



Town Of Webster

Massachusetts

Est. 1832

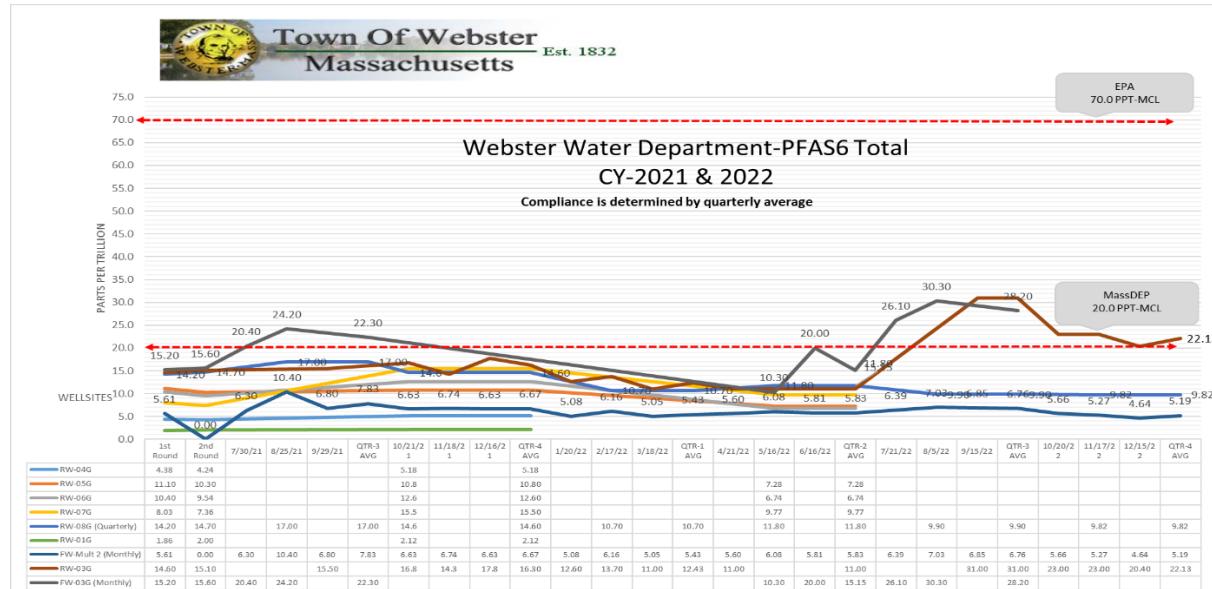
Water & Sewer Department
P.O. Box 793 (38 Hill Street)
Webster, MA 01570

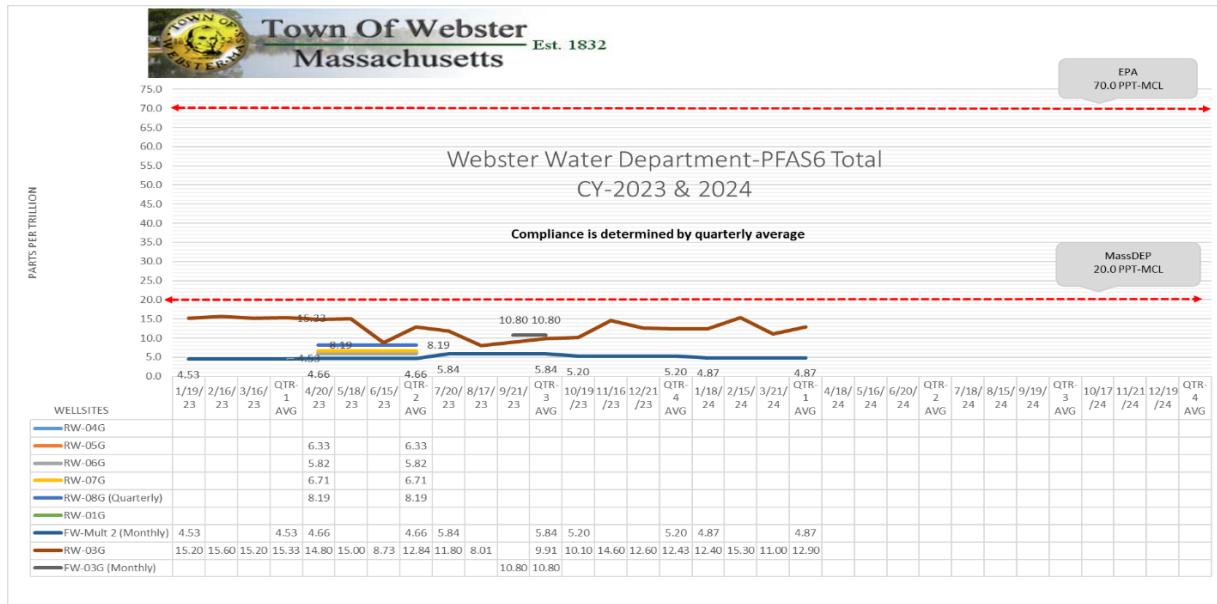
Phone: (508) 949-3861-Water
Phone: (508) 949-3865-Sewer
Fax: (508) 949-3868

