

The SDWA Assessment Advisory Committee

As part of the Assessment Program, the Legislature also formed a SDWA Assessment Advisory Committee to:

- Recommend Assessment rates,
- Monitor and audit the Assessment Program,
- Produce an annual report for the Legislature, and
- Conduct public meetings.

The following groups are represented on the Committee:

- Massachusetts Water Works Association
- Western Massachusetts Water Works Association
- New England Water Works Association
- Investor-Owned Water Companies
- Rural Water Systems
- Non-Community Water Systems
- Massachusetts Municipal Association
- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
- Industry
- Water Supply Protection/Watershed Organizations



For more information on public meetings of the Assessment Advisory Committee, you can scan the QR code or visit this web site:
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee-section-70-committee>

Current SDWA Assessment Rates

Rates have only increased twice since the inception of the Assessment Program.

- \$9.50/million gallons of water used at metered PWSs
- The minimum bill is \$50.00
- Over half of PWSs pay the minimum bill
- Approximate cost to consumer is \$0.34 annually

Upcoming SDWA Work

- Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Lead and Copper Rule Revisions
- Revised Total Coliform Rule
- Cybersecurity
- Climate Change Impacts to Drinking Water
- Emerging Contaminants

For more information about the Assessment Program, contact the Drinking Water Program at program.director-dwp@mass.gov

To learn more about Drinking Water Health & Safety visit <https://www.mass.gov/drinking-water-health-safety>

Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment Program

Supporting Drinking Water Primacy in Massachusetts since 1993



Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment-

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What is the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Assessment?

MGL Chapter 21A, Section 18A

The State Legislature passed the Assessment Program in 1993 to help support the state's SDWA primacy.

Primacy means that the federal SDWA is implemented by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) instead of by the federal government.

The Assessment provides about \$2 million annually to support MassDEP staff that implement SDWA primacy programs.



Benefits to MassDEP Implementation of the SDWA to PWSs

- Regulations and programs are innovative and crafted based on the needs of Massachusetts PWSs.
- PWSs provide input on programs and regulatory development.
- One-on-one assistance such as during emergency response situations.
- Training for PWSs and training contact hours to maintain operator licenses.



PWS Cost Savings

Millions of dollars have been saved by PWSs and their customers because of MassDEP programs, such as:

- Groundwater Under the Influence of Surface Water: \$7.5 million saved at public wells determined not to be under the direct influence of surface water.
- Monitoring Waivers: \$4.7 million saved as a result of water quality monitoring waivers granted between 2020 and 2022.
- Filtration Waivers: \$66.5 million saved as a result of filtration waivers.

Outlook: MassDEP's SDWA Program

Consumer Safety

DWP implements Transparency, Environmental Justice and Diversity in its programs. There are currently 1,595 PWSs in Massachusetts. 95% of PWSs have not had a public health emergency (boil order, do not drink, etc.). There have been no waterborne disease outbreaks.



Increasing SDWA Workload

The requirements of the SDWA have increased substantially over the past 40 years. For example, in 1974, PWSs were required to test for 7 substances. In 2023, 133 tests are required at several locations throughout the water system. Both PWSs and MassDEP continue to meet the challenges related to safeguarding public health and protecting drinking water supplies for future generations; this is possible partially due to funding from the SDWA Assessment.