

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### UPDATE on the QUALITY of the TOWN of HAMILTON'S PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY

With the release of the new EPA PFAS information that included updated maximum contaminant levels, the Hamilton Water Department would like to provide the residents of Hamilton reassurance on how we now are effectively dealing with these contaminants. In February 2024, we completed the construction and started full operation of the new Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) adsorption system that was first approved at the 2019 Annual Town Meetings. The Hamilton Water Department had decided to pursue the use of this GAC technology to reduce organics in the source water -- the Idlewood Wellfield -- which was confirmed as the cause of the elevated levels of disinfection by-products within Hamilton's public water distribution system. These levels remained below the MassDEP Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), but results were close to the MCL. The Hamilton Water Department wanted to make sure levels continued to stay below the MCL so the new GAC facility was funded and constructed. The GAC system installed was a bit more expensive than other systems, however the added expense has proven to be well worth the investment as the new GAC plant can also remove PFAS in our drinking water. The Hamilton Water Department is confident that this new system will ensure our drinking water complies with the current and future PFAS standards as issued by the EPA and MassDEP.

Recently, the Hamilton Water Department sampled for PFAS at the Hamilton Water Treatment Plant, which was the first testing since the GAC facility went on-line. I am pleased to announce that the PFAS test results came back with levels in our water below the detection limit of the measurement technology. Previous test results, prior to the GAC facility, showed PFAS levels in the range of 5.6 to 6.6 ppt which were well below the MCL at that time. With the new GAC filtration facility, Hamilton's public drinking water continues to achieve a quality well within the new more stringent regulations.

The Hamilton Water Department has also made the decision to take the School Street Well offline. PFAS testing commenced back in October 2022 and results were close enough to the MCL that the Department had to initiate monthly testing, as instructed by MassDEP. Monthly testing has continued and results did exceed the MCL after the well was taken offline. The Hamilton Water Department continues to operate the Town's water supply system with School Street Well offline and has begun investigations on treatment options for this source.

The latest extensive water testing data is available on the Town of Hamilton Water Department website, in the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). The 2023 CCR report will be available and posted on the website this summer.

Recent information issued by the EPA regarding an update to the PFAS Drinking Water Standard is available for your review in the below links.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/biden-harris-administration-finalizes-first-ever-national-drinking-water-standard>

[https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-npdwr\\_qa\\_general\\_4.9.24v1.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-04/pfas-npdwr_qa_general_4.9.24v1.pdf)

Thank you  
Timothy J Olson  
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