

Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton MA
Monday, March 9, 2020

AGENDA

Comments from Citizens

Approve Minutes of February 10, 2020 Meeting

OLD BUSINESS:

Follow up discussion of proposed parking lot expansion at 10 Post Office Square
Preliminary public bid results for the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant project
Update on Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl (PFAS) source and aquifer sampling in South Acton
2020 Annual Meeting preparation

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Stephen Stuntz, Erika Amir-Lin, Barry Rosen
District Manager: Chris Allen
Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller
District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates
District Counsel: Mary Bassett
Finance Committee: David Butler via phone and William Guthlein

The Board of Water Commissioners meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, March 9, 2020 at the Acton Water District office by Mr. Stuntz, Chair.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens at this meeting.

Approve Minutes of February 10, 2020 Meeting

Ms. Amir-Lin motioned to approve the minutes of February 10, 2020 as presented. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Old Business

1. Follow up discussion of the proposed parking lot expansion at 10 Post Office Square

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the Special Permit for the expansion of the parking lot at 10 Post Office Square will be discussed at the Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, April 13, 2020. Mr. Allen and Atty. Bassett are currently working on the easements for the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant (CAWTP).

2. Preliminary public bid results for the CAWTP project.

Mr. Allen informed the Board that the bids were opened on March 5, 2020.

Contract #1, for the General Contractor, 3 bids were received. The apparent low bid, at \$9.77M is \$2.77M higher than the estimate. Contract #2, for the water main relining, 4 bids were received. The apparent low bid, at \$922K was \$178K lower than the estimate. Mr. Allen presented an explanation from the engineer on the need for additional funding. The bidding market is very tight now, as indicated by the low number of bidders. The total project cost is currently above the approval for SRF funding, which is \$9.2M. Mr. Allen presented a Warrant for a Special District Meeting on April 13, 2020, to obtain additional funding in the amount of \$3,150,000 to subsidize the original appropriation. The Clean Water Trust has indicated that funding may be available for the additional cost. No decision can be made until there is a District vote to approve the borrowing. Mr. Stuntz made a motion to approve the Special District Meeting Warrant as presented, subject to approval by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Amir-Lin and unanimously approved.

3. Update on Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl (PFAS) source and aquifer sampling in South Acton

Mr. Mostoller updated the Commissioners on the sampling of source and aquifer in South Acton and presented a PowerPoint presentation (attached). On January 27, 2020 MassDEP lowered the guideline for PFAS to 20 parts per trillion (ppt). The USEPA is currently moving forward with regulations for PFOS and PFOA. A new Cancer Risk Study, released last week, indicates that a link to potential cancer risk is emerging. The latest map from MassDEP indicates that 21 water systems in MA have elevated levels of PFAS. Mr. Mostoller is aware of at least 4 other systems that are currently working through testing. Some systems are reducing the concentration by blending, some are moving forward with temporary or permanent treatment and some are taking the source off-line.

Based on the preliminary results from AWD samples from the South Acton wells which found detectable concentrations of PFAS. There appears to be a background concentration of PFAS in the aquifer.

Confirmatory samples were taken on the finished and raw water in South Acton by District staff last week. Sample results should arrive by week end and will be interpreted by MassDEP. AWD has been working with MassDEP on the sampling requirements as the proposed regulations are still being reviewed. MassDEP has requested that AWD to collect the samples and submit them to the contract laboratory while MassDEP is providing funding for the sample analysis. At this time, Assabet 1A appears to have the source of the highest PFAS concentrations. The District has requested MassDEP approval to sample the Conant Wells in Acton Center next. North Acton and Clapp/Whitcomb wells are scheduled for rehab and would be sampled at a later date. System wide sampling should be done in the second quarter of this year.

NMI sampling preliminary results indicated a higher concentration of PFOA. The validated data was estimated with a bias to be high for PFOA. There does not appear to be an obvious plume of PFAS in the area, however, MassDEP and USEPA are requiring follow up by NMI and WR Grace.

Mr. Mostoller is currently working with MassDEP to determine required notification to customers, which is mandatory for results above 10 ppt and has specific actions required for the water system and sensitive populations above 20 ppt. Operations staff have made some changes to the plumbing at the sample taps to make sure that Teflon commonly used in these fittings is not impacting the sample results. Notification would include publication in the Beacon, on the website, and direct mail to AWD customers among other channels of communication.

