



# Town of Groveland Water & Sewer Department



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## Common Questions about the recent PFAS Public Education Letter

Q. What is the Water Department doing to fix this issue?

A. The Water Department has been working on this for the last few years. We have drilled numerous test wells in various parts of Town, looking for sources that contain lower mineral count and lower PFAS levels. We have also completed a feasibility study to build our own Water Filtration Facility. We are currently exploring options to purchase water from surrounding communities. Once we have all the information, The Water Board will make a decision as to what course of action we will take.

Q. Why did the report only show 2 out of 3 months for a Quarterly average?

A. MassDEP requires that we calculate PFAS data based upon Quarterly Averages, not a running average. In this instance, the time frame to distribute our Notice was by August 29<sup>th</sup> based upon our July sample data. Our July data passed Quality Control at MassDEP on July 30<sup>th</sup>, giving us the August 29<sup>th</sup> deadline to send out a Public Education Letter. Therefore, waiting for the data from the September sample was not an option, nor was including the data from June or any other prior month.

Q. Why was the report confusing to read and difficult to interpret?

A. This is a MassDEP supplied Template Letter. We understand that the language can be overwhelming, and we encourage residents to call with any questions that they may have. MassDEP also has to approve our letter and any changes made to their template before we send it to customers.

Q. Is the Water Department “Cherry Picking Data”

A. We are in constant communication with MassDEP about all of our water sampling data. Regulations dictate when and how we report data to our residents. Our results are included in our yearly Consumer Confidence Report that is mailed to residents, and is available online.

Q. Is Groveland out of Compliance with MassDEP regulations?

A. No, A violation only occurs when the average of all monthly samples collected over a quarter exceeds the MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level). The Water Department opted to send out the Public Education Notice to show transparency about our test results, and the actions that we have been taking to work towards a solution.

Q. Where does the PFAS in Groveland come from?

A. Unfortunately, Groveland has no known source of PFAS contamination at this time.

Q. Are we pursuing legal action?

A. Yes, the Town has entered into a Class Action Lawsuit against the chemical companies that produced the PFAS chemicals. The monies that come from this will be used to help pay for the solution that the Board of Water Commissioners choose.

Q. Did the Town Drill a new drinking water well near the Superfund Site?

A. No. The closest well to the Superfund site is Well #1, which is located on Main Street near the Solar Field. The Water Department Tests that well quarterly for “Volatile Organic Compounds”, along with various other tests required by MassDEP. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) samples test wells near the Superfund site on a quarterly basis.

Q. Is it true that drinking water only accounts for 20% of your PFAS exposure?

A. MassDEP and the EPA utilize “Relative Source Contribution Factor.” Relative Source Contribution—the percentage of the total oral exposure attributed to drinking water sources (U.S. EPA, 2000) where the remainder of the exposure is allocated to all other routes or sources. MassDEP has elected to use a 20% value for this.

Q. What are some other sources of PFAS compounds?

A. PFAS compounds are found many places, such as stain-resistant and non-stick products, food packaging, outdoor clothing, carpets, leather goods, ski and snowboard waxes. PFAS are also in certain types of Firefighting foam, at manufacturing sites and landfills. Once the compounds get out into the environment, they leach into the soils and groundwater. PFAS have also been found in rivers, lakes, fish and wildlife.

Q. What is the current PFAS regulation?

A. Currently Massachusetts has a MMCL ( Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level) of 20 ppt (parts per trillion) for the sum of the concentrations of six specific PFAS. The six PFAS are: PFOS, PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFHpA, and PFDA. Massachusetts abbreviates these six PFAS as PFAS6.

Q. How are these regulations changing?

A. April 10, 2024 the EPA announced the final National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS compounds, see chart below:

<b>Compound</b>	<b>Final MCLG</b>	<b>Final MCL (enforceable levels)</b>
PFOA	Zero	4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) (also expressed as ng/L)
PFOS	Zero	4.0 ppt
PFHxS	10 ppt	10 ppt
PFNA	10 ppt	10 ppt
HFPO-DA (commonly known as GenX Chemicals)	10 ppt	10 ppt
Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS	1 (unitless) Hazard Index	1 (unitless) Hazard Index

Q. Why are the Federal and State Regulations different?

A. States are required to establish regulations that are no less stringent than the federal standards within 2 years of the promulgation of the federal MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level), with the possibility of an extension of up to 2 years. The Massachusetts regulations, which established a PFAS6 MCL of 20 parts per trillion (ppt), are less stringent than the new federal MCLs and will be revised. In addition, the federal MCLs cover two additional PFAS (PFBS and GenX) that are not included in the current Massachusetts PFAS6 MCL and will need to be added to the MassDEP regulations. MassDEP will be proposing amendments to its PFAS regulations to be at least as stringent as the EPA MCLs and will be holding public hearings to receive public input on this proposal.