**BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS – FACT SHEET**

**New Federal Drinking Water Standard for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**

Chelmsford Water District has been closely monitoring a family of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that have been detected in some public water supplies in Massachusetts and across the nation. PFAS were widely used in manufacturing, many consumer products, and firefighting foam. When discarded, PFAS has leached from these products and into water sources. **The presence of PFAS is the result of pollution and not any action taken by our water system.**

Massachusetts passed a drinking water standard for PFAS in October of 2020 which applies only to Public Water Systems (PWS) in Massachusetts. **On Wednesday, April 10th, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that they have finalized a new federal National Primary Drinking Water Rule for PFAS, which will apply to PWS across the country.** EPA’s Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFAS compounds, PFOA and PFOS, at 4 parts per trillion (ppt), and PFNA, PFHxS, and GenX Chemicals at 10 ppt, are quite a bit lower than the Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level of 20 ppt for the sum of six PFAS compounds, which is referred to as PFAS6. Chelmsford Water District has been monitoring for PFAS since the Massachusetts standard took effect. Chart below shows update for EPA Standard.



In Massachusetts, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) administers the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. MassDEP has to be at least as stringent with their standard as EPA **and will have up to two years to adopt the new lower standard** to comply with EPA’s primacy requirements. MassDEP has indicated they will convene a stakeholder group to advise them on adoption of new standards **(MassDEP could choose to be more stringent than EPA or could act more quickly to adopt the standards** **than EPA allows).** We expect to learn more about MassDEP’s process in the coming weeks.

What does this mean for our water system.

**The District is compliant with MassDEP’s current standard**. If MassDEP adopts EPA’s new standard, the Chelmsford Water District will be on target for completion of two new water treatment plants and a transmission line that will eliminate contamination of these compounds. The District has placed 2nd on MassDEP 2024 **FINAL** Intended Use Plan for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.The purpose of the DWSRF program is to assist Public Water Suppliers to implement the requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

The SRF funding is in the form of a 0% interest loan with the possibility of a portion of the loan being eligible for some principal forgiveness.

Timeline of our project can be found here:

<https://www.chelmsfordwater.com/home/news/pfas-timeline>