



Chelmsford Water District

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Chelmsford Water District PFAS Summary and Update

October 29, 2020

The Chelmsford Water District (the "District") will be providing updates regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as the process of PFAS proceeds for the District regarding and any actions or issues related to potential PFAS contamination that may be found in its water or sources. The update will be itemized and in no particular order or priority. If you need any additional information or clarification on any of these items, contact Todd Melanson, Environmental Compliance Manager 978-256-2931 tmelanson@chelmsfordwater.com

Regulatory summary and update:

During the period of 2013-2016, all Public Water Systems (PWS) serving more than 10,000 people monitored for 21 List 1 contaminants during a 12-month period under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule 3 (UCMR3). Six PFAS chemicals were part of these 21 total contaminants tested, and at that time, no PFAS was detected in the District's water. It should be noted that since the UCMR3 monitoring event, laboratory analysis has become more refined and laboratories can detect PFAS concentrations at lower levels.

In 2016 the EPA issues a Health Advisory for drinking water of 70 parts per trillion (ppt) for the sum of PFOA and PFOS. Most states have opted to implement the 2016 EPA Health Advisory. However, some states, like Massachusetts, have proposed or established their own guidelines or regulatory values.

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) in 2018 established an Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) for drinking water and extended the EPA advisory to include PFOS, PFOA, PFNA, PFHxS and PFHpA at 70 ppt. MADEP started the process for evaluating the ORSG for the process as developing a Maximum Contamination Level (MCL). On October 2, 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) published its PFAS public drinking water standard known as a maximum contaminant level (MMCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) or ppt - individually or for the sum on the concentrations of six specific PFAS compounds. These six PFAS compounds are: perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS); perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS); perfluorooxononanoic acid (PFNA); perfluorodecanoic acid (PFHpA); and perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA). MassADEP abbreviates this set of six PFAS compounds as "PFA6".

Chelmsford Water District Action Summary:

The District participates in the UCMR testing protocol and performed PFAS testing under the UCMR3 parameters in 2015 with all sites reporting None Detected. Given that labs can detect PFAS at lower levels, recent testing results in the Commonwealth and with multiple municipalities detecting at various levels of the PFA6 compounds, the District took the proactive and protective step of sampling its finished water in the summer of 2020 before MADEP MCL came into effect and took advantage of free analytical services offered through the MADEP grant of free testing services. The District is currently conducting additional sampling to confirm this summer sample results. Once additional results are received and the process is complete, the District will notify its customers of the results and any required actions that will take place.