Mr. Mostoller and Mr. Allen have met with the Town Manager and the Health Department Director. The Board of Selectmen will be updated at their March 16th meeting, briefed by the Town Manager based on talking points provided by AWD. Mr. Mostoller and Mr. Allen will provide a script for the update.

Mr. Mostoller informed the Board that the most recent NMI samples for 1,4-dioxane in South Acton were non-detect.

4. Annual Meeting Prep

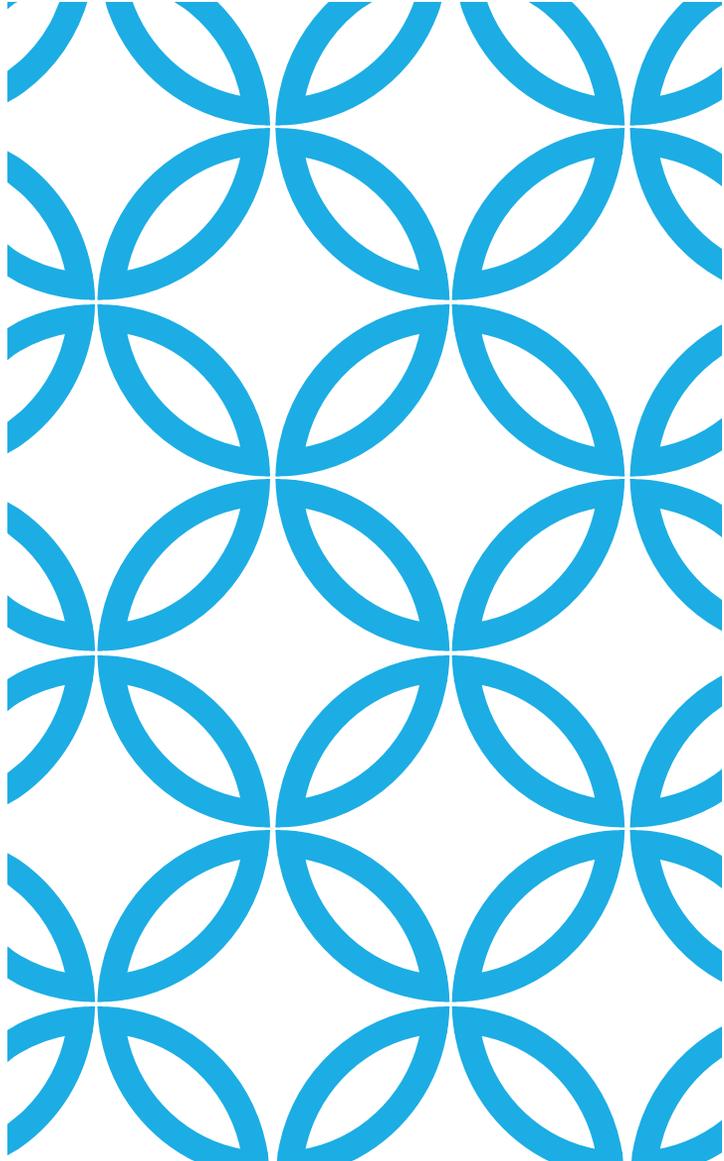
Atty. Bassett presented the articles and motions for the Annual Meeting.

D. New Business

Corona virus

Mr. Rosen requested this item be added to the Agenda. Ms. Amir-Lin indicated that her company has suspended employees from large meetings on or off-site. Mr. Rosen indicated that HP has eliminated all corporate travel. ABRHS has asked for self-monitoring of people who have travelled internationally. There is a webinar for utilities Thursday, March 12, 2020. The District is monitoring the current situation.

