

Town of Millis – Drinking Water Notification



Select Board Open Public Meeting – Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:00 PM

A representative from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection will be in attendance to answer questions and concerns. Please join the meeting via Zoom at the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8526387223>

TOWN OF MILLIS WATER DEPARTMENT

****This Public Education material contains important information about your drinking water and contaminants known as PFAS.****

The Town of Millis is not in violation of the Massachusetts drinking water regulations.

However, the Town has confirmed elevated levels of PFAS6 – a set of six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)* - in the drinking water during voluntary monitoring. The level was above the MassDEP Drinking Water Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L) but a regulatory violation has not been triggered at this time. The Water Department removed the sources with the highest levels from service immediately upon receiving the results on September 3, 2020. MassDEP requires us to provide you with these materials to make you aware of the elevated levels so that you can make informed decisions about your drinking water while we continue to monitor water quality.

PFAS6 Results

Location of sample	Date of sample		Result (ng/L)	Average (ng/L)*	MCL (ng/L)
D'Angelis Water Treatment Plant	Initial	8/12/20	21.6	21	20
	Confirmation	8/27/20	20.9		

PFAS6 are man-made chemicals that have been used in the manufacturing of certain fire-fighting foams, moisture and stain resistant products, and other industrial processes. An MCL is the maximum permissible level of a contaminant in water which is delivered to any user of a public water system. *Some people who drink water containing PFAS6 in excess of the MCL may experience certain adverse effects. These could include effects on the liver, blood, immune system, thyroid, and fetal development. These PFAS may also elevate the risk of certain cancers.*

MassDEP advises consumers in sensitive subgroups (compromised immune system, infants, pregnant or nursing women) not to consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6, individually or in combination, is above 20 ng/L.

Steps you can take to reduce your intake of PFAS6 - Consider taking the following steps while we address this issue:

- **Sensitive subgroups** should use bottled water that is free of PFAS for drinking and cooking of foods that absorb water (like pasta). A list of companies that voluntarily tested their water for PFAS and shared the results can be found on MassDEP's website at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/bottled-water-tested-for-pfas>
- **For infant formula** use bottled water or use formula that does not require adding water.
- **For older children and adults**, the 20 ng/L value is applicable to a lifetime of consuming the water. For these groups, shorter duration exposures present less risk. However, if you

* PFAS6 includes perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorodecanoic acid (PFDA) and perfluoroheptanoic acid (PFHpA).

are concerned about your exposure while steps are being taken to assess and lower the PFAS concentration in the drinking water, use of bottled water will reduce your exposure.

- **Home water treatment systems** that are certified to remove PFAS by an independent testing group such as NSF, UL, or the Water Quality Association may be used to treat some PFAS6 in drinking water. These may include point of entry systems, which treat all the water entering a home, or point of use devices, which treat water where it is used, such as at a faucet.
- **In most situations the water can be safely used for washing foods, brushing teeth, bathing and showering.** *If you are concerned about your exposure you may want to use bottled water for brushing your teeth, cleaning cuts, and washing items like dentures, pacifiers, fruits and vegetables.*
- **Boiling the water will not destroy PFAS6** and will somewhat increase their levels due to evaporation of some of the water.
- **If you have specific health concerns regarding your past exposure,** please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention link below and consult your medical professional.

For more information see the weblinks listed below.

The Town of Millis is taking the following corrective actions:

- The D'Angelis Water Treatment Plant was taken out of service on September 3rd and remains offline.
- Our other sources are being blended to deliver water below 20 ng/L
- We will continue to monitor the water in accordance with MassDEP requirements and will post the results on our website (link below) .
- The Town is providing this public notice to all Postal Patrons in Millis. Ongoing notices, if required, will be provided to billing customers, and made available on the Town website and social media accounts. PFAS updates will be posted on the Millis Public Works website.
- We are investigating treatment options to remove PFAS6.

For Millis Water system information and updates, visit <https://www.millisma.gov/public-works-highway-department/pages/pfas-drinking-water-information> or contact:

- Public Works Director, Jim McKay, (508) 376-7040 or jmckay@millisma.gov
- Director of Public Health, John McVeigh, (508) 376-7042 or jmcveigh@millisma.gov

MassDEP

- [MassDEP PFAS Information](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas) (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>)
- [MassDEP Fact Sheets](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas#health-advisories-and-downloadable-fact-sheets-) (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/per-and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas#health-advisories-and-downloadable-fact-sheets->)

Centers for Disease Control Information on PFAS for consumers and health professionals

- <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/index.html>

This public education material is being sent to you by the Town of Millis, PWS ID# 2187000

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Drinking Water Notification

Department of Public Works:

James F. McKay, Director

Ron McKenney, Water and Sewer Superintendent

Michael Guzinski, Town Administrator

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