

2023 Annual District Meeting Voter Information

A Plan to Remove PFAS from the Drinking Water

The Board of Water Commissioners recommends voters approve \$1.5 million for design engineering costs for the future construction of two water treatment plants to remove per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from the drinking water.



The Chelmsford Water District (CWD) is committed to providing safe, reliable water to our consumers as we have done since 1913. While CWD is not the generator of the contamination, CWD remains dedicated to solving this issue.

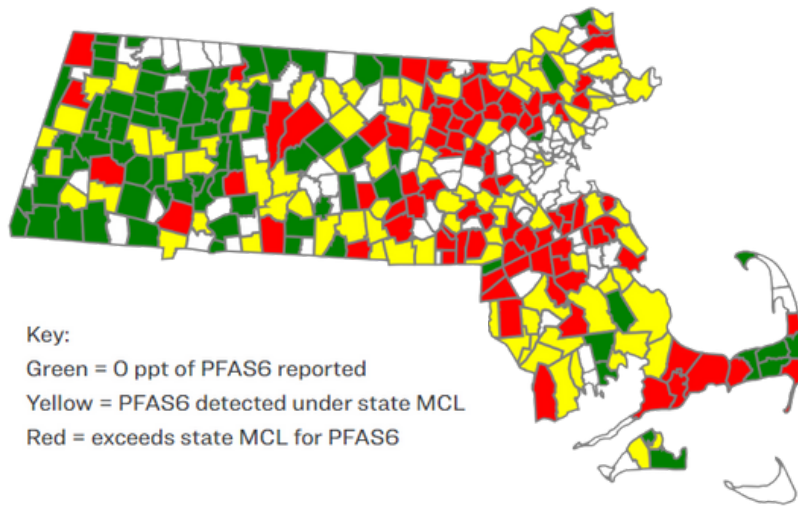
The MassDEP has ordered CWD to develop a plan to remove PFAS because testing of the Crooked Springs Water Treatment Plant violated the maximum contaminant level in the third quarter of 2021.

Why is PFAS a Problem?

PFAS is a manmade pollutant used for a wide range of industrial purposes and consumer products. It is sometimes referred to as the “forever chemical” because it is resistant to breaking down in the environment. PFAS has been associated with a wide range of health concerns. The municipal water industry is waiting on a final decision on lowering federal regulations and making the MCL values from some of the PFAS compounds lower which would make our current levels too high. Further information can be found by visiting the PFAS tab on chelmsfordwater.com

- Even though the PFAS levels did drop below the MCL the following quarter and have stayed there, the District is compelled to treat for PFAS because the District can no longer guarantee its waters are reliably and consistently below the MCL.
- MassDEP regulates public water suppliers in Massachusetts and has the authority to compel CWD to act. Inaction on CWD's part, or the lack of support to fund the proposed solution, will lead to legal action from MassDEP with potential penalties.

PFAS in Mass.



Funding Sources

The primary funding source will be the Clean Water Trust State Revolving Fund, which consists of a low interest loan, with a small portion of principle forgiveness. CWD will be applying for this loan in August of 2023. In addition, the CWD continues an ongoing dialogue with our legislative delegation to look for supporting funding from state and federal bills or earmarks. CWD has also signed on as a plaintiff to a lawsuit against PFAS manufacturers.

What You Should Do

We recommend you become more educated on the issue by visiting the PFAS tab on our website and vote in favor of the engineering design article in April of 2023 as well as the construction article in April of 2024. For more information on PFAS and this project, visit chelmsfordwater.com, or contact Todd Melanson, Environmental Compliance Manager, at 978-256-2931 or tmelanson@chelmsfordwater.com.

The Technology to Remove PFAS

A pilot study and initial testing shows the use of granular carbon-activated filters and resin filters will reduce PFAS to non-detect levels. After consulting with engineers, the Water Commissioners and CWD staff recommend the construction of two water treatment plant additions specifically to remove PFAS from the District's three existing facilities located at Crooked Springs, Riverneck and Smith Street. This action will keep all of the District's customers protected from PFAS for the future.



Further information can be found at the PFAS tab on our website by scanning the QR code.