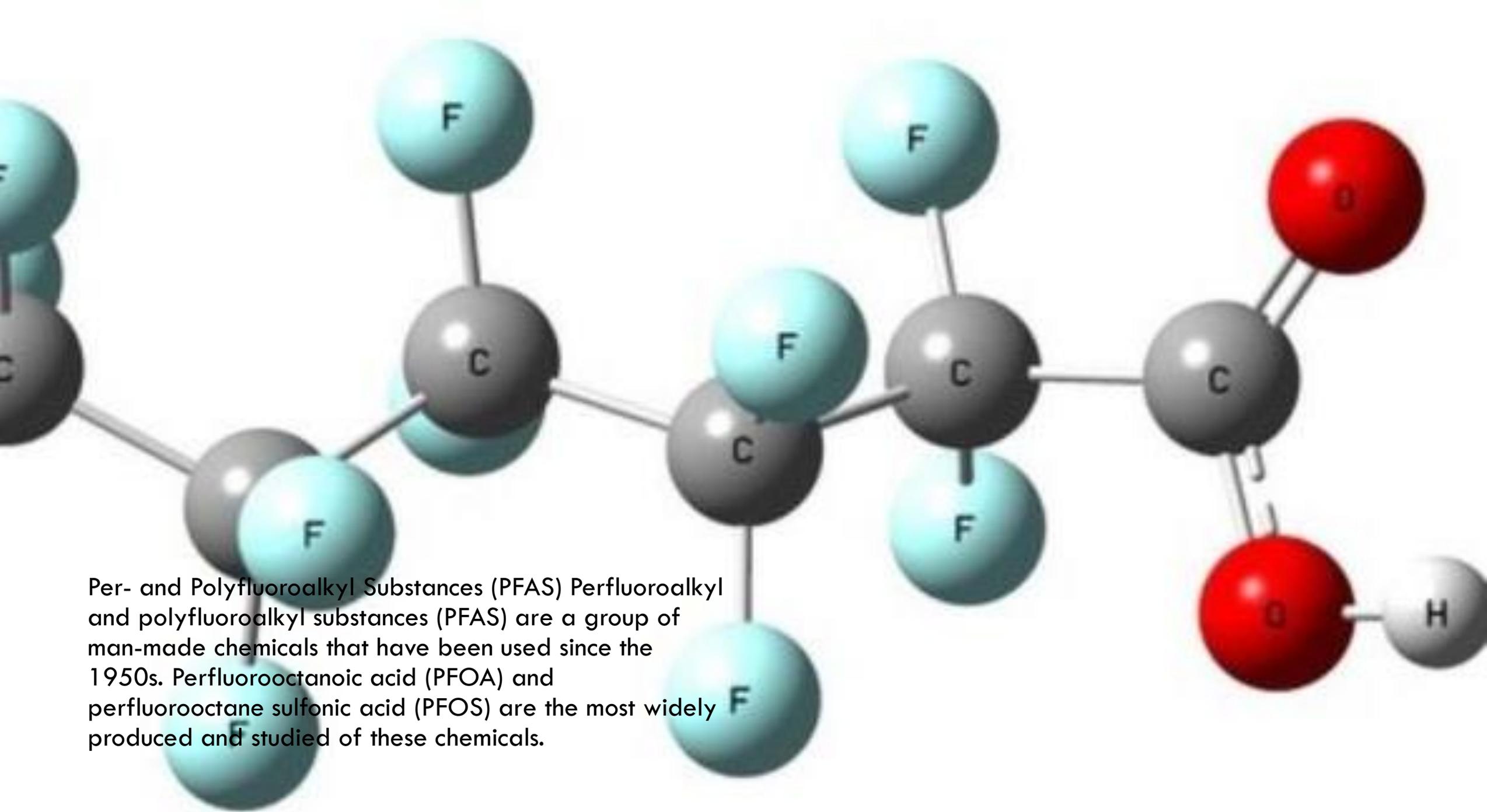
Mr. Stuntz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. It was seconded by Ms. Amir-Lin and unanimously approved.



UPDATE ON PFAS

Board of Water Commissioners

March 9, 2020



HIGHLIGHTS

Our understanding of PFAS compounds and their potential health effects are still evolving and most of the studies to date have been based on laboratory rodents which react differently than humans.

MassDEP is currently working on a Massachusetts Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFAS. Public comment ended on February 28th. Anticipate adoption by July 2020.

Based on the information reviewed in MassDEP's proposed Groundwater Cleanup Standard (which will inform the MCL), the values that are being proposed by MassDEP (20 parts per trillion for 6 compounds) are very conservative and include additional levels of protection above and beyond the safety factors that EPA is basing their current Health Advisory (70 ppt for 2 compounds).

MassDEP lowered guideline on January 27, 2020 to 20 ppt. USEPA announced on February 20, 2020 that regulatory process will begin for PFOA and PFOS.