New Federal Drinking Water Standard for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

Webster Water Department PWSID# 231600 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. Webster Water Department has been monitoring for PFAS since the Massachusetts standard took effect and our most recent results were:





New EPA Limits April 2024 and most recent sample results 1st quarter 2024.

		Date: 03/21/24			
RW03G STA#3 Bigelow Rd Well-(Raw Water-Well Offline)		Current MassDEP MCL	EPA Standard	PWS Result	PWS Meets Standard
PFOA	Combined 20 ppt	4 ppt		6.48	No
PFOS	Combined 20 ppt	4 ppt		2.44	Yes
PFNA	Combined 20 ppt	10 ppt / Included in Hazard Index Calculation		ND	Yes
PFHxS	Combined 20 ppt	10 ppt / Included in Hazard Index Calculation		1.62	Yes
PFHpA	Combined 20 ppt	No EPA Standard		2.11	Yes
PFDA	Combined 20 ppt	No EPA Standard		ND	Yes
PFBS	No MA Standard	Included in Hazard Index Calculation		1.15	Yes
Gen X Chemicals (HFPO-DA)	No MA Standard	10 ppt / Included in Hazard Index Calculation		ND	Yes
		Date: 01/18/24			
MULT2 Memorial Beach Filter Plant-(Finished Water)		Current MassDEP MCL	EPA Standard	PWS Result	PWS Meets Standard
PFOA	Combined 20 ppt	4 ppt		2.50	Yes
PFOS	Combined 20 ppt	4 ppt		2.37	Yes
PFNA	Combined 20 ppt	10 ppt / Included in Hazard Index Calculation		0.66	Yes
PFHxS	Combined 20 ppt	10 ppt / Included in Hazard Index Calculation		ND	Yes
PFHpA	Combined 20 ppt	No EPA Standard		0.88	Yes
PFDA	Combined 20 ppt	No EPA Standard		ND	Yes
PFBS	No MA Standard	Included in Hazard Index Calculation		1.56	Yes
Gen X Chemicals (HFPO-DA)	No MA Standard	10 ppt / Included in Hazard Index Calculation		ND	Yes

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.

Now that a federal standard has been adopted, PWS across the country will be grappling with how to come into compliance with the new standards. What does this mean for our water system?

- Webster Water was over the MassDEP standard 3rd quarter of 2021 and again 3rd quarter of 2022 and we will not meet the new EPA limits recently published. We have been working diligently with our engineers and MassDEP to design and construct PFAS treatment for Bigelow Well and Memorial Beach WTP. The project is currently out to

public bid which closes April 25th. We anticipate construction to start summer of 2024 and PFAS treatment is expected to be online summer of 2026.

The Webster Water Department and Webster Water and Sewer Commission is committed to providing consumers with safe and reliable water and are working diligently to ensure the public water supply meets the new drinking water standards. We will keep the public informed as we work with the state to implement the most expedient, effective and fiscally responsible solution to this emerging chemical of concern.

The research and understanding into potential health impacts of PFAS continues to evolve. When a water source contains PFAS above the Massachusetts standard, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection recommends consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system), are advised not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ppt. As our scientific understanding evolves, further guidance may be issued. Consumers concerned about potential health effects of PFAS should consult a medical professional.

Respectfully submitted by,
Webster Water Department