



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

## Department of Environmental Protection

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December 20, 2019

### Update on Draft PFAS Regulations and New Funding Availability

Dear Public Water Supplier:

This letter is intended to inform you of the following three Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) updates. These updates should strongly encourage your PWS to voluntarily collect PFAS baseline samples, as soon as you can, if you have not already collected and analyzed samples with a laboratory approved by MassDEP/DWP with detection levels below 4 ppt:

- 1) Availability of free sampling analysis for PFAS if you have not already collected baseline samples.
- 2) MassDEP's proposed Drinking Water PFAS Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). When finalized around the Summer of 2020, the PFAS Drinking Water Regulations will require all PWS to collect baseline PFAS sampling and take other actions if samples exceed the MCL.
- 3) Pending update of the Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards Revised Guideline (ORSG) for PFAS from 70 ppt to 20 ppt. This revised ORSG harmonizes with the proposed PFAS MCL.

### Availability of Funding for PFAS Testing

Last week, a Supplemental Budget was passed providing funding for: PFAS testing, design of treatment systems at PWS for the removal of PFAS, and 0% interest loans for PWS to install treatment. MassDEP will be contracting with labs to provide the free PFAS testing to PWS.

**To indicate your interest in free sampling, if you have not already completed PFAS baseline sampling, you must complete a brief survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S7QHNF2> or send a request with the information described in the survey (E.g. PWS name, PWS ID#, # of sources already tested, number of sources to be tested, and system population) to [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov). Subject: "PFAS free lab analyses."**

We expect that the available funding is enough to test all the PWS in the state and will notify you when the program is available. We will also be creating a grant program to pay for design of PFAS treatment systems at PWS who exceed the MCL. MassDEP is currently considering how to apportion the grants. In

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

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addition, zero-percent interest loans will be made available for publicly owned PWS to install treatment to reduce PFAS levels to below the MCL. **We will inform you when these programs are available.**

## PFAS Drinking Water MCL

MassDEP has drafted new regulations to establish an MCL for PFAS. The draft regulations are scheduled to be out for public comment on December 27, 2019 and there will be a 60-day comment period ending February 27, 2020. Four public hearings will be held around the state. We encourage you to participate in the public hearings and comment on the proposal. The proposed regulations establish a Total PFAS MCL of 20 ppt for six PFAS contaminants: perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). A preview of these regulations and public hearing notice is available at <https://www.mass.gov/lists/development-of-a-pfas-drinking-water-standard-mcl>. For more information about the establishment of an MCL, please see: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/development-of-a-pfas-drinking-water-standard-mcl>.

## Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG)

Additionally, in the near future, MassDEP will revise its Office of Research and Standards Revised Guideline (ORSG) to 20 ppt for six PFAS compounds, perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA), and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA), synchronizing the ORSG with both the proposed PFAS MCL and with the groundwater standard that was recently finalized for waste site cleanup. In order to protect the public health, MassDEP will use the revised ORSG when evaluating PFAS results starting December 27, 2019.

For more information about PFAS and the Department's efforts to address it, please see: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>.

If you have any questions about this update, please contact the Drinking Water Program at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov). Subject: PFAS

I look forward to your review of the proposed PFAS MCL and urge you to take full advantage of the free lab analyses the Department is offering as we work together to address this emerging contaminant.

Sincerely,



Yvette DePeiza  
Program Director Drinking Water Program  
BWR/MassDEP