There is no regulatory requirement right now to test for PFAS, but when the MCL is promulgated in 2020, water suppliers will be required to test for the selected compounds.

The sensitive sub-populations that are of most concern are pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants (values are set to be protective of shorter-term exposures of weeks to months during pregnancy and breast-feeding). This group is advised not to drink water with elevated levels of PFAS.

CONSIDERATIONS

Concerns

Widely Used

- Fire Fighting Foam
- Teflon
- Waxes
- Polishes
- Stain/Water Repellents
- Treatment Plant Residuals
- Food Packaging
- Personal Care Products

Emerging Health Impacts

- Developmental Effects on Fetus and Infants
- Thyroid, Liver, Kidneys, Hormones, Immune System
- Potential Cancer Risk is still emerging, **New Study published March 4, 2020**

Contentious

- Slow action by USEPA, Varied action by States
- Legal Challenges
- Post Flint

Remedies

Bottled Water

GAC Filters

Ion Exchange Resins

Reverse Osmosis

Blending

Plasma Reactor?



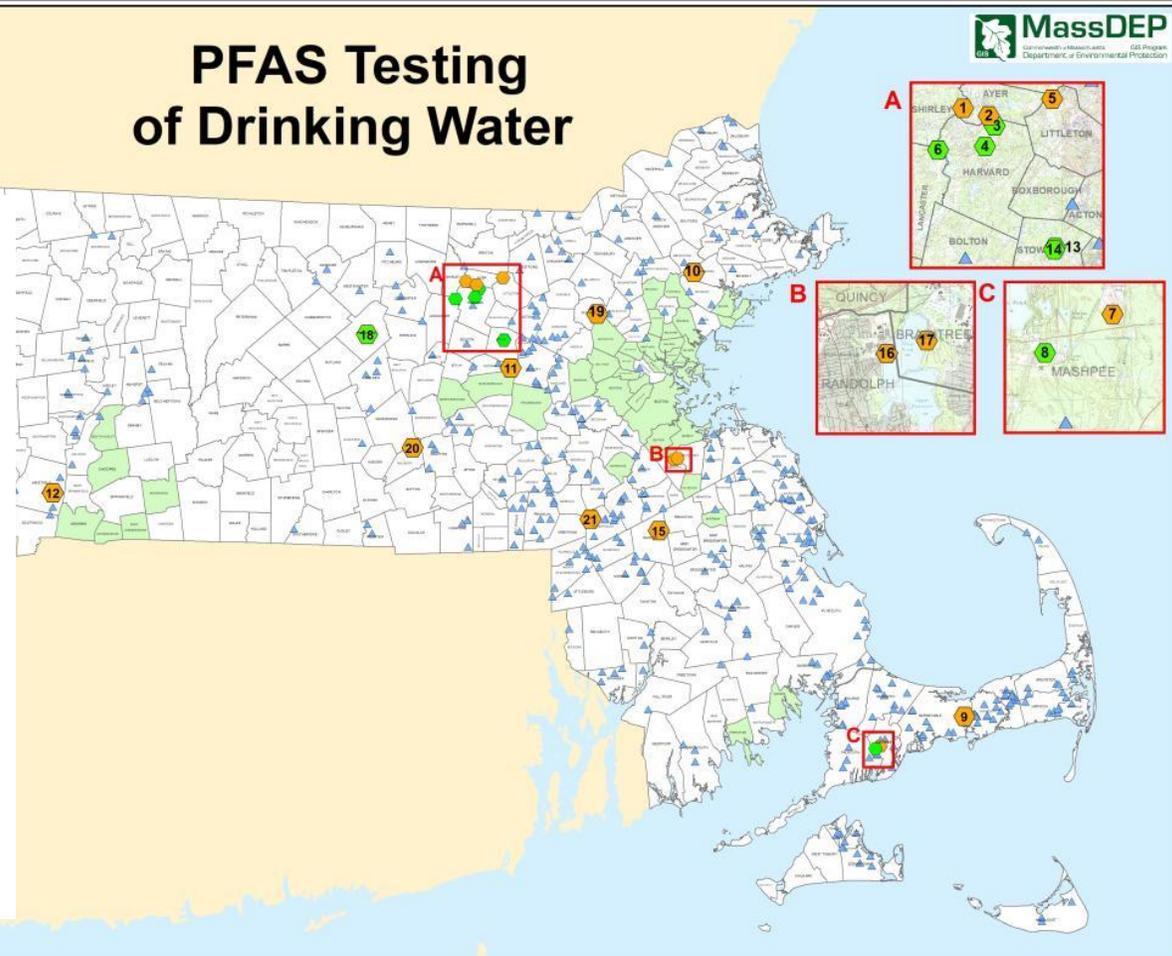
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Executive Office Building
 700 State Street
 Boston, MA 02145



