoride Standards Committee. Participated on EPA work groups for Emergency Preparedness, Data Sharing, Lead and Copper Rule, Perchlorate, and the Ground Water Rule.



### **Provide support to Safe Drinking Water Act Advisory Committees**

MassDEP staff schedule, support and participate in meetings of the Safe Drinking Water Act Advisory Committee (SDWAAC) and the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Advisory Committee.

The SDWAAC meets quarterly and provides knowledge and advice to the Drinking Water Program about Safe Drinking Water Act topics and priorities. Members include PWS, water works associations, laboratories and public health agencies and organizations.

The Section 70 Committee holds quarterly public meetings per MGL Chapter 21A, section 18A to monitor and provide advice on the Massachusetts Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment Program and to provide an Annual Report to the Massachusetts legislature. See <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee-section-70-committee> for public meeting dates and agendas, Annual Report to the Legislature and a list of Committee members.