MassDEP
 Department of Environmental Protection
 666 Program
 100 State Street
 Boston, MA 02145

PFAS Testing of Drinking Water

# Key	Public Water Supplier	Determining corrective action(s)	Treatment installed to remove PFAS	Treatment being added	Blending sources	Shut off wells with contamination	Drinking water entering distribution system below 20 ppt?
1	Devens/Mass Development		X				Yes
2	Ayer DPW Water Division		X	X		X	*
3	The Appleworks	X					*
4	Ayer Road Properties, LLC			X			*
5	Littleton Water Department					X	*
6	MCI Shirley					X	Yes
7	Mashpee Water District			X		X	Yes
8	Lakeside Estates					X	Yes
9	Hyannis Water System		X	X	X	X	*
10	Danvers Water Dept					X	Yes
11	Hudson Water Supply		X	X		X	*
12	Westfield Water Dept		X	X		X	Yes
13	Hale Middle School, Stow						PWS on bottled water
14	Stow Center School			X			PWS on bottled water
15	Easton Water Div	X					*
16	Randolph/Holbrook Water Board	X					*
17	Braintree Water Dept	X		X			*
18	Princeton Town Campus	X					*
19	Bedford					X	Yes
20	Millbury	X				X	*
21	Foxborough	X			X	X	Yes



Public Water Suppliers (PWS) who detected PFAS over 20 ppt in finished water and their response actions

- # Municipal PWS detected above 20 ppt
- # Non-Municipal PWS detected above 20 ppt
- Towns That Purchase Water No PFAS Detected

Guideline = MassDEP Office of Research and Standards
 Guideline 20 ppt (20 nanograms per liter)

▲ Public Water Supply Sources Tested (During UCMR3 testing 2013 - 2015 locations are approximate)

The number within the PFAS symbol represents the number key field within the PFAS table.



Disclaimer on the map:
 This map is intended to provide a general overview of public water supply locations in the Commonwealth that have been tested for certain PFAS compounds, including a snapshot of any positive test results, where available. Test locations shown on the map are approximate. The Department makes no representations concerning the validity, the reliability or the accuracy of the information portrayed on this map.

WHAT WE KNOW IN ACTON

All treated water sampled in 2013 to 2014 during USEPA UCMR3

Limited sampling under new testing protocols

- 15 page sample guide
- \$225 per sample (\$675 potential for 3 analysis/site/event)

Reviewed potential source areas

- Potential sources is an evolving understanding

Following neighboring communities

Acton Fire does not have records of having used Aqueous Film Forming Foams (AFFF)

Superfund Sampling

System Sampling Initiated

SUPERFUND

Screening process has begun

- Similar to 1,4-dioxane where Federal and State guidance differs

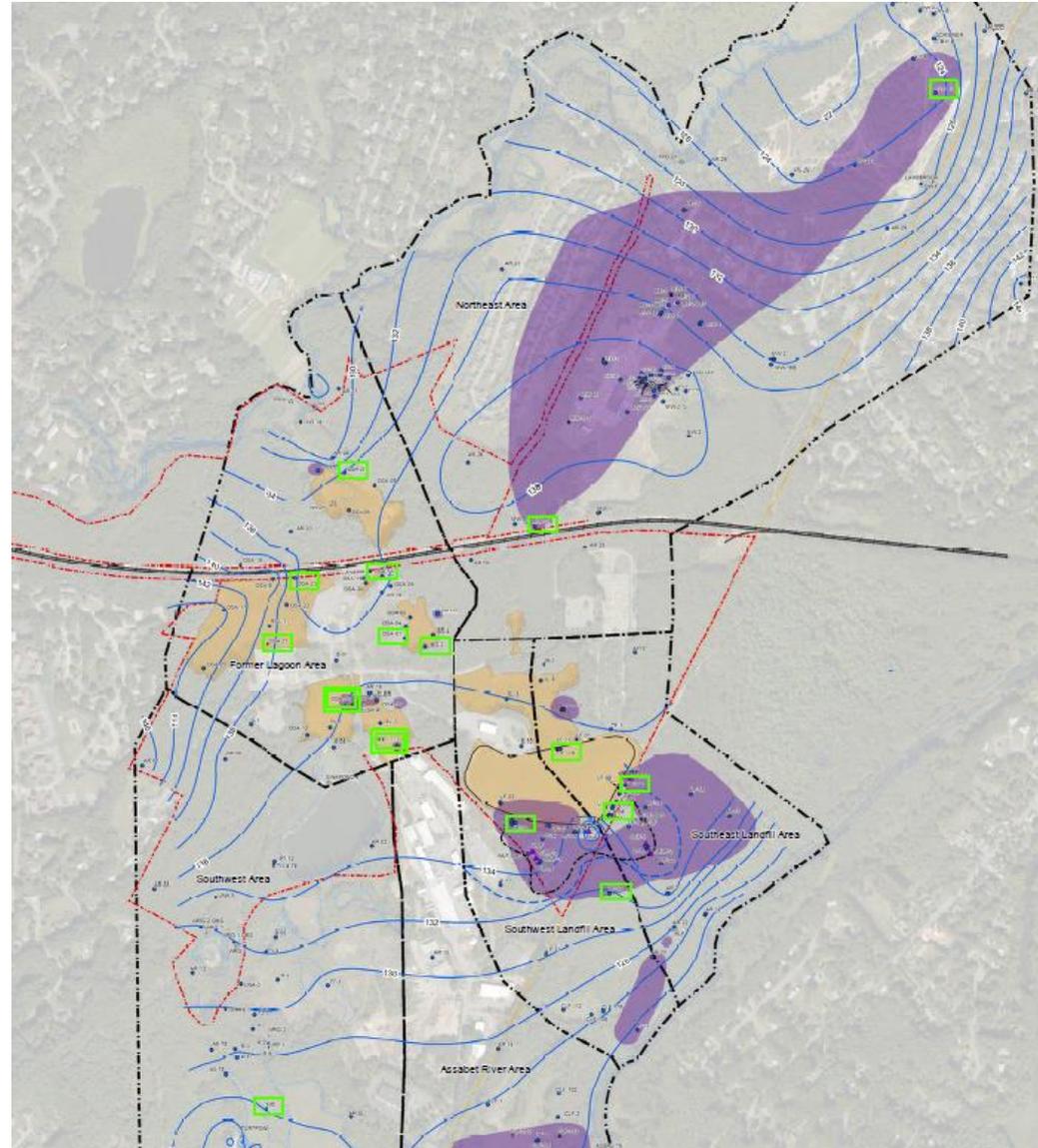
WR Grace looking at previously identified source areas

- Results will drive further actions
- Resampled highest concentration well – MassDEP follow up actions 3/3/2020

NMI doing comprehensive sampling event to determine if further action is needed in proposed remediation plan

- Collected water quality samples from Assabet production wells
- Summer 2020 drill new well at highest concentration site
- Data Validated – PFOA results noted as potential high bias





NEXT STEPS FROM 12/9/19

Awaiting results from Superfund

Anticipate MassDEP releasing Clean Up standards and revised Guideline on December 13, 2019

Potential for phased sampling program in advance of adoption of enforceable standard from MassDEP

Interconnection sample if providing water to neighbors

System wide sampling by second quarter 2020

NEXT STEPS FROM 3/9/20

Awaiting Confirmation Sample Results

Coordination with MassDEP

Requested sampling assistance from MassDEP

- South Acton Approved and Initiated
- Conant Wells Pending Approval
- North Acton and Clapp/Whitcomb Undergoing Maintenance – Sampling TBD

Briefed Town of Acton on Progress to Date

Assessing Operational Changes

- Assabet 1A off-line for annual maintenance
- Coordination of additional samples

Preparation of Customer Information

RESOURCES

- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

- Wisconsin Department of Health Services

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chemical/pfas.htm>

- American Water Works Association

<https://www.awwa.org/Resources-Tools/Resource-Topics/PFAS>